

**DURHAM INLAND WETLANDS  
and  
WATERCOURSES AGENCY**

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, May 11, 2009

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Vice-Chairman Dick Eriksen at the Durham Public Library.

**Roll Call:** Members present: Pat Dinatale, Dick Eriksen and Joel LaBella. Alternates Present: Mike Fumiatti and Rob MacDuff. Staff: Geoff Colegrove and Trish Dynia.

**Seating of Alternates:** Mike Fumiatti and Rob MacDuff were both seated.

**Approval of Agenda:** *A motion was made by Pat Dinatale, seconded by Rob MacDuff, to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Approval of Minutes:** *A motion was made by Pat DiNatale, seconded by Mike Fumiatti, to approve the April 13, 2009 minutes with the following change: Page 4, Paragraph 5, motion form, 2<sup>nd</sup> line: change blank to blanket. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Public Session:** Tom Russell of 687 New Haven Road reported that beavers have set up dams along the Parmelee Brook portion which runs through his property. Three dams have already been completed and the creatures are currently working on a fourth. The result for the homeowner has been that two horse pastures are no longer useable.

EPA officials have advised Mr. Russell that it would be prudent to relocating/eliminating the beavers prior to removing the dams. Wetland Commissioners conferred with this advice and asked Mr. Russell to return with a dam removal plan once the beavers are gone.

Mr. Eriksen acknowledge that due to this being a farming operation, removal of the dams is allowed by right, but the method must be reviewed by the Commission first.

Conservation Commission Chairman Casey Cordes spoke to the Commission regarding current and upcoming repair activities on White's Farm. He explained that Public Works Director Kurt Bober attended a recent Conservation meeting and described cleanup projects which needed to be undertaken at White's Farm due to a December, 2008 storm which flooded White's Farm and distributed two hundred yards of sand and gravel on the surrounding grass.

Mr. Cordes stated that gravel had been brought in to repair and level the roads and the turnaround portion has already been completed.

Mr. Eriksen thanked the chairman for coming in and acknowledged that Mr. Bober had brought the IWA into the loop on this at the April meeting.

**Kurt Bober, Town of Durham, Culvert Cleaning, Various Locations:** As requested at the last meeting, Kurt Bober is working with town officials to prioritize and schedule significant projects and will return to the Commission/request further site walks if necessary.

**Greenland Realty, Proposed Activity within the Upland Review Area for Parking and Fuel Tanks, Possible Scheduling of Site Inspection, Mountain Road:** Attorney Patrick Hughes \_ spoke on behalf of the applicant, who wishes to modify the approved site plan in order to add fueling and equipment storage areas. Mr. Hughes distributed spec sheets of the fuel tank itself as well as the proposed fuel tank support slab.

The fueling area would be placed on the south side of the existing building 170 feet from the detention basin wetland and 230 feet from the natural wetland. The proposed site is within the upland review area.

Commission member Joel LaBella asked if the tank contained a sensor that would monitor for leaks. Mr. Hughes did not know but stated that such a system could be put in place.

Soil Scientist David Lord asked if the Commission had received his soil report. The members had not received it but Enforcement Officer Geoff Colegrove had a copy at hand.

Mr. Lord stated that the equipment storage site would be in an area approximately 80 feet from the natural wetlands and 20 to 30 feet from the detention basin. There would be no grading or disturbance of any kind. Equipment not in use at various times would be parked in this area as there is no longer room for them inside the building. He further noted that the existing protection measures in place for run off collection into the detention basin would serve to protect the natural wetland from any minor equipment leakage and the system was “flowing nicely during Saturday’s site inspection.” (The commission had conducted a site walk of the property on Saturday, May 9).

After a brief discussion, the Commission asked for the following revisions to the plan:

1. Ensure that the system is DEP approved.
2. Design a containment system, possibly via hard clay berm and/or vaulting, to protect against spillage.
3. Reduce concrete in non-filling areas and extend concrete in filling areas. Specifically, the filling area concrete should be expanded from the proposed 5’ to 10’.

**Lisa Harness, Prancing Pony, LLC, Discussion of Recent Activity in the Regulated and Upland Review Area, 58R Fowler Avenue:** Mr. Eriksen reported that several Commission members attended the Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> site walk and found that the owner is doing a good job being sensitive to the wetland environmental issues. Seeding and fencing have gone a long way to help prevent further erosion. Mr. Colegrove noted that the property exists within the flood hazard area and he is working with the owners to determine an appropriate bridge height to prevent wash outs.

**Wetland Enforcement Officer's Report:** Mr. Colegrove reported that an AT&T line on Higganum Road between Strawberry Hill and Mauro Meadows collapsed when a gabion fell on it in the under-road stream crossing, which runs east to west on the north side of Higganum Road. Officials from AT&T wanted to repair the gabion immediately to prevent damage to the fiber optic line. Geoff had them fill out a permit application and perform emergency repairs. Hay bales were to remain in place for at least one week in case of further collapse, and the area has been rip-rapped and re-seeded.

**Payment of Bills:** *A motion was made by Joel LaBella, seconded by Mike Fumiatti, to pay the following bills: Patricia Dynia, Secretarial Services, \$270.00, and Midstate Regional Planning Agency, Regulation Copies, \$56.00. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Miscellaneous:** None

**Adjournment:** Chairman Eriksen adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dynia  
Recording Secretary

cc: Town Clerk, Midstate Regional Planning Agency