

Durham Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
6 February 2003

The meeting of the Durham Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:00 pm on February 6, 2003 in the chambers of the Durham Courthouse.

Members Present:

Lee Alexander, Mandy Merrill, Duane Hyde, Bill Skinner, and Mark Morong. Also attending from the public was Dwight Baldwin.

1. New Business

- a. Wetlands Applications – No report.
- b. Mill Pond - Dwight Baldwin presented the commission with a finalized report as to the justifications for dredging the Mill Pond, various options for the project, and recommendations of the Mill Pond Task Group Report. It was decided that the next step in this project would be to have an informational presentation for the public at the next meeting that would include this report and a procedural timeline. Duane will see that notices to the abutters are sent out and that the meeting is posted in the newspaper.

2. Ongoing Business

Lee Alexander presented the commission with an executive summary of the Oyster River Channel Restoration Report. The full report is complete and has been submitted to DES

Duane Hyde gave a report of the Land Conservation Working Group's forum, which was held last Monday evening, and a summary of the Public Hearing on the bond issue at the Town Council Meeting that was also last Monday night.

3. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Town Council - Mark Morong also reported on the public hearing concerning the conservation bond and fielded questions from the commission.
- b. Planning Board - Mandy Merrill updated the commission on matters before the Planning Board including the Allen Farm Subdivision and the Craig Meadows proposal. Mandy went into some detail on the progress of zoning rewrite for Durham, particularly pertaining to the conservation subdivision concept of zoning. She distributed draft copies of the work completed so far.

4. Other Business

- a. UNH Master Plan Committee – Landscape and Ecology Working Group – Lee Alexander has attended two meetings. The Group is “facilitated” by a Consulting Firm. It is not clear what is the process whereby the concerns/recommendations the Town of Durham will be incorporated into the UNH Master Plan.
- b. Volunteer Stewards/Train Program - There was discussion on the importance of getting the Steward/Trail Program up and running and how it could take on new importance if the bond issue passes.
- b. Duane Hyde asked the commission’s opinion on encouraging a particular landowner to put a conservation restriction on her deed. The commission concurred that there was really no down side to this approach in this case.
- c. DCC Library - Lee Alexander suggested that the commission should have a person responsible for arranging and organizing all the reference material that comes into the commission. There is space for a library at the town offices.

5. Administrative

- a. Minutes to January Meeting – not available
- b. Correspondence was reviewed.
- c. The date for the next meeting is March 13th, 2003

6. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.