

## **Durham Conservation Commission**

Minutes of Meeting

13 November 2003

Present: Lee Alexander (Chair), Dwight Baldwin, Bob Doty, Rich Hallett, Duane Hyde, Bill Skinner, Peter Smith, & Kevin Webb

Excused absentees: Melanie Rose and Laurel Adams

Members of the public present: Genevieve Fernandez (UNH student)

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.

### **1. New Business/Presentations**

a. Public Comments (none)

b. Keith Weston of American Engineering presented a new concept plan for the proposed "Craig Meadows" development. A previous proposal had been denied by the Planning Board at an earlier date. He stated that he wanted to keep the Conservation Commission apprised of his client's intentions and to receive comments. During the presentation, Tracy Tar and Larry Morse of the NH Soil Consultants, Inc. also participated.

Mr. Weston informed the Commission that the revised proposed project would be 12-14 housing units. Access to the site would be via Madbury Road through land presently owned by Dr. Peter Ejarque. The road would also accommodate water and sewer piping. A bridge would be built over Little Hale Brook. Representatives from NH Soil Consultants Inc. reported on a Wetland and Wildlife Habitat Assessment they had completed for American Engineering in July and November.

The Commission thanked Mr. Weston for the information. The Commission noted that it had written a letter to the Planning board regarding a previous proposal. It suggested that the concerns expressed in this letter be considered in any new proposal.

### **2. Ongoing Business**

a. Wetland applications - no new applications.

Duane Hyde reported that he had reviewed a prior wetland application from Dr. Ejarque that contained a bare minimum of information.

b. Mill Pond – Several Commission members noted the significant improvements of the pond shore line achieved by the clearing of brush. Bill Skinner reported that Sgt. Henning of the Army Reserve, and Mike Lynch (Town Engineer) are continuing discussions on the project and remain enthusiastic. Involved UNH officials would be meeting the next day. The draft wetland application to NH DES should be completed by NH Soil Consultants by late December.

c. Land Conservation Working Group - Duane Hyde presented an offer for a conservation easement on the Dunn Property on Baghdad Road. There will be no cost to the Town for this conveyance. Following a brief discussion, Bill Skinner moved that the easement be accepted, seconded by Mr. Webb. The motion was approved unanimously.

d. Volunteer Stewards/Trail Program - Melanie Rose and Laurel Adams were attending a Parks and Recreation meeting this same evening. Chair reported that he had received an update from Ken Anderson (Chair, of Parks and Rec) stating that a list of outdoor recreation sites has been completed by Parks and Recreation. It will be posted on Park and Rec and the Conservation Commission website. A trail map will be added when completed. Chair also said that the Parks and Rec had recommend that all sites have a restriction against all motorized vehicles. Mr. Hyde said that he is planning on undertaking an initiative to have all the recreation sites identified using GPS. He asked for and received offers of assistance from other Commission members.

### **3. Board and Committee Reports**

a. Town Council – Peter Smith reported that the budget process has started. Todd Selig (Town Administrator) has included the \$10,000.00 budget request from the Commission. Mr. Smith also said that there is discussion as to how to start including in the budgetary process how to utilize the \$2.5 million Conservation bond issue.

b. Planning Board - Kevin Webb reported that the new Subdivision and Zoning Regulations have been posted. Public Hearings will be scheduled. If approved, the new regulations would require open land within subdivisions.

c. Lamprey River Watershed Association – Rich Hallet reported that work is ongoing to acquire a conservation easement for the Flag Hill Winery. There is a possibility of making a proposal for a LCHIP grant. The easement would allow agriculture and not affect the winery operations.

### **4. Other Business:**

a. Oyster River Navigation Channel/Dredging – Chair reported that a new report on a Current Flow study has been prepared and submitted to Rep. Judith Spang. This supplementary report specifically addresses how dredging of the Oyster River might affect the wastewater treatment plant.

b. Preparation of 2003 Annual Report – Chair asked for input from the various Task Leaders in order to prepare the Conservation Commission section in the Town's 2003 Annual Report. This input needs to be submitted by early December.

c. Spruce Hole Bog – Chair stated that there are a number of questions regarding what is happening at the Spruce Hole Bog, and asked for a volunteer to be a task leader. Dwight Baldwin volunteered and was appointed by the chair.

d. GRANIT Conservation and Public Lands Database – Duane Hyde offered that the Land Protection Working Group will verify the database.

### **5. Administrative**

a. Minutes to October Meeting - Corrections to 10/16/03 Minutes

Dwight Baldwin suggested to change the first sentence under Ongoing Business from: "in full agreement" to "were working toward agreement on the present plan". Peter Smith suggested that in "Ongoing Business" the fourth and fifth sentences be removed: "Bill Skinner had talked with the lead U.S. Reserve authority, Sgt. Henning. Sgt. Henning is in full agreement with the plan." He also suggested that in the last sentence of this section, the "S" in swans be changed from a capital letter to a lower case. The Commission approved changes in the minutes.

b. Correspondence – nothing of major significance

c. Town Council Resolution - Town Council passed resolution #2003-20, "establishing rules of attendance and forfeiture of office for all town-appointed boards, commissions and committees. After some discussion of the resolution Peter Smith made a motion to: "accept the attendance policy set forth in 2003-20 will be used as the attendance policy of the Conservation Commission effective December, 2003." Duane Hyde seconded the motion. There was clarification of the term "without leave." It was recognized that personal or other considerations will keep members from attending but that the chair needs to be informed in advance whenever possible. The motion was passed unanimously. In future minutes members not in attendance will be noted as whether they received "leave" not to attend.

d. Meeting Schedule – no special meeting will be needed for late November. Next regular is 11 December 2003.

e. E-mail list – Updated. These addresses will be used for official business of the Commission or town and will not be distributed elsewhere.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.