

Durham Conservation Commission
Minutes to Meeting
11 March 2004

Present: Lee Alexander (Chair), Dwight Baldwin, Rich Hallett, and Peter Smith
Excused absences: Duane Hyde and Bill Skinner
Members of the Public: (none present)

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

1. New Business/Presentations

a. Public Comments - none

b. Skateboard Park Development - Chair referred to Memo he received from Todd Selig and phone conversation with Chuck Cressy. General consensus was that Skateboard Park next to Skating Rink seems worthwhile. A relatively small area of wetlands may be affected. Until Wetlands Application is submitted to NH DES, no further action by DCC is required.

b. Spruce Woods Development - Jack Farrell provided an overview of Conceptual Site Plan. On 7 March 04, there was a Site Reconnaissance visit by DCC members Alexander, Baldwin, Hyde and Webb. Several issues were discussed including: 1) siting some of the housing units in a wooded area that is designated an "aquifer boundary area" rather than in an open meadow area, and 2) a sewer line vs. septic/leach field. No decision or recommendation was made at this stage. Mr. Farrell expressed willingness work towards an overall site development plan that addressed conservation and environmental concerns.

2. Ongoing Business

a. Wetlands Applications – Nothing pending

b. Mill Pond

Application Process – Dwight Baldwin explained that the status of application being prepared by NH Soils needs to be confirmed.

Shoreline Maintenance – no planned activities

c. Land Conservation Working Group - The "Policy for Acquiring Legal Interest in Conservation/Open-Space Land" that was drafted by Duane Hyde was reviewed and discussed. A vote was taken recommending to the Town Administrator that Town Council adopt it (all in favor). Chair will send a memo to Todd Selig.

d. Volunteer Stewards/Trail Program - Since there is currently no DCC Task Leader for this item, Chair will send a memo to Ken Anderson (Chair of Parks and Rec) regarding DCC and Parks and Rec coordination related to Policy for Use of Town Lands and recreational sites and trails map. Potentially, it may be useful to hold a joint DCC and Parks and Rec meeting dealing with these topics.

e. Oyster River Study - Lee Alexander distributed copies of the preliminary report on "*Modeling the Effect of Dredging on the Concentration and Dilution of Pollutant Particles Originating from the Oyster River Water Treatment Plant*". This is a follow-on study being performed by Thayer School of

Engineering at Dartmouth College to look at the hydrodynamics of the Oyster River. The final report will include three different stream flow estimates: 1) as is, 2) proposed channel described in feasibility report, and 3) channel with boat basin.

3. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Town Council – Nothing of major importance.
- b. Planning Board – Brief mention of the ongoing Zoning Re-write, and the need for wetlands overlay.
- c. Lamprey River Watershed Association – Nothing of major importance
- d. Oyster River Watershed Association

4. Other Business

a. Dwight Baldwin reported that ground water contamination concerns related to the proposed site of the new hotel at the intersection of Route 108 and Main Street had been communicated to NH DES. No further action was required at this stage.

b. Town Land's Use Policy in regard to what are/are not acceptable conservation and recreational uses - Chair will contact Parks and Rec to coordinate

- c. "Overlays Districts" for Town Master Plan related to:
- Wetland Conservation
 - Shoreland Protection
 - Aquifer Protection

d. Strafford Regional Planning Commission: Update Local Resource Protection Primary Layer – Duane Hyde will serve as point of contact.

e. "Prime Wetlands Designation" Map – Need to contact Bobbie Jean Weiler to see if she is willing to become involved.

5. Administrative

- a. Minutes to February 04 meeting – not reviewed
- b. Correspondence
 - *Nonpoint Source Pollution* a publication by NHDES (5 copies)
 - Ltr from NH F&G re: GIS Habitat Base Maps and CD
- c. Next Meeting - 8 April 2004
- d. Re-appointments and vacancies - Chair mentioned that there would be two vacancies for Alternates.

Adjourned at 9:15pm