

DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes to Meeting
10 June 2004

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Members present: Dwight Baldwin, Richard Hallett, Beryl Harper, Jim Hellen, Duane Hyde,
George Thomas, Peter Smith, Kevin Webb

Excused absences: Lee Alexander and Bill Skinner

1. New Business/Presentations

a. Presentation by David Kurz, Durham Police Chief – David Kurz proposed an ordinance regulating use of public land owned by the Town of Durham that was drafted after receiving a complaint about people camping on Doe Farm by the Lamprey River. A discussion of uses and town policies of the many varied town-owned properties ensued, including mention of local UNH owned properties and uses. David Kurz will propose a no-camping ordinance to the Town Council. There was a unanimous endorsement of the concept by the Conservation Commission.

b. Public comments – none

c. Durham Parks and Recreation Board – Five members participated in a very productive discussion about town-owned properties, trail use and official policies. It was decided to look at each property individually, and a subcommittee was formed: Jane Crooks, Melanie Rose, Denny Byrne, George Thomas, Jim Hellen, Beryl Harper, Duane Hyde (ad hoc), and Tony Federer (?). Jane Crooks will call the first meeting by email. The plan of action is: subcommittee recommendations on 33 properties, report to both DCC and Parks and Rec., further input (e.g. Police Dept., Public Works), and then presentation to the Town Council. Following acceptance of the policies by Council, the Parks and Recreation Board would like to promote an Adopt-a-Trail Program.

2. Acceptance of minutes of May 13, 2004 – Approved with some minor amendments.

3. Ongoing Business

a. Wetlands applications – no report

b. Mill Pond – Dwight Baldwin reported that Bill Skinner had 3 work sessions on shoreline maintenance. UNH is considering improving the “Outer Field” using dredged spoil.

c. Land Protection Working Group - Duane Hyde reported that there is a June 21 public hearing on the Mill Pond Center property conservation easement. Appraisals for land proposed for preservation through purchase of conservation easements are moving forward.

d. Volunteer Stewards/Trail Program – See above discussion with the Parks and Recreation Board.

4. Board and Committee Reports

a. Town Council - Peter Smith reported that presentations on alternatives for the Packers Falls Bridge are on-going with the Town Council.

b. Planning Board - Kevin Webb described the Newmarket cell phone tower application on the Durham – Newmarket line by Simons Lane off Route 108. There is a site visit on Wednesday, June 23 at 8 am and an evening public hearing also on June 23.

c. Lamprey and Oyster River Watershed Association - Rich Hallett reported on the consideration of revitalizing and increasing the scope of the Lamprey Watershed Association.

5. Other Business

a. Smithfield-Fellows Lane ZBA Application – Dwight Baldwin reported on the May 22 site visit to check trees within the Shoreline Protection Zone. The ZBA granted the requested variance with the conditions advised by the DCC. Future care of the central meadow in Fitts Farm was also discussed.

b. NH Fish & Game's Coarse Filter Wildlife Habitat Mapping Project – no action taken

6. Administrative

a. Assignment of tasks to members – Everyone has specific tasks.

b. Correspondence – Corrections were made in the address and email list.

c. Date of next meeting – 8 July 2004

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm