

DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Draft Minutes of Meeting
8 July 2004

Meeting Called to order at 7:05pm

Members Present: Dwight Baldwin (Chair), Lee Alexander, Beryl Harper, Jim Hellen, Bill Skinner, Peter Smith, and Kevin Webb,

Excused Absences: Rich Hallett

Public Attendees: Mark Bernier, Jack Ferrell, and Mike Lynch (Town of Durham Public Works)

1. New Business/Presentations

a. Public Comments

Mark Bernier (Durham Resident) expressed concerns regarding an impact on wetlands of proposed road construction by Omnipoint associated with the erection of a cell tower (see 6-page handout). Chair mentioned that a site visit had been previously conducted. Kevin Webb commented that it would be a driveway (not a road) that included a wetlands crossing. While the proposed tower would be in Newmarket, access would be via Durham land. Peter Smith explained what had occurred in terms of Town Council involvement. He felt there are two issues: crossing wetlands, and potential damage to Durham's land. There was further discussion regarding what role DCC should play. Kevin Webb agreed that the Planning Board should formally ask DCC for a site assessment and recommendations.

b. Presentation by Jack Ferrell re: Allen Farms Subdivision

Mr. Ferrell would like to create a larger, more contiguous conservation area from two existing lots. Only two homes would be built, but on just one lot. Most likely, this would require Planning Board approval to amend the current restrictions on the Allen Farms Subdivision. There would be one small wetland crossing. DCC expressed appreciation for this information, and if requested by Planning Board would provide input.

c. Presentation by Mike Lynch (Durham Public Works Department) re: Mill Pond Dredging Project

1) Update on Mill Pond Dredge Project (prepared by Dept. of Public Works)

368th Engineer Combat Battalion is back from Iraq, but not their equipment. The point of contact is no longer Master Sergeant Henning. Most likely date that they could perform the dredging activity is not until Summer 2005. The Dredge and Fill permit to NHDES Wetlands Bureau is 95% complete. UNH has still not decided if it could use the dredging spoils on its athletic fields. A disposal plan is also in preparation for submission to NHDES Solid Waste Bureau. NHF&G is interested in making necessary modifications to Fish Ladder. Potentially, the Dredge and Fill Permit fee from NHDES Mitigation Division (~\$8K) would be waived.

2) Natural Resource Management Plan (by NH Soils)

2. Acceptance of minutes of 10 June 10 2004.

Accepted with minor changes.

3. **Ongoing Business**

- a. Wetlands applications Lee Alexander
 - No new applications to report.
- b. Mill Pond Bill Skinner/Dwight Baldwin
 - Shoreline maintenance: a second weed-whacking is needed by the Mill Pond Task Group.
 - Awaiting decision by University regarding use of spoils.
- c. Land Protection Working Group Duane Hyde
 - No report (Duane not at meeting)
- d. Town Land-Use/Trails Subcommittee Harper, Hellen, Thomas
 - A Parks and Rec sub-committee will be visiting some sites and looking into signage. There are approximately 33 Town properties that may apply. There will be a booth set up during Durham Day. Adopt a trail (stewardship) being considered. What should be restricted uses needs to be determined.

4. **Board and Committee Reports**

- a. Town Council Peter Smith

The Packers Falls new bridge post-construction saga continues. Town Council approved funding for the Mill Pond Center for Arts Conservation Easement. Funding to come from the Current Use Penalty Fee account. Obtaining the Smitty's Gas Station site for a Town Hall/Library is still goal, but there are some challenges.
- b. Planning Board Kevin Webb

Zoning Ordinance Re-write is still ongoing, including aquifer protection overlay issues. Draft Wetlands Overlay Ordinance was e-mailed to DCC members. Input by DCC members should be sent to Kevin Webb.
- c. Lamprey and Oyster River Watershed Association Rich Hallett
 - No report (Rich not at meeting)

5. **Other Business**

- a. Todd Selig's letter to DES regarding USA Springs, Inc. permit application (see 5 May 04 Letter from Todd Selig to State of NH)
- b. NHDOT's interest in disposing of 1.7 acres of surplus land in Durham
- c. T-Mobile's proposal for a cellular tower off Simon's Lane
- d. Dave Kurz's DRAFT on camping on town land
- e. Information booth at Durham Day in September (with Park and Rec. Board)
- f. Wiswall dam fish passage project
- g. Prime wetland designation issues
- h. Wetland/flood plain and aquifer recharge issues
- i. Other items

6. **Administrative**

- a. Correspondence
 - Chair mentioned a memo received from Strafford Regional Planning Commission on Non-point Source Commission
- b. Next meeting – 12 August 2004

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.