

DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes to Meeting (Draft)

October 14, 2004

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Members Present: Lee Alexander, Cynthia Belowski, Beryl Harper, Jim Hellen, Duane Hyde (acting Chair), Bill Skinner, Peter Smith, George Thomas, and Kevin Webb

Excuse Absence: Dwight Baldwin

Public Attendees: (none)

1. New Business/Presentations

- a. Public Comments (none)

2. Minutes of September 9, 2004 - Approved with minor corrections.

3. Ongoing Business

- a. Wetlands applications - Lee Alexander reported no new applications.

b. Mill Pond – The Wetlands Permit application was reviewed by Baldwin and Alexander. There are no major issues and recommended that it be submitted to NH DES. From this point on, Mill Pond dredging activities are now the responsibility of Mike Lynch at Public Works. Bill Skinner reported that two more shoreline maintenance activities had been performed. No more were planned for this year. Chair mentioned letter from Todd Selig to Ann Hart (President, UNH) regarding the use of the dredge spoils for athletic fields.

- c. Land Protection Working Group – Duane Hyde reported on four projects.

1) The Allen Family on Packers Falls Road is willing to establish a conservation easement for an open field lot (1.8ac) for 50% contribution (\$60K) match. The current use is as a soccer field. This would be adjacent to a 7.8ac parcel owned by the Nature Conservancy. There was some discussion whether preserving a parcel primarily for recreation land use was appropriate for “conservation purposes”, or both. The general consensus was that this was a good idea and should be pursued.

2) There is an 87ac track of land in Folletts Brook basin (adjacent to Newmarket and Lee). It could be acquired under conservation easement, but an appraisal is needed. It was moved and seconded that \$3-5K be allocated from the Change Use Fund. Motion carried.

3) Property in Lee surrounding the Durham town well. An appraisal is needed. Potentially, Town of Lee would be granted the Garrity Road gravel pit site (a potential development site) in exchange in the Lee Well site. Further, the Town of Lee would eventually hold a conservation easement on the Lee Well site.

4) Status of some appraisals: 85ac tract next to UNH (completed); 100ac conservation easement near Durham water supply (pending); 20ac easement in core area (moving forward without appraisal); 190ac agricultural/wetland (appraisal complete, proposal submitted to landowner).

d. Town Land-Use/Trails Subcommittee – Beryl Harper, Jim Hellen, and Thomas have begun to conduct site visits on Town Property holdings. Duane Hyde reported on a visit to a Long Marsh Road site with Town Police to check out a site that previously experienced considerable drinking activity.

4. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Town Council - Peter Smith mentioned that there would be a special meeting on the possibility of having a Town Center in conjunction with the proposed Durham Public Library site.
- b. Planning Board – Kevin Webb reported that development activity was relatively slow. There was some discussion regarding some options being considered for the Spruce Woods development.

5. Other Business

- a. Bill Skinner's resignation from the DCC will become effective on 1 November 2004.
- b. Council approved our recommendation that Beryl Harper be moved from an alternate member to a full member filling Rich Hallet's previous slot.
- c. Council also approved that Cynthia Belowski be appointed to the DCC as an alternate member.
- d. Dwight Baldwin has recommended that on 1 November 2004, George Thomas formally apply to become a regular member. Jim Hellen will continue as an alternate. This would then leave one alternate-member vacancy that could be filled by Wendy Fogg on approval of Town Council. This was agreed.
- e. T-Mobile requested a further extension to come before the DCC until the December meeting.
- f. Dwight Baldwin provided an overview of DCC activities to Town Council on 4 October. Arthur Grant requested that Council be notified if parcels of land are identified by the Town Land-Use/Trails Subcommittee that have little or no value. Such land could then be considered for sale by the town.
- g. Lee Alexander and Dwight Baldwin have read the draft "Mill Pond Wetlands Dredge Permit" application, made a few minor suggestions for improvement, and passed it on to Mike Lynch for return to NH Soils. Dwight has a written letter to NH Soils saying that the Durham Conservation Commission has reviewed the draft and finds it satisfactory.
- h. Prime wetland designation issues (flier distributed) – Cynthia Belowski will investigate.
- i. Wetland/flood plain and aquifer recharge issues – work continues
- j. NH Assoc. of Conservation Comm
 - 34th Annual Meeting is on 6 Nov, in Concord
 - Membership dues (\$250) are due for 2005
 - Vote to support legislation in next Session to:
 - A-1 – provide permanent funding to LCHIP
 - A-2 – amend RSA 482-A accept fees to mitigate wetlands impactsMotion was made and seconded to support this ballot. Motion carried.
- k. Questionnaire from Strafford Regional Planning Commission – was due mid-September

6. Administrative

- a. Correspondence
 - Ltr to Pres. Hart (UNH) has incorrect amount of dredge spoils (11,000 cubic feet) and dollar amount of savings (\$22,000); Duane will contact Mike Lynch.
- b. Next meeting – 11 Nov 04

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.