

DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes to Meeting (Draft)

9 December 2004

Meeting opened at 7:05pm

Present: Alexander, Baldwin, Belowski, Wendy Fogg, Hyde, Smith, Thomas, and Webb.

Excuse Absence: Jim Hellen

1. New Business/Presentations

- a. Chair welcomed new alternate member: Wendy Fogg (wendyfogg@comcast.net)
- a. T-Mobile presentation – not held; no person was present

2. Minutes to 11 November 2004 Meeting

Accepted with minor changes.

3. Ongoing Business

- a. Wetlands applications - Lee Alexander reported no new applications.
- b. Mill Pond - Dwight Baldwin reported no new developments.
- c. Land Protection Working Group - Duane Hyde reported on a relatively large land protection effort being pursued near Folletts Brook. The Lee Well – Mick Pit effort is ongoing. This would be a joint project with the Town of Lee. The Merrick Property (26 acre site at Rte 108 and Canney Road.) is being considered for a conservation/public access easement.
- d. Town Land-Use/Trails Subcommittee - George Thomas reported that the site visits are almost complete. Future intention is to develop some recommendations on appropriate land use activities for each site. Potentially, this could include the establishment of a Land Stewardship program whereby Durham residents would become Stewards for individual parcels.
- e. Prime Wetlands - Cynthia Belowski attended a DES workshop on how to establish a program to designate “prime wetlands.” Prime wetlands would warrant a higher level of protection. For a wetland area to be designated as “prime”, a comparative analysis of functions and values must be performed. There is a so-called “New Hampshire Methodology” that can be followed. After this process has been completed, the Town can designate those areas as warranting special status. There was some discussion as to what is the definition of a “prime wetland,” criteria for evaluation, and how this is addressed in Planning Board or Zoning regulations. NH DES point-of-contact is Sandy Crystal. Cynthia will contact her and invite her to attend a future DCC meeting.

4. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Town Council - Peter Smith mentioned that a final decision on the Packers Falls Bridge railing has not yet been made. But, that DCC supporting the use of \$50K from the contingency fund was a major positive factor. He mentioned that Town Council is also discussing a suggestion that \$50K be earmarked for the Town to hire a person to deal with economic development.
- b. Planning Board – Kevin Webb reported that development activity continues to be relatively slow. PB has finalized the Planning Districts. He asked DCC members to provide individual comments on the Planning and Zoning re-write (specifically, shoreland, aquifer, and wetland overlay zones) before the public hearing on 12 Jan 05. At the 13 Jan 05 DCC meeting, a more formal communication can be prepared.

5. Other Business

- a. Harold Hocker's letter with respect to UNH College Woods and Beards Pond – Lee Alexander provided a brief background on College Woods and mentioned that he had met with Harold Hocker and others approximately two years ago when UNH was conducting a Long-Range Planning. Duane Hyde suggested that Beards Pond was a former salt marsh, and that it could potentially be candidate for saltmarsh restoration. Potentially, this could be performed in conjunction with the sewer line relocation. Chair will contact Harold Hocker and invite him to attend the next DCC meeting.
- b. Camp site on town land at Doe Farm – Chair explained this occurrence. Peter Smith mentioned that there is a Town ordinance prohibiting this, and that the Police Department should be notified.
- c. Letter from Dick Lord to Mike Lynch re: cutting a large tree on Bennett Road – DCC took note; Chair will discuss with Mike Lynch.
- d. Dufresne-Henry Water Quality and Demand Report recommends that the Wiswall Dam be lowered by one foot. Town has requested from DES that this be performed. Duane Hyde feels that this should be monitored. Cynthia is willing to serve as the DCC Task Leader for Lamprey and Oyster River.

6. Administrative

- a. Correspondence
- b. Next meeting – 13 January 2005
- c. Budget – Currently \$1059 overdrawn from our 2004 budget. But, the current use account is approximately \$377,000.

7. Adjournment – 9:15pm