

DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes to Meeting - Final

10 March 2005

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm

Members Present: Lee Alexander, Dwight Baldwin, Cynthia Belowski, Wendy Fogg, Beryl Harper, Duane Hyde, Peter Smith, George Thomas, and Kevin Webb.

Excused Absence: Jim Hellen

Public Attendees: (none)

1. New Business/Presentations

a. Mill Pond - Mike Lynch (Durham Public Works) reported on the current status
- Spoke with John Sheridan of the 368th Engineer Combat Battalion. Equipment is still in Saudi Arabia, but they have some replacement equipment in the repair shop that they may be able to rehabilitate and use for the dredging project. Mike will call him back in May. Our project is still on the schedule for October.

- Spoke with Frank Richardson (NHDES). He is the new Wetlands Bureau Permitting Inspector. He sees no major "red flags" based on an initial look at the application.

Oyster River Cooperative School District will accept dredging spoils for Middle School athletic field restoration. Peter Smith noted that the field restoration was approved at the recent warrant issue vote.

b. Strafford Rivers Conservancy – Anna Boudreau (Exec. Director) provided a brief overview of the organization. A brochure and a copy of the Project Selection Criteria were distributed.

c. Dan Beller-McKenna – Beech Hill Road issues (was not able to attend)
Kevin Webb mentioned that all land north of Beach Hill Road has been proposed to be rural. On the south side it will be industrial/light industry.

2. Following minor corrections, Minutes were approved for:

13 January 2005

10 February 2005

17 February 2005 (Special Meeting)

3. Ongoing Business

- a. Wetlands applications – Lee Alexander reported no new applications had been filed.
- b. Mill Pond – Dwight Baldwin stated no new activities.
- c. Land Protection Working Group – Duane Hyde reported:
 - 1) Mill Pond Center for the Arts – 40 persons attended the dedication ceremony
 - 2) Merrick conservation easement – Peter Smith suggested that some form of recognition be made to the Merricks.
 - 3) Land Protection WG submitted a \$200K grant for source water protection.

- 4) Town Council approved the purchase for the Mick Property. Town of Lee did so as well.
- d. Town Land-Use/Trails Subcommittee – Members Harper, Hellen, Thomas continue to work on compiling reports on each parcel. The Parks and Rec area on the Town of Durham website contains site maps and trail guides that will eventually available in printed form.
- e. Wetland issues – Cyn Belowski introduced a Draft Proposal for Wetlands Assessment (one page document). The purpose is to develop a comprehensive assessment of Durham's wetlands that could be used for prime wetland designation. The NHDES Method for Comparative Evaluation of Non-tidal Wetlands in NH would be used. A UNH Senior Project Team would perform this. Frank Mitchell (Cooperative Extension) would supervise. Approximate cost would be \$500.
- Moved and approved (all in favor) that \$500 be made available from Current Use Penalty Conservation Fund.

4. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Town Council – Peter Smith mentioned that the three new elected members for the Town Council all have expressed their interest in conservation matters.
- b. Planning Board – Kevin Webb
- Have received comments on Shoreland overlay. Still looking for comments on wetlands. There is a sub-division application before P&Z that would create a 8.2ac site on Packers Falls road that would go to the Nature Conservancy.
- Peter Smith expressed some concern about inconsistent comments made by the UNH Planner (Doug Banks) regarding long range plans.
- c. Oyster River Watershed Assoc. (ORWA) and Lamprey River Advisory Committee.
- Cyn Belowski attended the recent meetings. It should be possible to monitor the activities or the ORWA without having to attend every meeting.

5. Other Business

- a. Monitoring land under conservation easement with DCC – Wendy and Beryl will attend 29 March Workshop in Dover on Land Stewardship.
- b. Oyster River dredging proposal – (not discussed)
- c. Dwight Baldwin and Beryl Harper terms end in April. Both expressed a willingness to be re-appointed.

6. Administrative

- a. Correspondence - Dwight mentioned a Police Department Strategic Planning Session in April. It may be useful to have a DCC rep attend (e.g., monitoring the Lamprey River campsite).
- b. Next meeting – 14 April 2005

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm