

DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes to Meeting – Draft

14 April 2004

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm

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

Excused Absence: Kevin Webb

Public Attendees: (none)

1. New Business/Presentations

a. Richard and Debra Casey Property, Royals Cove, Durham Point

Sandy Breton (NH Soil Consultants, Inc.) gave a presentation regarding the intent to file an Expedited Wetland Application for a replacement system for existing septic sewage system. This application has not been filed with the Town Clerk. Lee Alexander outlined four steps that were probably required in considering this matter:

1. Determine if/when the application needs to be filed.
2. Verify that this application meets the criteria of a “minimum expedited” application.
3. Determine if ZBA needs to issue a variance on this project.
4. Evaluate the application on its merits (biological and engineering).

Peter Smith felt that the ZBA determination might be needed first, before proceeding.

This was moved, seconded and approved (unanimous)

2. Minutes to 10 March 2005.

Approved with minor corrections.

3. Ongoing Business

a. Wetlands Applications – Lee Alexander reported that several new applications have been received. There will be a site visit for UNH Gables Application on Tues., 19 April at 5:00pm. Meet at Town Hall. Alt date is 21 Apr at 5:00pm.

b. Mill Pond – Chair reported that NH DES approved the application. Next step is for US Army Corps of Engineers to review.

c. Land Protection WG – Duane Hyde reported that the Merrick Property is proceeding. An application was submitted for a grant source water protection, but it will not be funded this time. Also submitted was a farmland application to USDEA. Chair asked about potential impact of Congress’s looking into changing taxation for conservation land.

d. Town Land Use/Trails Subcommittee – Harper, Hellen and Thomas. Interest was expressed in how Town forestland can be better managed for timber harvesting. Will discuss with UNH Woodlands Manager at next meeting. Will site visit UNH sites in terms of how to describe in Town Conservation lands. Will discuss with Denis Burns on how to jointly manage.

Beryl Harper introduced the Draft Report to Town Council describing what should be done with various Town Properties (was send to DCC members on 21 March). Some general and

specific suggestions were provided related to keeping some parcels as “undeveloped.” Peter Smith provided an historical overview of his experience with “discretionary easements”, and the pros and cons of this being a potential tool for land conservation. DCC members were asked to provide further comments to be discussed at a special meeting to be held on 25 April (Monday).

The Town Office Park (Arthur Grant Circle) was mentioned by Peter Smith as being of some interest again. Some Town Residents feel that this site should be developed, while others believe it is more suited for conservation and passive recreation. This matter is being considered by Economic Development Commission and Town Council.

[Not discussed]*

4. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Town Council Smith
- b. Planning Board Webb
- c. Oyster River Watershed Assoc. and Lamprey River Belowski
Advisory Committee

5. Other Business

- a. Recommendations on use of town-owned properties
- b. Durham wetland overlay district if not already adopted by the Planning Board
 - c. Monitoring land under conservation easement with the DCC
- d. Oyster River dredging proposal

6. Administrative

- a. Correspondence
- b. Next meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 9:50pm

* Agenda items not discussed will be addressed next regular meeting.