

**DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes to Meeting – Draft**

12 May 2005

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Members present: Lee Alexander, Dwight Baldwin, Cynthia Belowski, Wendy Fogg, Beryl Harper, Jim Hellen, Duane Hyde, Peter Smith, and George Thomas  
Excuse Absence: Kevin Webb

**1. New Business/Presentations**

a. UNH Woodlands

Steve Eisenhaure (UNH Woodlands Manager) briefly explained what is his role is in terms of managing UNH forestland. There is an on-going walking/hiking trails improvement project in Madbury. It would make sense to involve Durham as well. It involves a trail system that links various UNH forestland properties (e.g., East and West Foss Farm, Kingman Farm, College Woods, etc.). This effort includes a “Signage Project” that will explain what can/cannot be done. Interest was expressed to coordinate efforts between Parks and Rec, DCC and UNH on trails designation and management within Durham.

b. DES, Prime Wetland Designation

Sandy Crystall (NH DES) Gave a PP Pres on the “What, Why and How” (handout provided). She also provided an additional handout on *NH’s Prime Wetlands: Law and Rules*. At this time, there is no immediate plan to pursue this process in Durham. Cynthia mentioned that a grant proposal has been submitted to Dr. Mitchell (UNH) for this fall.

**2. Acceptance of Minutes of 14 April 2005**

Approved with minor corrections.

**3. Ongoing Business**

a. Oyster River Dredging Proposal – Lee Alexander briefly explained the e-mail that he sent on 9 May 05 regarding the background and current status of this project. Peter Smith stated that he did not believe that DCC actually endorsed the Study Report at the 13 Jan 05 meeting. He also felt that Town Council would not be in favor of pursuing this type of project, in that there are more important matters for the Town to deal with. Peter described past history and his belief that Army Corps of Engineers would never fund this type of project. He did say that there might be some merit to the Wastewater Treatment outfall aspects.

After some discussion, it was agreed that a letter be sent to Town Council stating that DCC endorses the Study Report. Further, that DCC recommend to Town Council that further outside funding should be pursued for more in depth studies, and that a final recommendation/plan be developed. Specifically, there are two initial tasks that could be performed by the Oyster River Channel Restoration Task Group:

a. Discuss with US Army Corps of Engineers (New England District Office in Waltham, MA) what could/should be done in terms of dredging and sediment removal.

b. Contact Senator Judd Gregg's Office regarding federal funding support for this type of Great Bay river/estuary project.

Lee Alexander moved, Jim Hellen seconded; passed, all favor.

b. Wetlands applications - Lee Alexander explained the status of five (5) applications. He made specific mention of the difficulty encountered in terms of dealing with the two new types of applications: Minimum Impact Expedited and Permit By Notification. While the intent may be worthwhile (reduce the time required for certain types of applications), the criteria used and the process involved are significantly different than what is required for a Standard Dredge and Fill application.

c. Mill Pond – Baldwin no further development/status quo.

d. Land Protection Working Group – Duane Hyde reported that Durham was not selected for the USDA award. The Merrick Property easement requires a survey (\$4-5,000 quote from Atlantic Survey). Jim Hellen moved that up to \$5,000 be used; passed, all in favor. There is also a need for an easement baseline report. Beryl Harper moved that \$1,000 be allocated; passed, all in favor.

e. Town Land-Use/Trails Subcommittee - Harper, Hellen, Thomas

f. Wetland issues - Belowski

#### **4. Board and Committee Reports**

a. Town Council - Smith reported that the Town received a \$200,000 grant from USDES for environmental remediation.

b. Planning Board – no report

c. Oyster River Watershed Assoc. and Lamprey River - no report

#### **5. Other Business**

a. May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting with Park and Rec. Board regarding Subcommittee's report  
Beryl Harper asked that DCC endorse the 5 May 05 Report. Moved and all in favor. It is expected that Parks and Rec will do the same.

b. The 27-28 May meeting of the Oyster River Watershed Association will be at Mill Pond.

c. Chair's investigation into possible contaminate migration from Craig Supply site – postponed.

d. Monitoring land under conservation easement with the DCC – no report.

#### **6. Administrative**

a. Correspondence – not discussed

b. Next meeting – 9 June 2005

Meeting adjourned at 9:55pm