

**DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of July 14, 2005 Meeting**  
**Durham Town Hall – Council Chambers**  
**7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm

Members Present: Lee Alexander, Dwight Baldwin, Cynthia Belowski, Beryl Harper, Jim Hellen, Duane Hyde, Richard Ozenich, George Thomas

Not present: Peter Smith

Public Attendees: Michael Kerivan re walkway at UNH Rec Ctr

1. New Business/Presentations

a. Michael Kerivan from McFarland-Johnson, Inc. presented plans to improve the walkway between the Hamel Recreation Center and the pool. This 300 square foot project which is adjacent to a perennial stream is considered by NH DES to be a minor impact. Plans include remediation of bank erosion by building a headwall. Mr. Kerivan asked if the Conservation Commission would forward a letter to NH DES stating that we have reviewed the project and see no problems with the plans.

2. Acceptance of minutes of June 9, 2005 - Accepted with minor corrections

3. Ongoing Business

a. Wetlands applications – (not discussed)

b. Mill Pond – project on hold because Army Corp will not accept liability for environmental problems that may arise due to dredging activities and, to date, the town has been unable to secure insurance. Recommended that Mike Lynch research what other towns have done in this situation. The dredging permit is good for 5 years. Also, Dwight will arrange a work group some time next week to cut vegetation that has begun to grow back.

c. Land Protection Working Group (LPWG) –

- Merrick Property – Rockingham Land Trust will be doing the baseline documentation. There is an interest in establishing trails. Duane suggested that the LPWG could send a postcard to community members to recruit help.

- Emery Farms – almost complete. The easement value of app \$800-850,000 will be held by the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests who owns an abutting piece. Will need a complete self contained appraisal report because 1/3 of the funding is from Federal Farmland monies. DCC could use \$2,000 from our budget and the rest from current use change tax. Motion was made and passed to allocate up to \$5,000 for the appraisal.

d. Town Land-Use/Trails Committee – Presentation to the Town Council went well. TC asked the committee to prepare recommendations regarding the appropriate uses for each property and to provide specifics on costs for recommended improvements. The report went to the TC with a recommendation from the DCC to sell the W. Arthur Grant Circle to a conservation organization. The Parks and Recreation Committee was not in support of this recommendation. Duane suggested a standing sub-committee to oversee long-term property issues. Dwight suggested that the Land-Use/Trails committee make a recommendation for oversight.

e. Wetland issues – see Other Business

#### 4. Board and Committee Reports

a. Town Council – no report

b. Planning Board – Auty property wetlands application was presented at the last meeting and needs to be amended to replace the septic system – goal is to merge two lots.

c. Oyster River Watershed Assn and Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) – In-Stream Flow Study contract for the Lamprey River has been awarded. LRAC has invited the project team to their next meeting.

#### 5. Other Business

a. Sandy Crystall's presentation – Cynthia asked the members of the DCC if they thought the benefits of designating prime wetlands was worth pursuing. The proposed project with the University of New Hampshire Natural Resource Department is meant to be a first step in this process. There was some concern about whether this student project would give us what we need. A motion was made and passed to initiate the process to designate prime wetlands.

b. NH Coastal Program's fecal coliform study – Cynthia spoke with Sally Soule from NH Coastal Program. Purpose of the study was to identify pollutant sources in problem hot-spots around the bay. Ultimate goal is to correct these problems so that more shellfish beds can be opened. NHCP would like our assistance in determining if the test results are valid. Further, they would like to work with the town to determine the best process to correct the source problems. While the DCC felt that the study results are suspect, all agreed that the ultimate goal is worthwhile. Cynthia will arrange for Sally to come to a meeting and discuss where we should go from here

c. What can the DCC do for the Beard's Pond group? The town attorney determined that the land under the pond is owned by those living around it. The group does not want to restore the pond to a tidal marsh, due to concerns about mosquitoes. It was suggested that the group work together much like the friends of Mill Pond – Lee Alexander will contact Harold Hocker and make some recommendations as to how the group can move forward.

#### 6. Administrative

##### a. Correspondence

- Letter from NH DOT wanting to know if Durham was interested in buying land adjacent to Route 4 at the end of Edgewood Extension. DCC felt that there was no conservation purpose for this property.
- The DCC has been informed that there is a pending project to widen Route 108 from Durham to Newmarket by 3 feet to accommodate a bike path.
- Todd Selig sent a letter asking NH DES to use the most stringent requirement in their process of considering a permit for USA Springs water withdrawal in Nottingham.

b. Durham Day is Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup>. The Conservation Commission will display with Parks and Recreation and the Great Bay Stewards.

c. Next meeting 08- September - 05

7. Adjournment – Meeting ended at 9:45pm