

DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes to Meeting (Draft)

September 8, 2005

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Members present: Dwight Baldwin, Beryl Harper, Jim Hellen, Duane Hyde, George Thomas,
Peter Smith

Excused absences: Lee Alexander, Cynthia Belowski

Not present: Richard Ozenich

1. New Business/Presentations

Mark West, of West Environmental, presented a plan for 2 lots at Wednesday Hill Rd. and Packer's Falls Rd., owned by Biers and Diamond. Mr. West stated the owners' goal is to increase habitat diversity on the lot through landscaping, ponds, a fruit orchard and wetlands in a total of 6.5 acres. This was a preliminary discussion, with most of the questions focused on pond construction.

2. Acceptance of minutes of July 14, 2005 – Approved with some minor amendments.

3. Ongoing Business

- a. Wetlands applications – no report
- b. Mill Pond update – Dwight Baldwin reported that the Town of Durham has acquired insurance. The dredge materials will not go to the Middle School playground, and it is unlikely the excavation will be done in 2005.
- c. Land Protection Working Group - Duane Hyde reported several updates. State funding is available for grants. Work is ongoing on the Emery Farm easement. The Merrick easement progress has been delayed due to a death in the family. The Nature Conservancy is buying 20 acres east of the Dame Forest (F7) for the Great Bay Partnership, and will transfer ownership from the Ryans to the Society of the Protection of NH Forests. A future site visit was proposed to 40 acres north of Mill Road, which borders on College Woods and is near the Oyster River. There was some discussion of a potential town library site opposite Jackson Landing.
- d. Town Land Use/Trails Subcommittee – A walk is scheduled for Longmarsh Road on Wednesday, Sept. 14 at 9 a.m.

4. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Town Council - Peter Smith reported on several issues: ongoing zoning ordinance discussion; bid for rebuilding Packer's Falls bridge; discussion on settlement for clarifier; proposal for dredging the Oyster River.

5. Other Business

- a. Interaction between the ZBA and DCC – Members discussed the recent site visit to the lot on Riverview Court and considered how the CC has input on requests from the ZBA for variances in environmentally sensitive lands.

b. Jackson Landing preproposal – Dwight Baldwin reported on a draft preproposal to control sediment erosion into the Oyster River at Jackson Landing. It could combine 3 projects: Jackson Landing erosion, Mill Pond banks and Oyster River dredging. A site visit is scheduled for Monday the 12th at 8:30 at Jackson Landing. There will be an upcoming meeting with a coalition group. There was consensus among the members that the funding for the revegetation of the Mill Pond banks and the repair of Jackson Landing be separate from the dredging of the Oyster River.

6. Administrative

a. Correspondence was presented briefly. Plans for Durham Day on Sept. 18 include a table with the Great Bay Stewards and the Parks and Recreation Committee.

b. Date of next meeting – October 13, 2005 at 7:00

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Recorded by Beryl Harper