

DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of Meeting (draft)  
November 10, 2005

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

- Members present: Dwight Baldwin, Cynthia Belowski, Beryl Harper, Jim Hellen, Duane Hyde, Richard Ozenich, George Thomas
- Excused absences: Lee Alexander, Peter Smith
- Public attendees: Rebecca Hollis, UNH student

1. New Business/Presentations

- None

2. Acceptance of minutes of October 13, 2005

- Accepted with minor changes.

3. On-going Business

a. Wetlands application

- no report

b. Mill Pond

- no report

c. Land Protection Working Group

- Duane Hyde had a “Non-public” meeting with the Town Council which approved two non-binding pre-applications to be submitted to the NH DES under the DES Source Water Protection Program. If approved, the town would fund approximately 67% of the project, NH DES 25%, and outside sources approximately 8%.

- The Merrick property conservation easement has not been finalized (Caney Road and Route 108).

- see 6.a.3. below

- Closed on the sale of the 20 acre Ryan property to The Nature Conservancy. No conservation easement involved.

d. Town Land – Use/Trails Subcommittee

- Subcommittee walked Longmarsh Road to Dame Road, found a fifth beaver dam, carried out a bag of trash from a campfire site.

- Subcommittee met with Mike Lynch, Director of Public Works; the new Town engineer; and John Parry, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee to discuss ideas for applying to the state for foot bridges along Longmarsh Road. The pros and cons of various types of foot bridges were debated (materials, cost, impact).

- UNH graduate student is writing a draft of a grant to the state for foot bridges at Longmarsh Road. Maximum of \$20,000. Grant due January, 2006.

e. Wetland issues

- UNH professor has committed to have students do wetland assessments during spring semester. This will limit the quality of the assessments due to snow cover, frozen ground, dormant species, etc.

4. Board and Committee Reports

a. Town Council

- no report

b. Planning Board

- Approved a cell tower (Verizon) on top of New England Center.

c. Oyster River Watershed Association and Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC)

- The Town of Durham was copied on a letter from The National Park Service informing the town and LRAC that their River Restoration Specialist will be a part of the Army Corps of Engineer's design team for the Nature-Like Bypass Channel at Wiswall Dam.

5. Other Business

a. Jackson's Landing Update

- Dwight Baldwin reported a 10 member committee has been formed to study and make recommendations to correct the erosion problem at Jackson's Landing. Also, to recommend ways to improve the recreational facilities.

b. 2005 Durham Town Report

1. Dwight Baldwin requested each person send him 1 or 2 sentences highlighting their area of responsibility by the end of November.
2. Goals for 2006: a partial list included the topics of: adopt a trail, wetland assessment, Jackson's Landing, Long Marsh Preserve, Mill Pond.
3. Priorities: no discussion

6. Administration

a. Correspondence

1. See 4.c. above
2. Received a copy of a letter sent to the chairman of the Nottingham Planning Board from Save Our Groundwater (SOG) expressing SOG's concerns and Suggestions regarding USA Spring's application for a water bottling plant located on Route 4 in the towns of Nottingham and Barrington.
3. Copy of a letter to The Nature Conservancy from the Natural Resources Conservation Service approving the transfer of \$150,000 that was going to be used on the Roland Beaudette Parcel, to Emery Hills Farm property. Closing must be by September 30, 2006. NCS is responsible for payment and closing on the Emery Farm and SPNHF will hold title to the Emery Farm Conservation Easement.

b. Next Meeting: December 8, 2005 at 7:00 pm

7. Adjournment: 8:37 pm