

**DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, April 13, 2006**  
**Durham Town Hall – Council Chambers**  
**7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7:07PM

Members present: Dwight Baldwin, Lee Alexander, Cynthia Belowski, Beryl Harper, Jim Hellen, Duane Hyde, Richard Ozenich, Peter Smith, George Thomas and Robin Vranicar

1. New Business/Presentations

David Garvey, representing the developer of Craig Meadows (two parcels totally approximately 16 acres located off Madbury Road) discussed the tentative agreement reached between the developer and the abutters. The 5.03 acres with access off Madbury Road will be developed for 55 and older housing (proposed) and the 11.87 acres behind will be placed in a conservation easement (proposed). The 11.87 acres is landlocked with only a 16 foot wide right-of-way connecting it to the 5.03 acres. Abutters do not want any other access to the 11.87 acres. The members of the commission did not consider the town an appropriate easement holder for the 11.87 acres. The commission recommended that Mr. Garvey request a conservation organization ( i.e. Strafford Rivers) to hold the conservation easement and manage the 11.87 acres. The commission also requested that the Planning Board provide the commission with the easement terms for their evaluation prior to approval of the development by the Planning Board.

2. Acceptance of minutes of March 9 2006 - Approved after discussion and minor corrections.

3. Ongoing Business

a. Wetland applications - Robin Vranicar presented two applications, (1) Longmarsh Preserve walkway and (2) Southeast Residential Hall at UNH. The commission responded favorably to both applications.

b. Mill Pond update - No report.

c. Land Protection Working Group - Duane Hyde discussed the status of the following projects:

(1) Follette Brook - Great Bay Partnership has indicated that some funding may be available for this approximately 240 acres located in both Durham and Lee.

(2) Emery Farm - The Land Protection Working Group has asked if the Farm and Ranchland grant money awarded to another project in Durham and not needed by that project be used for the Emery Farm project. The transfer of the grant money will result in a significant cost savings for the Town.

(3) Merrick Property - This project is almost completed and will probably close by the end of May.

(4) Fogg Easement - Town Administrator wants easement terms presented to the commission for review. Town will hold easement (as required by NH law) and management will be contracted out to a conservation organization.

d. Town Land Use/Trails Subcommittee - George Thomas reported that the subcommittee has submitted a Standard Dredge and Fill wetlands application for the Longmarsh walkway. This application replaced the Permit by Notification application submitted earlier. The more recent application was requested by Dorrie Wiggins of NH DES to provide greater project details. The subcommittee has not received notification on the walkway grant or wetlands application. Cynthia Belowski is working with the Town Land Use/Trails Subcommittee to organize town owned properties into two categories: (1) land with trails, signs, sites, etc. like Longmarsh and Doe Farm needing maintenance and upgrades and (2) land not used by the public but needing annual inspections.

4. Board and Committee Reports

a. Town Council - Peter Smith stated the Town Council has set one of their ten goals to work with the Conservation Commission and the Land Protection Working Group to pursue land

preservation using Bond funds already approved for this purpose.

- b. Planning Board - No conservation interface discussed.

- c. Oyster River Watershed Assoc. and Lamprey River Advisory Committee - Cynthia Belowski informed the commission that the Wiswall Dam draw down has occurred and the engineering work was progressing.

5. Other Business

- a. Jackson's Landing Update - Dwight Baldwin circulated a proposed Architectural Landscape design of the landing.

- b. Microbial Source Tracking Study - Cynthia Belowski reviewed the study and provided the commission her evaluation. Of the two areas in the 2004 study Colony Cove had a significantly higher sample concentration of contaminated species than Crommet Creek. The samples from Colony Cove identified the primary sources as a failed septic system and dog waste. Cynthia will meet with Todd Selig and discuss this study and its conclusions. The commission recommended that Tom Johnson the Code Enforcement Officer evaluate the failed septic concern at Colony Cove and that Lori Pitt provide a letter from the Town to all dog owners registering their dogs explaining the waste problem and their responsibilities.

- c. Lee Alexander's retirement - Members of the commission thanked Lee for his years of service to the Town.

6. Administrative

- a. Date of next meeting - May 11, 2006 at 7:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Prepared by George Thomas