

## **Durham Conservation Commission**

### **Minutes to Meeting**

11 May 2006

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

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

Excused absence: Duane Hyde, Katie Jacques

Public Attendees: Laurel Cox, Maggie Moore, Ian Trefry, Ralph Kleinmann

### **1. New Business/Presentations**

a. Maggie Moore of Durham and Laurel Cox of Lee presented plans for the Tri-Town Greenway Project. Contiguous properties in Durham, Madbury and Lee have been identified that, if conserved, would result in a large block of undeveloped land. The area contains the headwaters of the Oyster River (Durham's primary drinking water supply), substantial amounts of prime and statewide important soils, is historical and provides recreational opportunities. Durham landowners have been approached and most have indicated interest in conservation. Maggie and Laurel wanted to know Durham's vision for this area. Peter explained that the commission does not have a land conservation plan and any citizen group can recommend projects for approval and monetary support.

A motion was made to show support with the following statement: Whereas it is one of the goals of the Conservation Commission to preserve open land, we would like to express our support for the endeavors of the Tri-Town Greenway Group. The Commission would like to recognize particularly the cooperation of the three towns, the preservation of the headwaters of the Oyster River Watershed and commend the TTGG for their efforts. Motion passed.

b. Ian Trefry of NH Soils and Ralph Kleinmann general contractor presented facts about a project at the intersection of Durham Point and Colony Cove Roads for which a wetland dredge and fill application has been submitted. A zoning variance has been secured to increase the footprint of the home by adding a garage and to cut three trees within the shoreland zone. Dwight explained the DCC role of reviewing and commenting on wetland applications and thanked the two for presenting the details of the project.

c. Jim Hellen questioned the process of having projects that require wetland applications going before the ZBA for a variance before the DCC is consulted. There is a risk that a variance would be granted for a project that the DCC has objections to. Peter Smith stated that one of the major items for the Town Council this year is to determine what role the Town as a government should have in matters that appear before the ZBA. Dwight agreed to be present at these discussions.

### **2. Minutes to April 13 2006 meeting**

a. Approved as amended.

### **3. Ongoing Business**

a. Wetlands applications –

-- Received application for the gas pipeline project.

-- 5 Cedar Point Road. Expedited permit received for home within 58 feet of the water. Will involve increase in footprint due to adding a porch and includes installation of an in-ground pool, although the application does not indicate the location of the pool. Owner said he talked with Dori Wiggins of NH DES. She instructed him to use the expedited process for this project. Chair of DCC is responsible for dealing with expedited applications. Dwight will discuss this project with Dori before determining a course of action. If the permit is not signed within 30 days it will proceed as a standard application

-- 20 Cedar Point Road. Application to raise the site 12" and provide for a 175 foot flood storage area due to problems of flooding the road. The project will result in disturbance of 385 square feet within the shoreland zone. The DCC will visit the site.

-- 8 Little John Road. Application to build a driveway that will impact a wetland. Plan seems to minimize the impact by going over the narrowest area of wetland. DCC will visit the site.

b. Mill Pond –

Project has been moved to the local Army Reserve office that will be doing the work. Peter Smith expressed concern that we may be delayed again and recommended a face-to-face meeting to ensure that we are on schedule for 2007. Dwight will work with Mike Lynch to set up a meeting. If this approach fails it may be time to solicit the help of a congressman.

c. Land Protection Working Group – no report

d. Town Land-Use/Trails Subcommittee –

Grant request for \$14K+ for the boardwalk has been approved and we have the wetlands permit. Lining up volunteers to do the project this summer.

Cynthia attended a land stewardship monitoring workshop on May 6<sup>th</sup> and now knows how to use a compass to mark property boundaries.

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

a. Town Council – See below report re: Jim Hewitt letter to UNH.

b. Planning Board – Richard Ozenich reported that they just received a request to permit an elderly housing subdivision affecting approximately 17 acres at the corner of Bagdad and Canney Road.

c. ORWA and LRAC – See below re: Jim Hewitt letter to UNH.

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

a. Jackson's Landing – no update

b. Jim Hewitt's letter to UNH –

Peter Smith reviewed the issues, concerns and complications with the many competing interests for increased water supply and sewerage infrastructure. Much research and careful consideration is necessary in making decisions about increasing the infrastructure. A full audit of both the water and sewer system is scheduled for 2007.

Todd Selig wrote Jack Farrell and advised that it may be a couple of years before the Town could commit to municipal sewer support for the planned Spruce Woods expansion and suggested that Jack consider alternatives for the project.

Cynthia reported the reason for the LRAC letter from Jim Hewitt to UNH. LRAC is charged with ensuring the wise use of the resources of the Lamprey River and has been asked by NHDES to respond to Durham's request to increase the drawdown of the Wiswall impound from 6 – 18". LRAC needs to understand the Town/University water management controls and plans in order to make informed comments.

c. Losinger request for a Class VI waiver. Determined to be a non-issue. Project only involves 5 feet on a Class VI road. Driveway exit is on a Class V road.

d. Fecal coliform study – will update at June meeting.

## **6. Administrative**

### **a. Correspondence –**

Letter from an Eagle Scout who wants to place bat houses along the Lamprey River asking if the DCC has any concerns about the project. DCC felt that Todd Selig's letter advising the scout to be sure to get landowner permission and not disturb wetlands covered concerns.

Dwight reported that we still have about \$9,000 in our annual budget and have nearly \$750,000 in the conservation fund from the land use change tax.

b. Next meeting is June 8, 2006

## **7. Adjournment: 9:45 pm.**

Submitted by: Cynthia Belowski