

DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 14, 2006
Durham Town Hall – Council Chambers
7:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

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

1. New Business/Presentations

Maggie Moore of Durham and Dea Bricker Wood of the Land Protection Working Group presented plans for the Tri-Town Greenway Project Workshop. Funds for its cost were also requested of the commission. The purpose of the workshop is to invite owners of land in the Greenway Project area and informed them about the means and the value of protecting their family land. The workshop is planned for November 8, 2006 at the Madbury Town Hall from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM.

A motion was made to donate \$100 plus postage to the Oyster River Watershed Association, a sponsor of the workshop. The motion was passed.

2. Acceptance of the minutes of July 13, 2006 - Approved after discussion and minor corrections.

3. Ongoing Business

- a. Wetland applications - No report.
- b. Mill Pond update - A letter from the New Hampshire National Guard has been sent to the town. Commission will review the letter when it is received.
- c. Land Protection Working Group - Duane Hyde reported that the Town Council has approved protection and funding for the Emery Farm, Beaudette Farm and the Langley Farm properties. Duane also provided the following updates on these and other properties:
 - (1) Emery Farm (48 acres) has closed. The 11 acres north of Watson Road has not closed yet.
 - (2) Beaudette Farm closing is scheduled for September 15, 2006.
 - (3) Langley Farm closing is scheduled for October 3, 2006.
 - (4) Merrick Property has closed. The deed will be recorded subsequent to the resolution of a concern from the Title Company.
 - (5) Fogg Property site walk has been scheduled with Town Council members.

The commission has concluded that future land protection projects will include a site walk for Conservation Commission members before project is on the Commission's agenda.

d. Town Land Use/Trails Subcommittee - A letter from Fish and Game to the Town Administrator discusses a new concern with the walkways at Longmarsh. Final approval for the walkways is pending their investigation. Ten signs are available to post at the entrances to certain town properties. Installation of signs will be accomplished by Public Works and the subcommittee.

4. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Town Council - No report
- b. Planning Board - No report
- c. Lamprey River Advisory Committee - No report

5. Other Business

a. Conservation easements held by DCC - Cynthia Belowski discussed progress she has made (with the help of the trails subcommittee) concerning town owned properties needing annual monitoring and/or adopt-a-trail program. Town properties have been divided into those needing an adopt-a-trail program and those only needing annual monitoring. A letter to be given to volunteers will be drafted establishing guidelines for their responsibilities and tasks (e.g. minor trail maintenance) during site visits. Considerable work is still required to identify property boundaries, deed restrictions (if any), set-up history files for each property, etc.. A division of responsibilities between DCC and PRC also needs to be established.

b. DCC's review process for wetland application - George Thomas will review wetland applications and present them to the commission for evaluation.

c. Katie Jacques has resigned - Dwight Baldwin will request Town Administrator Assistant to advertise for a new member on the Town's website

d. Progress on the Jackson's Landing - On September 25, 2006 the Town Council will be presented with the Jackson's Landing Report including a pre-proposal to DES for erosion/sedimentation control at the site. Expectations are to obtain council support for continued efforts by the committee and for funding.

e. Commission reviewed a letter from John Carrol regarding his new book on the wisdom of small farms and buying locally grown foods.

6. Administrative

Next meeting on October 12, 2006 at 7:00PM

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM

Prepared by George Thomas