

Durham Conservation Commission
Public Hearing and Minutes to Meeting (DRAFT)
March 8, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM

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

Members with excused absence: Richard Ozenich

Members absent: Robin Vranicar

Public Hearing

The meeting was opened to a Public Hearing on the expenditure of funds from the NHPDIP account for interest payments accrued in 2007 on bonds secured by the Town to pay for the conservation easements on the Langley Farm and woodlot, the Beaudette Farm, the Emery Farm and the Fogg property.

No public comments were made.

The Public Hearing was closed. Duane Hyde made a motion to expend \$70,000 (estimate) from the NHPDIP account for the 2007 interest payment on the subject conservation easements. The motion was seconded by Beryl Harper. The motion passed.

1. New Business/Presentations

a. A presentation on the new Track and Field Facility at the Oyster River High School was given to the commission by Brad Mezquita of Appledore Engineering. Howard Colter, School Superintendent and Blaine Cox, School Business Administrator were present. Construction of the track and soccer field will require some grading to provide level surfaces. Both track and soccer field surfaces will be made of artificial materials and drainage of these surfaces and surrounding slopes will be directed to Beards Creek. Wetland concerns as a result of construction and wetland setbacks from Beards Creek will be addressed in a wetland permit to be submitted upon approval of this project.

b. Robin Moor of Faculty Road (public attendee) was concerned that there was no conservation member on the Mill Plaza Study Group and that impacts to College Brook would not be properly addressed. This matter was discussed later in our meeting under Item 5.e..

2. Acceptance of minutes of February 8, 2007

Minutes were accepted with minor corrections.

3. Ongoing Business

- a. Wetland Applications- No new applications were received.
- b. Mill Pond- Dwight Baldwin reported that Mike Lynch was visited by members of the Somersworth Army Reserve who want to dredge Mill Pond this summer as part of their training. No official word has been received to date.
- c. Land Protection Working Group- Duane Hyde and commission members discussed if a 20 acre parcel for sale on 27 Durham Point Road and bordering Oyster River should be considered by the LPWG for conservation easement. Opinions varied, however, the commission felt the LPWG should know if subdivisions of the 20 acres was allowed. Duane was going to research this concern and bring it back to the LPWG.
- d. Town Land-Use/Trails Subcommittee- No new items to report.
- e. Oversight of Town-owned land and conservation easements- Cynthia Belowski reported that the special meeting to discuss the Adopt-A-Trail Program between the DCC and PRC on March 1, 2007 was very productive. The DCC will be responsible for all conservation aspects of town properties and PRC will maintain town trails. Cynthia also provided members with an updated list of town owned properties and their associated pertinent data.

4. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Town Council- Peter Smith discussed the following items:
 - (1) Planning Board did not accept the Zoning Ordinance Provisions with regard to Forestry in Durham as recommended by DCC and presented to the Council by D. Hyde. It is unclear what will happen to the revisions at this time.
 - (2) Peter Smith is retiring from the Town Council. His work with the commission was greatly appreciated.
 - (3) Peter also informed members of the commission whose terms expire in April 2007 need to reapply to serve another term if they so desire.
- b. Planning Board- No report.
- c. Lamprey River Advisory Committee- Cynthia Belowski stated that the LRAC is close to having a final draft of the Management Plan and that the plan will be presented to each involved town for their comments.

5. Other Business

- a. Cleanup of Files- B. Harper and D. Baldwin disposed of copies of documents in our files that are available with other committees/boards. Another cleanup of DCC files is scheduled for April 7, 2007 between 9 and 11 AM.
- b. Recognizing families who have sold conservation easements to the Town- A picnic is being planned at the Merrick property to present a bronze plaque and do a trail cleanup. D. Hyde will also look into presenting bronze plaques to the other families who have sold easements.
- c. Request that DCC order the important streams for the forestry overlay- Commission agreed that D. Hyde should not accomplish this task until after the forestry ordinances are passed. See Item 4.a.(1).
- d. Goss Property- The Goss family has asked to have their land off Rte. 155 rezoned to office/research/light industrial. A public hearing will be held April 11, 2007. C. Belowski will arrange a site visit for DCC members concurrent with a Planning Board visit, if they are doing one, or just for DCC members. It was noted that this area impacts our drinking water.
- e. Mill Plaza Historical Study- Julian Smith was tasked by the Mill Plaza Study Committee to do a historical study of the existing plaza. Julian showed and discussed a 1964 aerial photograph

and a site plan of the Mill Plaza area prior to any development. Julian and the commission were concerned about present and future impacts to College Brook. It was agreed, since no conservation member is on the Mill Plaza Committee, that Julian (who is a member of the Mill Plaza Committee) would be the conservation voice for College Brook.

6. Administrative

Date for next meeting is April 12, 2007

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM

Minutes submitted by George Thomas