

DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes to Special Meeting (Final)

April 3, 2008

Cynthia Belowski called the Meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

Members present: Dwight Baldwin, Cynthia Belowski, Beryl Harper, Duane Hyde, Stephen Roberts, Peter Smith, George Thomas, Robin Vranicar

Excused absence: Cathy Leach

Others: Ellen Snyder, Julian Smith

1. New Business/Presentation – Ellen Snyder, Newmarket Open Lands Committee

Duane Hyde recused himself from this discussion and left the room. Dwight Baldwin agreed to vote as an Alternate in his place.

Ellen Snyder passed out maps and described the Florence Smith Farm conservation project. The project involves the fee acquisition of about 90 acres of land on Wadleigh Falls Road, with 80 acres in Durham, and 10 acres in Newmarket. A conservation easement will be placed on the land and held by the Town of Newmarket. The land will be owned by NH Audubon and allow public access. The most important ecological value of the land is drinking water and surface water protection in the Follet's Brook watershed, directly impacting Newmarket drinking water. A complete analysis of partnerships and funding was discussed. Dwight Baldwin made a motion for the Town of Durham to contribute \$15,000 toward transaction costs for the project, with funds coming from the LUCT Conservation Fund. The motion was seconded by George Thomas and passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and preparation for the Town Council Meeting on April 21, 2008

We had a lengthy discussion about the DCC report and presentation for the Town Council meeting on the use of Town LUCT funds. Dwight Baldwin agreed to write a draft report with several people contributing to sections, and George Thomas will assist on the edited version.

3. Meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Submitted by Beryl Harper