

*Approved - August 13, 2009*

**Durham Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2009  
Durham Town Office – Council Chambers  
7:00 PM**

**Regular Members Present:** Jamie Houle, George Thomas, Jerry Needell, Larry Harris, Stephen Roberts

**Alternates Present:** Stephen Burns

**Members not present:** Dwight Baldwin, Beryl Harper

**Alternate members not present:** Peter Smith, Ann Welsh

**Public Attendees:** Robin Mower, Richard Rouleau

**1) Call the meeting to order and acknowledge absentees and those with voting authority.**

Chairman Houle called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm. Chairman Houle designated Stephen Burns as a voting member for the evening to replace absent member, Dwight Baldwin.

**2) Presentations:**

a) Steve Sargent, Oakpoint Associates, presentation of site work necessary for the UNH Jackson Laboratory and the need for approval of a wetland permit.

Richard Rouleau presented to the Commission regarding water intrusion problems at the Jackson Laboratory. He noted that they are proposing to install a foundation drain with a discharge pipe around the side of the building, through the bank into the Great Bay above the high water line mark. Mr. Rouleau noted that they will attempt to minimize any impact to the area. Jamie Houle noted that the Commission did have a site walk to view the proposed work. He said there were concerns because the work does affect the buffer and creates a discharge directly to the Great Bay. Mr. Houle noted, however, that the Commission felt there were no feasible alternatives. Mr. Rouleau reported that the water intrusion problem occurs only during heavy winter rains, so a discharge would occur only a few times a year.

*Jamie Houle MOVED that the Conservation Commission support and sign the expedited permit. This was SECONDED by George Thomas and APPROVED unanimously.*

### **3) Acceptance of minutes of June 11th Meeting**

The following changes to the June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Durham Conservation Commission minutes were made:

Page 1, line 41: correct to read “3/4”

Page 2, line 35: correct to read “Power Point”

Page 3, line 30: correct “himself” to read “he”

Page 4, line 38: correct to read “30 feet, and a float of 10 feet”

*Stephen Roberts MOVED to approve the June 11th, 2009 minutes as amended. This was SECONDED by Larry Harris and APPROVED unanimously.*

### **4) New and Old Business**

- a) Report/Discussion of new DPB subcommittee work regarding ORLI zoning updates and advanced water resource protection and storm water needs – Houle

Chairman Houle reported that the subcommittee commissioned by the Planning Board held their first meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> and will be holding their second meeting on July 14<sup>th</sup>. He noted that Dwight Baldwin and himself are members, as are Robin Mower, Stephen Roberts, Dave Cedarholm, Jim Campbell, Brian Gallagher and Richard Kelley. Mr. Houle noted that the members discussed updating regulations as the best way to provide protection for water resources. He said the group discussed expanding their scope of work to include storm water management. Mr. Houle said Jim Campbell would speak with the Planning Board regarding the subcommittee’s scope of work definition. He informed the Conservation Commission that the topic of needing to hire a consultant to assist the subcommittee was discussed and the idea of using Conservation Funds was brought up. Mr. Houle asked the Conservation Commission members if they viewed this as an appropriate expenditure of Conservation Funds. The members discussed this and came to the consensus that they would not rule it out, but would like to have more information before committing to such a proposal.

- b) Site visit of Oakpoint Associates work at UNH JEL – This item was discussed during the presentation by Richard Rouleau.
- c) Revision to the Conservation landing page for the Town website item – Jamie Houle noted that he had forwarded some changes to the Town to be included on the Conservation page of the Town website. He reported that the Commission is limited to one page. Jamie Houle asked members to forward their phone numbers and addresses to the webmaster to be included on the page.

### **5) Ongoing Business**

- a) Wetlands Applications - George Thomas reported that the Commission held a site visit on June 15<sup>th</sup> to the dock on Little Bay (owner: Mike Olsen). Present at the site walk were; Larry Harris, Beryl Harper, George Thomas and a Pickering Marine representative. The

members determined that the dock was reasonable and the location acceptable. George Thomas has emailed Dorrie Wiggins that the Commission supports the project.

George Thomas reported that a new application was received from Farwell Engineers who have been hired by the Public Works department to do some improvements to a stream off of Thompson Lane. He noted the proposed project is to include bank restoration, installing riprap at the culvert, pipe removal and some minor relocation of a portion of the stream. George Thomas said that temporary rock dams will be in place at both ends during construction to filter out water and sediment. The consensus of the Commission was to forward comment to Dorrie Wiggins that the Commission reviewed and supports the project.

**b) Land Protection Activities**

- i) Discuss conservation opportunity for the Colasante Property - - no further report at this time.
  - ii) Trust for Public Land – no further report at this time.
- c) Town Owned Land/Conservation Easements– Beryl Harper was not present at this meeting and there were no updates at this time.
- d) Jackson’s Landing – Jamie Houle reported that Dwight Baldwin emailed him a report stating that a work session was held at Jackson’s landing which was well attended. Jamie Houle noted that there will be an Open House at Jackson’s Landing on Sunday July 26<sup>th</sup> 2-7 pm.

**6) Board and Committee Reports**

- a) Town Council - Jerry Needell reported the Town Council accepted the Spruce Hole plaque and its location. He commended Peter Smith for doing an admirable job presenting to the Town Council on this issue. Jerry Needell said the Town Council discussed and approved the Depot Road Parking lot project funding. He noted that the Seacoast Repertory is interested in purchasing the Mill Pond Center and they will be going before the ZBA to request variances. Mr. Needell explained the proposed uses of the property are for housing for visiting actors, building sets, and a small theater for student programs.
- b) Planning Board -- Stephen Roberts reported the Planning Board has approved the Unitarian Universal Church’s proposed project that was presented last month. He noted the Planning Board received a proposal from St. George’s Episcopal Church for an addition. Mr. Roberts said there were no wetlands involved, but there are serious drainage issues that the department of Public Works will be partnering with them to redirect storm water runoff to proper drains. He also reported a site review scheduled for Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> at 9 am at Pearly Lane that he invited the Commission members to attend. Mr. Roberts noted there is a development proposed for the old bike shop and realty building that will involve wetlands buffers. He said at the moment the proposal is inactive, he will keep the Commission updated. Mr. Roberts noted that the revised proposal for 6 Jenkins Court was approved by the Planning Board.

- c) Zoning Board of Adjustments – Ann Welsh was not present at this meeting and there were no further updates.
- d) Lamprey River Advisory Committee – Stephen Burns reported that there was a meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup> of approximately 70 people from the 14 towns sharing the Lamprey River Watershed. The meeting included four speakers and an afternoon breakout session. Mr. Burns participated in the “Rediscovering and Defining our Regional Heritage” breakout session.

**7) Other Business** – none at this time

**8) Administrative**

- a) Correspondence – none at this time.
- b) Next regular meeting will be August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7 pm at Town Hall Offices- Council Chambers.

**9) Adjournment -- 8:30 pm**

*Stephen Roberts moved to adjourn the July 9, 2009 meeting of the Durham Conservation Commission at 8:30 pm. This was seconded by Larry Harris and APPROVED unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Sue Lucius, Secretary to Durham Conservation Commission