

MINUTES
Town of Durham, Parks & Recreation Committee
February 19, 2009

Present: Sara Wilson (Chair), Gregg Moore, Emily Slama, Dave Leach, Amy Cunningham, John Parry, Jenna Roberts, Mike Sievert (Town Council rep) *Absent: Pat Houle*

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the January meeting were approved unanimously.

Public Comment/Correspondence:

-Durham Conservation Commission (DCC) member Beryl Harper came to ask the committee for support of the DCC's grant application for "Development of a stewardship plan to better track, manage and protect the ecological values of town-owned conservation lands." The 4 town properties the DCC is interesting in developing a stewardship plan for are: Wagon Hill – Doe Farm – Longmarsh Preserve – Weeks Lot (please see attachment A) *The Committee decided to discuss and contact Beryl Harper at a later date.*

-Email from Durham resident Jean Olson asking if P&R could list the Milne property as a recreational site, and expand on the list of recreational activities available on the Mill Pond (please see attachment B). *The Committee agreed that when the website and brochure are updated, the Milne property will be added.*

Reports:

- Cocoa on the Hill Event – The Feb 8, free cocoa event at Wagon Hill was a success. Over 150 cups of cocoa were served.
- Friday Updates – Gregg has been working on these and getting them posted in the town's Friday Updates email.
- Mill Pond Dam – It was decided we would not discuss the dam until after the PIM on March 4th. Amy asked that before leaving our meeting, committee members please look over the information gathered regarding history, hydro-power, green/town space, and photos of the draw-down in Sept 08.
- Website – Sara reported that some updates have been done. The group continued discussion of a "face-lift" for the site and how to achieve this.
- Adopt-A-Trail – John updated the group on what would be expected of Adopt-A-Trail volunteers. The responsibilities would include light maintenance; e.g., trash pick-up, and taking an inventory of work or maintenance that needs to be done and relating this info to DPW. Jenna and Gregg volunteered to help John implement the program.
- Budget – Sara reported that P&R's annual budget for 2009-2010 is \$7000.
- Plowing at Wagon Hill – Sara reported that in order for an additional parking area to be plowed out at WH, P&R would have to contribute to the cost.
- Skate Park – Sara reported that P&R has been asked to contribute to the maintenance costs of the Skate Park at Woodridge.

Action Items:

- Easter Egg Hunt – Date of Sat. April 11, 10am was set. The sub-committee includes Sara, Emily, and Jenna. Volunteers will meet at Emily's house to stuff the eggs, date TBD. Dave offered to provide tents and mega-phones. We will also offer games such as bucket basketball and parachute games (thanks RMP students!)
- Part-time P&R Director – The Committee continued discussion of the merits of hiring a part-time P&R director as well as reviewed the proposal from Councilor Leach and Sara's draft letter to the council in support of the proposal. Sara asked that by Feb 22 all P&R committee members email her with their "point of view."
- P&R Brochure – Members agreed that we should wait to update the brochure. We recently printed 100 copies. 50 were distributed to Town Hall and 50 to Durham Library. Gregg suggested we add the brochure to our website. All agreed.

Discussion Items:

- ORPP event with P&R – Jenna offered for ORPP to partner with P&R on a Memorial Day event. It was decided that this was something that would require more time and planning that we could manage for 2009 nor would we want to “compete” with the traditional town parade. Tabled the idea for now but would like to re-consider in the future. Jenna also offered ORPP to partner with P&R on spending on town park items (e.g., items for Jackson’s Landing). It was suggested that someone contact Mike & Cheryl Hoffman and/or Nicole Moore to discuss what money may still be available in the Jackson’s Landing fund and how we may move forward with Jenna’s ORPP offer.
- Wagon Hill Future Plan – tabled till next meeting, March 19.
- 2009-2010 Annual Work Plan – tabled till next meeting, March 19.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10pm.

Submitted by,
Amy Cunningham

"ATTACHMENT A"
from Beryl Harper, Conservation Commission

Notes on PREP grant application 2-10-09

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Activity DCC is applying for: *Development of a stewardship plan to better track, manage and protect the ecological values of town-owned conservation lands.*

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1. A subcommittee of the DCC will work with a TAP (Technical Assistance Provider) to develop a stewardship plan for up to 4 conservation properties owned by the town of D.:

- Wagon Hill Farm
- Doe Farm
- Longmarsh Preserve
- Weeks Lot

A scoping of each property will include a site walk, inspection, and scoping to address:

- Forestry inventory and a timber cruise if needed
- Natural Heritage inventory
- Wildlife inventory
- Improvements e.g. dams, parking, trails, roads

A stewardship plan will include the data from the investigations noted above, as well as accurate GIS data and maps. Consultation with other land conservation organizations (e.g. NH Fish & Game, the GBRPP) will insure compatibility and opportunity to look at a context larger than each property alone.

Specific recommendations will address issues noted during the scoping, such as maintenance of fields, logging, trails crossing wet areas, signage, boundaries, invasive species, and uses by the public. Forestry plans will have a ten-year time frame.

"ATTACHMENT B"

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From: Jean Olson <jbolson1@comcast.net>
Subject: **Mill Pond**
Date: February 11, 2009 7:20:52 AM EST
To: badgernh@comcast.net

Thank you for all of your work to share with the public our recreational activities in Durham. I was wondering how the Milne property on the Mill Pond/Oyster River could be listed and in fact become more of a recreational site. Also, we snowshoe and cross country ski on the Mill Pond and then go up into Foss Farm. Could the Mill Pond be listed for snowshoeing and cross country skiing?

Thanks,
Jean Olson