

Durham Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
13 March 2003

The meeting of the Durham Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:00 pm on March 13,2003 in the chambers of the Durham Courthouse.

Members Present: Lee Alexander, Duane Hyde, Mark Morong, Rich Hallett  
Also attending: Dwight Baldwin

1. New Business – None
2. Ongoing Business:
  - a. Wetlands Applications – None
  - b. Mill Pond
    - i. Dwight Baldwin reported that the Army Reserve Engineering Battalion that was to do the dredging was called up to active duty which may impact the timing of the project. Mark Morong asked if the permit was granted for this summer would it still apply if the project was completed at a later date. Lee indicated that the permit was good for 2-3 years once granted.
    - ii. Duane said that he had compiled a list of 43 abutters that should be invited to the informational meeting. Dwight will draft a letter notifying the abutters of the informational meeting which will be held at the next regular DCC meeting on April 10 in the council chambers. In addition a public notice will be posted in all of the regular places.
    - iii. Lee will prepare some fact sheets for the meeting. Three options will be presented: Do nothing; dredging less than 1 acre; and dredging the full 3 acres. Duane suggested that a flow chart should be produced that showed the different steps in the project. After the informational meeting we will develop plans and present to the Town Council in May.
    - iv. Lee said that he had heard from Mike Lynch re: the chemical analyses of the sediment and there are no elements that exceed thresholds. Mike Lynch also indicated that he will survey the perimeter of Mill Pond and map the depth of sediment in the pond. Parks and Recreation will also begin to remove undesirable vegetation from around the pond.
  - c. Oyster River Channel
    - i. Lee had a copy of the completed report and said he would e-mail a copy to all DCC members. The next step in the process is to propose the project and find funding.
  - d. Land Conservation
    - i. The bond passed with 76% in favor.
    - ii. The process for protecting land with bond funds was discussed. The following was proposed:

1. The land conservation working group will make contact and work with the landowner until the landowner is comfortable with making it public.
2. The working group will have to request funds from the DCC to complete an appraisal on the property.
3. The working group will bring the details before the DCC and ask it to make a recommendation to the Town Council.
4. The Council will be made aware of the recommendation and there will be a public hearing.
5. The Council will have final approval.
- iii. The process may take up to 1 year.
- iv. Small tracts in town are not ruled out.
  1. Duane mentioned that he just drafted a deed for a small lot on Bagdad Road for which the Town will hold the easement.
- v. Lee reported on his involvement with the UNH master plan. Apparently consultants have been hired by UNH and their view is that all University open land is available for development.
3. Board and Committee Reports
  - a. Town Council – DCC appointments need to be made. Lee will ask to be re-appointed. Dwight Baldwin will ask to be appointed.
  - b. Planning Board – Craig Meadows development turned down.
  - c. Lamprey River Watershed Advisory Committee – Rich reported that a property in Epping was being protected by the LRAC. Also there was an effort by individuals in the towns of Candia and Raymond to have portions of the Lamprey become designated river corridors.
4. Other Business
  - a. Volunteer Stewards/Trail Program
    - i. Lee needs someone to organize. He will email Melanie and Laurel to see if they are interested.
5. Administrative:
  - a. Minutes to February Meeting approved.
6. Adjourn