

*These minutes were approved at the April 25, 2022 meeting.*

**DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Monday, February 28, 2022**  
**DURHAM TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**7:00 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jake Kritzer (Chair), James Bubar (Planning Board Rep), Coleen Fuerst, Walter Rous, Carden Welsh (Town Council Rep), Erin Hardie Hale (Alternate), Roanne Robbins (Alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Nachilly

ALSO PRESENT: Town Planner Michael Behrendt, Land Stewardship Coordinator Tom Brightman and Minute Taker Lucie Bryar

**I. & II. Call to Order and Reading of Land Acknowledgement Statement**

Chair Jake Kritzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and read the Town of Durham's Land Acknowledgement Statement.

**III. Roll Call**

Roll Call Attendance was taken. Both alternates (Ms. Hale and Ms. Robbins) are seated as voting members this evening.

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

***Mr. Bubar MOVED to approve the agenda as submitted; SECONDED by Mr. Welsh, APPROVED unanimously, 7-0, Motion carries.***

**V. Presentation by Doug Tallamy about Landscaping for Local Ecosystems.** Noted author and educator Dr. Doug Tallamy, University of Delaware professor of agriculture and natural resources, will give a presentation on Zoom about creating landscape designs that support native plant and animal species. His books include *Bringing Nature Home*, *The Living Landscape*, *Nature's Best Hope*, and *The Nature of Oaks*.

Mr. Brightman introduced tonight's speaker and said his presentation was jointly sponsored by the Conservation Commission, the Agriculture Commission and the Town of Durham. It was noted there will be a short Q & A after his one-hour talk.

**Note: Professor Tallamy's full presentation is available on DCAT on the town's website. See Conservation Meeting of February 28, 2022.**

**VI. Bridge at Wagon Hill Farm.** Proposal from Eagle Scout Finnegan Harvey to replace bridge at Wagon Hill Farm and request funding for the project.

Mr. Brightman said he identified a small bridge at Wagon Hill Farm that would be suitable for an Eagle Scout project.

Finnegan Harvey is from Troop 154. He came forward to show diagrams and share his proposal. He needs approval from the Conservation Commission and the Eagle Scout Board. He is also requesting funding from the Commission of \$1,000.19.

The current bridge is about 16 feet long. He's proposing a replacement bridge 20-feet long. The plan is to use leftover granite curbing from the Town to build abutments and also pressure-treated lumber beams of 2x12x16.

Mr. Bubar asked if a DES permit would be required since this is a wetlands. Mr. Brightman replied he does not believe so since the bridge is a replacement and does not touch the wetlands. He will look into it to be sure.

Mr. Rous encouraged Finnegan to pay attention to the end conditions where the granite will be sitting on the ground. He said a cheek wall will likely be needed to retain the gravel. Later he added that hardware compatible with pressure-treated lumber also needs to be used.

***Mr. Bubar MOVED to approve the Eagle Scout project for construction of a replacement bridge at Wagon Hill Farm with funding from the Conservation Fund up to \$1,100; SECONDED by Mr. Welsh, APPROVED unanimously, 7-0, Motion carries.***

**VII. Public Comments** – There were none this evening.

**VIII. Other Business**

Reporting on Town Council activities. Mr. Welsh said the Council accepted the Pike Property (conservation land) acquisition. He also said year-end financials showed a boost of \$500,000 in revenue from the State for hotel and meals taxes. The money will go into reserves.

Town Council had an informative presentation from Dr. Anton Beckerman, a UNH Dean, who is conducting agricultural research. His talk focused in part on improving agriculture for sustainability statewide. He was brought in to inform discussion about the Moore

Fields potential negative impact on the Oyster River. Dr. Beckerman shared results of 15 years of study on this topic.

Mr. Welsh encouraged those interested to watch Dr. Beckerman's presentation on DCAT, available during Town Council's February 21, 2022 recording.

Reporting on Planning Board activities. Mr. Bubar said the Board has closed the public hearing on the Colonial Durham Associates application and is expected to begin deliberations on the conditional use application at their March 9 meeting.

The application for parking at 19-21 Main Street is still active and may come before the Conservation Commission.

***Mr. Welsh MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.; SECONDED by Mr. Fuerst, APPROVED unanimously, 7-0, Motion carries.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucie Bryar, Minute Taker  
Durham Conservation Commission

***Note: These written minutes are intended only as a general summary of the meeting. For more complete information, please refer to the DCAT22 On Demand videotape of the entire proceedings on the town of Durham website.***