

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 9, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Brian Ameche at the Durham Public Library.

Members Present: Brian Ameche, Ralph Chase, Casey Cordes, Joe Dattilo, Bill LaFlamme, Bob Melvin, Rick Huntley

Approval of November minutes: Ralph Chase, seconded by Casey Cordes to approve the November 11, 2008 minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed with one abstention by Joe Dattilo.

Amendments to Agenda / Approval of December Agenda: Ralph Chase, seconded by Joe Dattilo to approve the agenda as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Payment of Bills: \$15.00 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bob Melvin to approve payment of the bill as presented, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Session: None

Site Development Plan Review - TBD: None

Report on Site Walks on Czaja Property, Kosienki Property, Fulton Forbes Property, Flynn Property and Morrissey Property: Czaja Property – property is swampy. The Commission is not interested in purchasing the parcel and suggests the owner follow up with the State of Connecticut to see if they are interested in the parcel. Kosienki Property – property abuts Brewster School. The Commission recommends making District 13 aware of the property. Brian Ameche will notify Sue Viccaro and Rob Melnik by letter of the property. Fulton Forbes Property – property is wet. The Commission is not interested in purchasing this parcel. Flynn Property – potentially developable parcel. This property has value as part of the scenic gateway into Durham and protection of the stream that runs through the property. There may be conservation easements on the property making it naturally preserving. The land records need to be checked. If the property were available, the Commission would like to pursue it further. Morrissey Property – property abuts State Forest and Water Company property. The Commission suggests the parcel should be offered to the State of Connecticut or the Water Company. Bob Melvin, seconded by Ralph Chase to empower the Chair to respond the 5 property acquisition offers in accordance with the will of the Commission as discussed during the December 9, 2008 meeting, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Report on Deerfield Farm: Melynda Naples not in attendance. A lease discussion ensued.

Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions & Update on the New Phase of Open Space Acquisition Program: Nothing additional to report beyond the site walks reported above.

Open Space Issues Reports – Dead Hill Road & Creampot Road Locks & Gates, Signs, Security, Maintenance at Deerfield Farms, Other: Rick Huntley has order 2 new gate pins. The location of the 3rd gate on Creampot Road is in question. The Commission needs to make sure that access to private property is not blocked.

Open forum with Property Stewards – Whites Farm – Jack Stahl; Pent Road (Deerfield Farm) – Melynda Naples; Howd Road – Matt Reed; Pisgah Mountain - Andy Golschneider with Venture Crew 169; Jim Smigal

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with BSA Troop 27 and Christina Costas; Creampot Valley – George & Irene Roberts; Curtis Woodlands – Rob Williams; Portion of Wimler Property with Public Access – Dick Porter; and Sawmill Road – Ray Koba: Ralph Chase received a question from Attorney John Corona about a winter policy use for White's Farm. There is no winter use policy. There was a report of ATV use on the Curtis Woodlands property.

Chair's Report – New Business – None; Old Business -White's Farm Survey, Correspondence, Caturano Property, Open Space Calendar, Memorial Plantings Marker for Existing Memorial Plantings as follows: Edwin Eick – Tupelo; Jack Donadio – American Dogwood; Austin Ackerman – 3 American Hollies; Carl Otte – Sugar Maple, Frank Behrens - ? & Robert White – American Hornbeam; New Memorial Plantings for Roger Newton (white oak) & Charlie Wimler (TBD) planned for 2008. Replacement of 2 diseased maples cut down with water tolerant trees (TBD): The 3 new trees have been planted; Swamp White Oak for Roger Newton, River Birch for Frank Behrens, and Virginia Magnolia for Charlie Wimler. Bob Melvin will look for 2 replacement trees to be planted in the spring.

Other Business: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary