

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 17, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by Co-Vice Chairman Ralph Chase at the Durham Public Library.

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

Approval of May minutes: Casey Cordes, seconded by Joe Dattilo to approve the May 13, 2008 minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed with 1 abstention by Bill LaFlamme.

Amendments to Agenda / Approval of June Agenda: Casey Cordes, seconded by Rick Huntley to approve the agenda as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Payment of Bills: \$22.50 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services and contract to Bascom & Benjamin for placement of monuments marking the 500' boundary from occupied dwellings on the White Farm property in the amount of approximately \$700. Casey Cordes, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve payment of the bills as presented, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Session: none

Site Walk – Caturano Property: Pat Benjamin reported to Ralph Chase that the property has been flagged. The Commission has scheduled a site walk for Saturday, June 21, 2008 at 9 AM. Members will meet at Curtis Woodlands on Dunn Hill Road. Pam Huntley will submit the notice of the site walk for posting.

White's Farm Property Stake Out: The monuments 500' from Route 68 are not necessary because there are no regulations that require placement from the edge of a road.

DEP Request for Dam Inspection – Cream Pot Dam aka Arrigonis Pond Dam 1: Bob Melvin confirmed that the dam no longer exists. Bob relayed that information to Beth at Town Hall.

Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions & Update on the New Phase of Open Space Acquisition Program: Casey Cordes drafted a letter in response to Kenneth Czaja's letter to the Commission. Those present reviewed the letter and agreed to have Casey sent it out. Rick Huntley spoke to staff in Land Acquisition at DEP and there was no record of any previous contact about the Czaja property. Rick will contact John Corona to find out if any letter was ever sent to DEP about the property.

Open Space Issues Reports – Dead Hill Road & Creampot Road Gates, Signs, Security, Maintenance at Deerfield Farms, Other: New pin for the Creampot Road gate has not been installed yet.

Open forum with Property Stewards – Final Roster: Whites Farm – Jack Stahl; Pent Road (Deerfield Farm) – Melynda Naples; Howd Road – Matt Reed; Pisgah Mountain - Andy Golschneider with BSA Troop 27; Creampot Valley – George & Irene Roberts; Curtis Woodlands – Rob Williams; Portion of Wimler Property with Public Access – Dick Porter; and Sawmill Road – Ray Koba: No reports from the stewards. There is a dead tree on the Curtis Woodlands property. The tree warden has taken a look at it and it poses no immediate hazard so it will be placed on the list for removal.

RECEIVED: 6-18-08	TIME: 3:45 PM
Kim Garvis, Town Clerk	
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK, DURHAM, CONNECTICUT	

Chair's Report – New Business -White's Farm Survey, Correspondence, Czaja Property; Old Business – Giuseppe Caturano Greenhouses; Open Space Calendar, Memorial Plantings Marker for Existing Memorial Plantings for Edwin Eick – Tupelo; Jack Donadio – American Dogwood; Austin Ackerman – 3 American Hollies; Carl Otte - ?, Frank Behrens - ?& Mr. White - ?; New Memorial Plantings for Roger Newton (white oak) & Charlie Wimler (TBD). Replace 2 maples with water tolerant trees in the spring of '08: Bob Melvin will look into obtaining plantings for planting in the fall 2008. There was discussion about placing identification markers in the memorial planting area. Joe Dattilo will research options and report back at the July meeting. Bob Melvin suggested submitting an article to the Town Times explaining the memorial planting area and that there is a fund that people can contribute to through the Conservation Commission.

Other Business: Casey Cordes commented on a demonstration for controlling some invasive plants using a propane torch that he attended. This method is used in areas where pesticides are not permitted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary