

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 8, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by Chairman Brian Ameche at the Durham Public Library.

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

Approval of June minutes: Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Ralph Chase to approve the June 17, 2008 minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed with 1 abstention by Brian Ameche.

Amendments to Agenda / Approval of July Agenda: Ralph Chase, seconded by Casey Cordes to approve the agenda as distributed with the deletion of item #7 which was reported on in the June meeting, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Payment of Bills: none

Public Session: Dave and Cheryl Anteck of 96 Pent Road were presented to express their concerns over the extending of the electric fencing on Deerfield Farms. They are concerned for the safety of family, friends, and pets if the fencing were to be installed along the borders of the property which is adjacent to their property. Mr. Anteck cited research he did on the type of fencing that is proposed and the hazards it poses. They are also concerned about electrical interference from the fencing and the restriction to the public for use of the open space. Brian Ameche stated the Commission is aware of the need to balance the need of the tenant for her operation and the need for public access. Bob Melvin suggested getting copies of the cited research and get additional opinions with regard to the hazards. The Commission has already requested that the fence be set back at least 15 feet from the property line. Brian requested that Mr. Anteck email his research to the Commission and that the members will gather additional opinions and report back at the August meeting. Brian also extended the invitation for the Antecks to participate in the Stewardship program.

Terence Keenan, Tree Warden, would like to submit an application for an "America the Beautiful" grant under the category of planting or maintenance of legacy trees. The grant is for \$8,000 to plant trees on open space properties. He suggested planting a row of trees along the roadside on the Howd Road and Pent Road open space properties. Brian Ameche suggested plantings on the White's Farm property. Site plans need to be included with the grant application which is due by August 8, 2008. Casey Cordes suggested Mr. Keenan contact Chris Donnelly, CT DEP forester, for input. Brian Ameche will meet with Mr. Keenan to help with the needed site plans.

Discussion of Site Walk – Caturano Property: Ralph Chase and Casey Cordes stated that the proposed conservation easement on the Caturano property would be acceptable. The proposed conservation easement would provide a buffer between the open space on Dunn Hill Road and the Caturano property. Rick Huntley, seconded by Casey Cordes to accept the conservation easement on the Caturano property as described by the site walk of June 21, 2008, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Status of White's Farm Property Stake Out: The monuments will be placed 500' from dwellings and level with the ground so as to not interfere with mowing of the property. "No discharge of firearms beyond this point" signs will be posted during hunting season.

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Kim Garvis, Town Clerk	
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK, DURHAM, CONNECTICUT	

Status of Fence installation at Deerfield Farm: Discussed under Public Session.

Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions & Update on the New Phase of Open Space Acquisition Program:

The Miller family is not interested in proceeding any further in the process at this time. The Forline family is still interested, but would like to put the process on hold for now. Rick Huntley contacted John Corona and got a copy of the letter that was sent to DEP about the Czaja property in November 2007. Rick gave Land Acquisition at DEP a copy of the letter and it has been assigned to an analyst. Rick will follow up with Land Acquisition to find out what progress has been made with this property. Rick will also find out when the deadline is to apply for state aid in purchasing open space land for 2009.

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. The second gate on Creampot Road has not been installed.

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. Brian will contact Andy Golschneider to find out who is the new contact for BSA Troop 27.

Chair's Report – New Business – None; Old Business – White's Farm Survey, Correspondence, Czaja Property, 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:
none

Other Business: none

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary