

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 10, 2015
7:00 at the Durham Public Library

Members present: Carl Dahlman (7:05), Jon Herzig, Rick Huntley, Bill LaFlamme, Lucy Meigs, Bob Melvin, Josh Miller, Bob Thody

Members excused: Bill Ward

Call to Order/Roll Call: Rick Huntley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Amendments to Agenda/Approval of Agenda: Rick Huntley added Black Sheep Squadron annual request to use White's Farm. Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Jon Herzig to approve the February agenda as amended, made a motion. Motion passed with abstention by Carl Dahlman.

Approval of February regular meeting minutes: Rick Huntley, seconded by Josh Miller to approve the February 2015 regular meeting minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed with abstentions by Jon Herzig, Bill LaFlamme, and Carl Dahlman.

Payment of Bills: Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Bob Thody to approve payment of \$45 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services, made a motion. Motion passed with abstentions by Rick Huntley and Carl Dahlman.

Public Session: none

Cato Rocket Club – Use of White's Farm – Richard Comshaw: Richard Comshaw and Al Gloer were present. Rick Huntley asked if the location of the launch site in January was acceptable. Al Gloer replied it was acceptable given the wind conditions. The launch site was moved further west on the property. Rick Huntley reported that he was on site for part of the January launch. No loud speaker was used and the noise level from the launch of rockets was within reason. There was discussion about having the owner's name and phone number on the rockets. Al Gloer replied they don't like to do that since a lot of the rockets belong to kids. He prefers to have people contact him directly about rockets recovered or any other issues. Carl Dahlman suggested putting "Cato" on the rockets. Al Gloer stated they need some flexibility to adjust the launch site location based upon the wind direction that day. Rick Huntley, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve the use of White's Farm by Cato Rocket Club on the 3rd Saturday of the month, rain date of Sunday, with the proof of appropriate insurance, labelling the rockets with "Cato", moving the launch site to north side of the access road in the field by the hedgerow, and to allow adjusting the launch site based upon wind direction. Motion passed unanimously.

Relay for Live event on June 20th at the Durham Fairgrounds – Request to park on White's Farm – Emily Sokol: Debbie Sokol was present representing Emily. The event will be a 6-hour mini event from 4PM to 10PM on June 20, 2015. So far there are 100+ participants and 26 teams signed up. Since this is the first time for this event in Durham she is unsure how many participants expect. It is estimated that 700-1,000 people would participate. The main parking will be on Durham Fairgrounds property and she is requesting the use of the White's Farm field for overflow parking. Rick Huntley would meet with Debbie Sokol once the snow melts to indicate the areas where parking would be permitted. Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Lucy Meigs, to approve the use of White's Farm field for overflow parking on June 20, 2015 with proof of adequate insurance and field conditions permitting, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously. Proof of insurance is to be submitted to Maryjane Malavasi in the finance office at the Durham Town Hall.

Christopher Sokol, Troop 27, was present as a requirement for a merit badge to attend a Committee meeting. He asked if the members were elected. Rick Huntley responded that the members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Member terms are for 3 years and are staggered in groups of three so that not all the members' terms expire at the same time. Members are selected from recommendations given to the Board of Selectmen by the two political (Democratic and Republican) Town Committees.

Black Sheep Squadron Annual Request to use White's Farm: Robert Horn sent the group's annual request to use White's Farm. Bob Melvin, seconded by Both Thody to approve the use of White's Farm by the Black Sheep Squadron with continuing adequate insurance and restrictions regarding hours of flight as in the past. Motion passed unanimously.

Property Steward Reports/Parcel Status Updates

- Whites Farm – Jack Stahl: no report.
- Pent Road – Melynda Naples: Rick Huntley reported that a quote to drill a new well for \$3,600 (for 300 feet) was acquired. Bill Milardo is coordinating water testing with Melynda. Melynda is looking into having Comcast install internet service to the barn. Consensus of the commission was to support the installation provided all construction and excavation rules are followed. Melynda will supply more information when it is available.
- Howd Road – Josh Miller: Josh reported there has been snowmobiling on the field.
- Pisgah Mountain and Cream Pot Valley – Bill LaFlamme & Rick Huntley: Rick Huntley reported a new sign is being produced to put on Cream Pot Road at the junction of the Mattabesett trail. CFPA will produce the maps for the two kiosks. Open space land use will be added to the maps.
- Curtis Woodlands – Mark Smolley & Charles Ingold: no activity beside pedestrians to report.
- Portion of Wimler Property with Public Access – Dick Porter: no report.
- Sawmill Road – Ray Koba: Rick Huntley talked with Laura Francis about the process to dedicate a property in memory of someone. The Town does not have a policy on the process. Bob Melvin stated in the past, the Commission made a motion to dedicate a property. Rick Huntley, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to dedicate and name in memory of Carl Otte (who was instrumental in many open space purchases) the Saw Mill Road open space parcel, made a motion. Motion passed with one abstention by Josh Miller. Rick would like a proclamation or acknowledgment from the Selectmen. The dedication would be scheduled after the proposed parking area is completed.

Current and New Business

Status/review of proposed open-space regulations revisions: no update.

Status of Review of Plan of Conservation and Development: no update.

Index of all open areas as mandated by the Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-131a (b): no update.

Budget Request for 2015/2016 Fiscal Year: Rick Huntley and Bob Thody attended the budget meeting. A couple of line items were reduced totaling a couple of thousand dollars since it was consistently not spent in the past. If there is a need for more funds, a request can be made to the Board of Finance.

Sign for Memorial Tree Grove: no update.

Status of ERT Requests: The request for a Curtis Woodlands comprehensive management plan has been approved. A list of things that have been done to the property since the ERT report has been requested.

Website Content for Conservation Commission: no update. If members have suggestions for content it should be emailed to Rick Huntley.

MyTownTrails – Review of Contract: There was discussion of the contract document. The service payment ending date should be March 31, 2016. Rick Huntley, seconded by Carl Dahlman to recommend accepting the contract for the one year term at a cost of \$500 and forward to the Selectman's office for approval, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Report of Co-Chairmen: Copies of *The Habitat* were distributed. The annual call for nominations for Aquarion's Environmental Champion Award was received.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Huntley Recording Secretary