

**TOWN OF DURHAM**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 9, 2015**  
**7:00 at the Durham Town Hall**

**Members present:** Rick Huntley, Bill LaFlamme, Lucy Meigs, Bob Melvin, Josh Miller, Bob Thody

**Excused:** Carl Dahlman, Jon Herzig, Bill Ward

**Call to Order/Roll Call:** Rick Huntley called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**Amendments to Agenda/Approval of Agenda:** Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Lucy Meigs to approve the May agenda as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of May regular meeting minutes:** Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Josh Miller to approve the May 2015 regular meeting minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Payment of Bills:** Lucy Meigs, seconded by Bob Melvin to approve payment of \$35 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services, made a motion. Motion passed with one abstention by Rick Huntley.

**Public Session:** None

**Property Steward Reports/Parcel Status Updates**

- Whites Farm – Jack Stahl: Kurt Bober was present to give some updates. There is swale work to do. Bids are being acquired for removal of the remaining dirt pile. The thousand yards the Town is keeping has been moved. Some of the wooden posts lining the edge of the driveway were removed. There is more work to do along the east-west swale along the east-west road that goes out to the tree line towards Greenbackers. There is good definition of the roadway so that people can be sited for driving off the roadway by law enforcement. Rick Huntley reported that part of the field has been mowed to accommodate overflow parking for the *Relay for Life* event. He has requested that the event use parking on paved areas before using the field. He also reported that at the recent Ground Water Ordinance meeting that the Durham Center Water Company customers will be joined to the water line from Middletown and the wells will be abandoned. Kurt Bober stated that the portable toilet on the property was placed there by the CATO Rocket Club.
- Pent Road/Parmelee Hill Road/David Road – Melynda Naples: Rick Huntley apologized for not getting a letter to Bill Milardo as he was tasked to do. Melynda reported that a new cap has been installed on the well. She requests that she be contacted when work needs to be done so she can plan for it. The replacement of the well cap required the water to be shut off. The last water test taken by the State inspector indicated a rise in total coliform so she sanitized the well again. Rick Huntley and Bob Melvin will meet with Bill Milardo on Thursday to get a status on resolution to the issue. Melynda reported that 4-H activities are ongoing. She requested that more stone be added to the driveway due to settling. Rick Huntley asked if the hay has been removed from the drainage basin and it has not. Dick McManus is aware of the missed spot when the barn was painted.
- Howd Road – Josh Miller: Josh Miller reported that there are boundary marks painted on the trees at the Wallingford town line. Kurt Bober reported that gates are being made and Public Works will mow the Japanese knotweed before it flowers. Rick Huntley reported that there have been some discussions with the Recreation department about developing a sledding area on the property. Kurt Bober didn't know if the Commission wanted to consider another parking area on the property on the old logging road. He also suggested cleaning up the old logging road for fire department access to the property.
- Pisgah Mountain and Chalker Brook Valley – Bill LaFlamme & Rick Huntley: Rick Huntley reported that a lot of the new mountain bike trail is done and the work looks good. There was discussion about placements of gates to deter 4-wheel drive vehicles. An expansion of the existing parking area on Cream Pot has been requested.

- Curtis Woodlands – Mark Smolley & Charles Ingold: Charles Ingold reported that there are no issues. Charles also investigated the alternative product for Roundup mentioned in the *Town Times*, BurnOut. He found out it works on grasses and weeds only, not small trees and shrubs. Kurt Bober stated that the chemical recommended by the task force has been pulled by the manufacturer and Avenger is the proposed replacement. He also reported that a gate will be installed at the opening in the stone wall. Lucy Meigs reported that she was contacted and asked about ideas for an Eagle Scout project. Rick Huntley stated that upgrading the trail with re-blazing and some re-routing could work as an Eagle Scout project.
- Portion of Wimler Property with Public Access – Dick Porter: no report.
- Sawmill Road – Ray Koba: no update. Kurt asked about putting in a parking area in front of the gate. There is only room for 2-3 spaces. Another parking area will be put in on the Route 17 side of the property. The adjacent property owners have been contacted and are not opposed to the parking area.

### *Old and New Business*

**Status of Deerfield Farm well issue:** discussed above.

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

**Status of Review of Plan of C & D:** Rick Huntley sent an email to Geoff Colegrove asking that complete streets be assessed and potential inclusion of inter-municipality bikeways between Durham and Middlefield be investigated.

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

**Current Budget Status:** Rick Huntley reported that the Commission still has funds to spend for this fiscal year.

**Tree Removal:** Rick Huntley will check with Tim Larkin to find out if the contract has been let to remove five trees that have been identified for removal.

**Sign for Memorial Tree Grove:** Torrance Downs has requested additional information. The sign will be titled Durham Memorial Tree Grove with a blurb about the reason for the grove – something like “Trees in in this grove have been planted in memory of some of the people in the Town who were instrumental in maintaining the natural resources of the Town”. There will be a silhouette of the trees and the legend will list the trees with their common name and scientific name and the honoree.

**Status of ERT Comprehensive Plan Request:** The request for a Curtis Woodlands comprehensive management plan has been approved. No update as to when work will start. Rick will request a status update.

**Website Content for Conservation Commission:** There is a link to the MyTownTrails.com application. Rick is working on blurbs about the parcels to post and Curtis Woodlands is already posted.

**MyTownTrails:** Connecticut Forest and Parks Association signed a contract to supply the data for all trails in Connecticut to Mob Action Games for use in the MyTownTrails application. Hopefully the data will be provided soon.

### **Report of Co-Chairmen:**

**Other:** Bob Melvin asked if the NRCS team has looked at the property on Guilford Road yet. He stated that he received an email that the Governor and legislature was going to raid the Open Space funds. He wrote his representative and wondered if the Conservation Commission should do the same. Rick Huntley stated it was too late, that the budget was either passed or not. He didn't know if the funds were taken or not.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley  
Recording Secretary