

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 8, 2015
7:00 at the Durham Public Library

Members present: Carl Dahlman, Rick Huntley, Bill LaFlamme, Lucy Meigs, Josh Miller, Bob Thody and Bill Ward

Excused: Bob Melvin and Jon Herzig

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

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

Approval of August regular meeting minutes: Bill Ward, seconded by Bob Thody to approve the August 2015 regular meeting minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Payment of Bills: Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Bill Ward to approve payment of \$30 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services, made a motion. Motion passed with one abstention by Rick Huntley. Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Bob Thody to renew the CACIWC membership for both the Conservation Commission and Inland Wetlands Commission for 2015-16 in the amount of \$110, made a motion. Bill Ward asked if the Inland Wetlands Commission could pay for this membership. Rick Huntley stated that historically the Conservation Commission has paid for both commissions. There were comments about perhaps alternating payment of the membership renewal between both commissions. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Session: none.

Property Steward Reports/Parcel Status Updates

- Whites Farm – Jack Stahl: no report.
- Pent Road/Parmelee Hill Road/David Road – Melynda Naples: Melynda reported that all the fields are mowed. She emailed the educational activity report to all members. Rick Huntley asked about whether or not there was a sign-in log. Rick reminded her about the fertilizer and soil testing requirements in the lease. Melynda reported that the three trees that were cut down on the David Road property were dropped in the field and left there. She has pushed them to the side in order to mow. Rick Huntley asked about the manure spreader she uses and how it is connected to the tractor and whether the angle could cause some leakage of manure onto the road. Sometimes the gate on the spreader doesn't close all the way and she will put a plywood piece there.
- Howd Road – Josh Miller: Josh Miller reported some use of the parking area. He also reported that the area needs to be mowed. Rick Huntley will contact Public Works to get the mowing scheduled.
- Pisgah Mountain and Chalker Brook Valley – Bill LaFlamme & Rick Huntley: Bill LaFlamme reported that the mountain bike trail is being used quite a bit. Lucy Meigs stated that it is a nice trail. The brook is dry.
- Curtis Woodlands – Mark Smolley, Charles Ingold & Sheehan Michael: Rick Huntley read Charles Ingold's report. The signage is intact. There has been no ATV activity. JC Farms is no longer drawing water from the brook. A tree stand has been put up, plus additional stands that were still there. The field has been mowed. Other work has not been done yet. Carl Dahlman will take a look at the location of the temporary shed by the adjacent property owner. Carl commented that there will be hunting allowed on Sundays for bow hunters starting October 1. Bill LaFlamme stated that the bow hunting and shotgun seasons overlap so be aware while in the woods.
- Wimler Property – Dick Porter: no report.
- Sawmill Road – Ray Koba: no report.

Old and New Business

Status of Deerfield Farm well issue: The Board of Finance has recommended the installation of a UV water system. There will be a special Town meeting on Monday, September 14, 2015 at 8 PM in the 3rd floor meeting room at Town Hall to approve

moving of funds for the installation of the system. Melynda gives the well a low level treatment of chlorine once a month. There was discussion about the well running out. This year has been especially dry.

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

Status of Review of Plan of C & D: Rick Huntley sent an email today regarding complete streets and whether it is being included in the Plan of Conservation & Development. Laura Francis is contemplating establishing a task force on complete streets. Complete streets includes pedestrians, bicycles as well as motorized vehicles and incorporating all aspects in design operation where feasible.

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

Sign for Memorial Tree Grove: The sign has been delivered and installation needs to be coordinated with Public Works.

Status of ERT Comprehensive Plan Request: no update.

Website Content for Conservation Commission: no update.

MyTownTrails: no update.

Discussion of Gate Lock for Dunn Hill Road: Rick Huntley received a call from a property owner on the corner of Brittany Drive with concerns about the gate remaining open. He requests the Commission ask the Hoppes about locking the gate and keeping it closed more than open.

Report of Co-Chairmen: Rick Huntley received the waiver form from Sheehan Michael to be able to work on Curtis Woodlands. The Durham Fair Association has not yet requested the use of White's Farm for parking. Lucy Meigs, seconded by Bill Ward, to authorize Rick Huntley and Bob Thody to approve the use of White's Farm for Durham Fair parking, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary