

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

Members present: Carl Dahlman, Rick Huntley, Bill LaFlamme, Lucy Meigs, Bob Melvin (7:08), Josh Miller, Bob Thody and Bill Ward

Excused: Jon Herzig

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

Amendments to Agenda/Approval of Agenda: Rick Huntley requested to amend the order of the agenda to move the Whites Farm sign discussion to after Public Session. Bill Ward, seconded by Carl Dahlman to approve the September agenda as distributed and amended, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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.

Public Session: There was a question about the purpose of all the posts on the Whites Farm property. It was an attempt to keep people off the grass. There was also a question as to why the vinyl fenced area from the Fair is still up. Bob Thody will speak with Joe Davenport, Durham Fair Public Safety, about removing the fencing. There was a suggestion to consider putting walking trails on the Howd Road parcel.

Sign at Whites Farm indicating “Discharge of Firearms is Prohibited” vs. current and proposed open space use regulations: Rick Huntley received a phone call from a concerned resident regarding the hunters that use Whites Farm as an access point to the state land in the Durham Meadows Wildlife Management Area. His response was that this is an allowed use. It was requested that signage be provided indicating that users of the property may encounter hunters in season. Rick checked the current regulations and read the section of the Town Ordinance pertaining to firearms (item 6 - http://townofdurhamct.org/filestorage/28562/27548/28038/28135/Open_Space_Regulations.pdf). The proposed regulation reiterates the current regulations in addition to referencing the hunting lottery. Discussion ensued. Bob Melvin indicated that when the sign was made, they had space constrictions and financial considerations for the amount of verbiage on the sign. They could not print all the regulations word for word. Bob Thody noted that the sign is beginning to show wear and will need to be replaced at some point. Consensus of the commission was to not change the sign until it is replaced. A budget item for replacing the sign will be requested in the FY 2016-17 budget.

Property Steward Reports/Parcel Status Updates

- Whites Farm – Jack Stahl: no report.
- Pent Road/Parmelee Hill Road/David Road – Melynda Naples: no report
- Howd Road – Josh Miller: Josh Miller reported boundary signs were posted on October 31, 2015. There are some additional boundary signs that need to be posted once a better map of the property is consulted. The second berm still needs to be mowed.
- Pisgah Mountain and Chalker Brook Valley – Bill LaFlamme & Rick Huntley: Rick Huntley is working to get a map from CFPA for the kiosk in the parking area. He has requested a sign from CFPA to indicate the trail to the

summit of Mt. Pisgah. Planning work continues on a trail relocation to move the blue blazed trail off the paved road sections of Old Blue Hills Road and Pisgah Road and into the forest.

- Curtis Woodlands – Mark Smolley, Charles Ingold & Sheehan Michael: Rick Huntley read Charles Ingold’s report. There was an incident of ATV activity early in the month. Rick Huntley met with Jack from Public Works on site to review the projects for the property.
- Wimler Property – Dick Porter: no report.
- Sawmill Road – Ray Koba: no report. Rick Huntley suggested naming the Sawmill parcel “Otte Meadows”.

Old and New Business

Status of Deerfield Farm well issue: Rick Huntley reported that the last he heard from Melynda Naples was that they quantity of water has been sufficient although she has to wait for it to recharge. The UV system has been installed.

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

Status of Review of Plan of C & D: no update

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

Sign for Memorial Tree Grove: Rick Huntley marked the location for installation.

Status of ERT Comprehensive Management Plan Request: Rick Huntley emailed Geoff Colegrove requesting an estimate to hire a planning consultant for the work. He has asked the River COG and the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District (CRCCD) for assistance. The River COG does not have the resources at this time and the request is out of scope for the CRCCD. The removal of invasive species can continue. Josh Miller stated that goals for the property should be set. Rick Huntley responded that would be part of the management plan process.

Website Content for Conservation Commission: no update.

MyTownTrails: A topographic layer is supposed to be available sometime.

Further discussion of Gate Lock for Dunn Hill Road: A lock will be placed on the gate. There needs to be a discussion with the Hoppes family about the lock and the parking of vehicles and storage of equipment in the right of way.

Report of Co-Chairmen: Bob Thody reported that Mark Smolley is stepping down as a property steward. Rick Huntley reported he met with Jack from Public Works to review the list of projects for the Conservation Commission. He picked up the two small kiosks from CFPA that were part of the Eagle Scout project and delivered them to the town garage. They will be installed at the Curtis Woodlands parking area and the Sawmill property parking area on Route 17 once it is done. Public Works moved some of the wood on David Road.

Bob Melvin suggested conducting a yield test on the well at Deerfield Farm to Bill Milardo in order to quantify well water production. The Memorial tree planting fund was initially started with donations and some money from the Garden Club. He was wondering about asking for donations to the fund and will check with Mary Jane Malavasi about it.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary