

**TOWN OF DURHAM**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 10, 2016**  
**7:00 at the Durham Town Hall**

**Members present:** Carl Dahlman, Rick Huntley, Bill LaFlamme, Lucy Meigs (7:15 PM), Josh Miller, Bob Melvin (7:10 PM), and Bob Thody

Excused: Jon Herzig and Bill Ward

**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 Carl Dahlman to approve the May agenda as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of April 2016 regular meeting minutes:** Josh Miller, seconded by Bob Thody to approve the April 2016 regular meeting minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed with one abstention by Bill LaFlamme.

**Payment of Bills:** Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Carl Dahlman 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

**Use of White Farm – Parking for Go Far – June 11<sup>th</sup> – Jen Schulten, Melissa Lesniak:** Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Carl Dahlman to approve limited parking along the swale for overflow for the Go Far event on June 11, 2016 provided appropriate proof of insurance is submitted, made a motion. Carl Dahlman asked if it was clear to the requesters where the parking would be allowed. Rick Huntley will make sure they are clear on the area to park. Motion passed unanimously.

**Use of White Farm – Parking for 4 H Fair – August 5, 6 & 7:** This item was tabled until the June meeting.

**Property Steward Reports/Parcel Status Updates**

- Whites Farm – Bill LaFlamme: Bill LaFlamme reported that the area gets constant use. There was additional damage to the field. Rick Huntley made a quick call to the Resident State Trooper to let him know that stuff on the property is continuing. Rick does not know the outcome of the trial for the person that caused the previous damage to the field that has been repaired. He did send in the notice of the damages amounting to \$350 to the State Attorney's office. Rick Huntley, seconded by Bob Thody to approve payment of \$350 to Grant Landscapes LLC for the repair of the field at White's Farm, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously. Bill LaFlamme reported that the dog walkers police the area very well and will ask people abusing the property to leave.
- Pent Road/Parmelee Hill Road/David Road – Melynda Naples: Melynda Naples reported that groups continue to make educational visits. She had a visitor from the Dominican Republic. There has been no major damage to fields. Rick Huntley stated that there needs to be follow-up for handling the barn waste water discharge. There was a brief discussion about the next lease having a longer term. Bob Melvin asked who has the final say about the length of the lease. The Conservation Commission can make recommendations. Bob Melvin suggested discussing the length of the lease with the Board of Selectmen. Melynda commented that the Farmers' Market has started again on the Town Green.
- Howd Road – Josh Miller: Josh Miller reported there are no issues. Rick Huntley made sure that Mr. Greenbacker had a key to the gate lock. The haying lease is up at the end of this year. Maryjane Malavasi will help the Commission with the request for proposal (RFP). The Commission needs to have clear selection criteria to evaluate proposals. Josh Miller asked about regulations for fertilizing the hay fields. Rick Huntley responded that the soil would have to be tested first and the recommended amount of fertilizer determined before it can be applied. Rick Huntley reported that a letter was received from the tree warden Tim Larkin about tree replacements on Howd Road. Josh Miller commented that he thought the trees were planted too close together from the start and suggested having only every other one rather than replace them all. There needs to be maintenance done every year to keep the brush down.
- Pisgah Mountain and Chalker Brook Valley – Lucy Meigs & Rick Huntley: Rick Huntley reported that the trail that goes from the parking lot on Cream Pot Road to the Blue Trail will be blazed blue over yellow. The trail that goes from the Blue Trail along Cream Pot Road to Whitney Pond Road and up to the summit at the Selectmen's Stones will be

blazed yellow. He is still working on the trail relocation with CFP. Lucy Meigs reported vandalism to the kiosk at the parking area. There are holes in the Plexiglas from rocks being thrown at it. There is evidence that vehicles are going around the gate. She also reported that more signs are needed so that people are aware that there are no motorized vehicles allowed past the parking area. She has also noticed that cars are parking in the parking area at dusk.

- Curtis Woodlands – Charles Ingold & Sheehan Michael: no issues to report. Rick Huntley reported that CFP has GPSed the trail again. Rick has not yet received the data. There are two spring turkey hunters that have permits to hunt the property.
- Wimler Property – Dick Porter: no report.
- Sawmill Road – Ray Koba: Ray Koba sent pictures of the beaver dam. Rick Huntley reported that the parking area on Route 17 is not feasible because of poor site lines. Rick Huntley and Brian Curtis looked at an area on the corner of David Road and Parmelee Hill Road as a parking area.

### *Old and New Business*

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

**Status of Review of Plan of C&D:** no update. There is a draft on the Town website. Comments are welcome.

**Index of all open areas as mandated by the Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-131a (b):** Carl Dahlman stated that the information he has received does not contain any Town of Durham properties.

**Status of Curtis Woodlands Comprehensive Management Plan:** no update.

**Website Content for Conservation Commission:** no update. Carl Dahlman asked about having a summer intern work on the website. Rick and Lucy commented that having the content is the real issue.

**Report of Co-Chairmen:** Rick Huntley had nothing further to report.

Bob Melvin reported that he represented the Commission at the tree dedications on the Town Green. The event was fairly well attended. He has also cleaned out the blue bird boxes that were not occupied and took one home to repair. There is one dead tree in the Memorial Planting area and others need pruning. The grove of trees on the other side (the old nursery) need cleaning out. Vehicles are still driving between the wooden posts at White's Farm. He attended a CATO rocket launch and noted that the sound wasn't too bad. There are some split rails that need replacing on the fence. The area near the fence needs to be cleaned up.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley  
Recording Secretary