

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 12, 2016
7:00 at the Durham Public Library

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

Excused: Bill Ward

Call to Order/Roll Call: Rick Huntley called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

Amendments to Agenda/Approval of Agenda: Rick Huntley amended agenda to include John Jenkins from Public Works and Bob Thody amended agenda to add Russell Robinson to the Curtis Woodlands update. Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Carl Dahlman to approve the July agenda as amended, made a motion. Motion passed with one abstention by Bob Melvin.

John Jenkins, Public Works: Rick Huntley read through the list of projects to be coordinated with Public Works. The list is as follows – get contact information for quotes on repairing haul road/cul-de-sac at Whites Farm; move sign at Whites Farm from haul road near brook to middle of track where it leaves gravel road (John Jenkins suggested upgrading the “No Motorized Vehicle” sign with a reflective one); move gate on Cream Pot Road to point just south of parking area (Lucy Meigs commented that Mr. Ericksen should be contacted about allowing Public Works to place boulders to block the road into his property); pins for gates; move boulders on woods road leading west from Pisgah Road and install gate; meet to review Whites Farm vehicle barriers/installation once plan prepared and approved; expand parking area at Cream Pot Road north; replace posts at Salted Lane parking area with guide posts/rails from stock on hand (Bob Melvin suggested chain as an alternative to wood rails); replace posts at Howd Road with guide posts/rails from stock on hand; expand David Road parking area if possible east at least as far as currently has stone (John Jenkins requested permission to remove some of the dead wood along the tree line. Commission agreed that was okay); mow knotweed at Howd Road; dirt pile at Whites Farm – is it necessary/useful. Rick asked that there be no mowing outside the fence around the well at Whites Farm until after July 15th. Inside the fence can be mowed and the access road to it so that the water company can test the well. There is still a pile of rocks that are supposed to be placed in the brook. The placement of the rocks has to be coordinated with State Fisheries Biologist Brian Murphy. In addition there are several requests for assistance from Brian Curtis as follows – parking area at Dead Hill Road (plans & specs, estimated costs and Inland Wetland application); maps of each major Open Space parcel at a reasonable scale for 8 ½ x 11 and for web posting; plan for Whites Farm vehicle barriers (in place of existing posts) and walking trails; assistance with determining and implementing course of action to address waste discharge at Deerfield Farm.

Approval of June 2016 regular meeting minutes: Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Bob Thody to approve the June 2016 regular meeting minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed with abstentions by Bob Melvin and Jon Herzig.

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

Public Session: Russell Robinson was present to request permission to mow Curtis Woodlands and Otte Meadows this year. Bob Melvin, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve mowing at Curtis Woodlands and Otte Meadows east of Sawmill Brook by Russell Robinson after August 15th provided appropriate proof of insurance is submitted, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Property Steward Reports/Parcel Status Updates

- Whites Farm – Bill LaFlamme: Bill reported that there is a lot of use from 7PM on. There are some uses that should not continue such as a person driving down to the brook on the haul road. Bill reported that the new hunting lottery applications are out with the addition of the Howd Road property. He was unable to find out who printed the orange cards. The card inventory on hand will be used this year and the Howd Road property will be added to the cards by hand. Rick Huntley reported the Whites Farm Subcommittee needs to determine a date to meet. He would also like to get another dispenser for dog waste bags installed. Bob Melvin asked about plantings along the edge of the brook. Rick Huntley responded the planned work has been completed. Bob Melvin stated that there is Clean Water Fund grant monies available and he was asked by the Cogenchaug Advisory Committee if the town had any area for riparian

plantings.

- Pent Road/Parmelee Hill Road/David Road – Melynda Naples: Bob Melvin also indicated that we should see if the waste discharge is eligible for Clean Water Fund grant monies. He will give Brian Curtis the contact information.
- Howd Road – Josh Miller: Josh reported most things were covered with the project report with Public Works. Boundary signs need to be put up on the east side of the property. Rick stated that it may need to be surveyed. Josh will research in town hall to find documentation on the location of the remaining boundary.
- Pisgah Mountain and Chalker Brook Valley – Lucy Meigs & Rick Huntley: Rick Huntley reported that there are new blazes that go down to Whitney Pond and will continue to the Selectmen's Stones. The area has been decimated by gypsy moths.
 - Review of Parking area Plans and Draft Inland Wetland Application – Rick Huntley: He reviewed the Dead Hill Road parking area plan that Brian Curtis provided. The plan provides for 15 parking spaces. Rick reported that 45 cars were parked there over the weekend according to Jason Englehardt.
- Curtis Woodlands – Charles Ingold & Sheehan Michael: Rick Huntley read an email from Charles Ingold. The area is in good shape, there is no ATV or dirt bike activity and the brook is very low. Charles recommended attending Plant Science Day at Lockwood Farm in Hamden on August 3, 2016 from 10AM to 4PM. There is a butterfly garden that is worthwhile seeing.
 - Status of land clearing – Josh Miller: The contractor will have the work done by July 31 at a cost of \$2,200.
- Wimler Property – Dick Porter: no report.
- Sawmill Road – Ray Koba: no report.

Old and New Business

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

Status of Review of Plan of C&D: The plan has been endorsed by the Board of Selectmen. The final public hearing is July 13, 2016. There are a number of goals presented in the plan. Laura Francis stated to Rick that the Board of Selectmen would like to form a committee to work on selectively implementing some of the goals. Rick Huntley has volunteered to participate in that process as Co-chair of the Conservation Commission. The plan is posted on the town website.

Index of all open areas as mandated by the Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-131a (b): Rick Huntley found a copy of a map that was labeled as an open space database that was produced by Midstate. Rick will find out what data Midstate had and where the Council on Government (COG) is on the assessor's mapping project they were working on.

Status of Curtis Woodlands Comprehensive Management Plan: no update.

Website Content for Conservation Commission: no update.

Report of Co-Chairmen: Rick Huntley reported earlier with the list of projects for Public Works. CATO Rocket Club is doing the low wattage speaker demonstration on Saturday, July 16th at 11AM. Local neighbors have been notified of the demonstration.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary