

Received: August 16, 2016
8:39 am
Office of the Town Clerk

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 9, 2016
7:00 at the Durham Public Library

Members present: Carl Dahlman, Rick Huntley, Bill LaFlamme, Lucy Meigs (7:14 PM), Josh Miller

Excused: Jon Herzig, Bob Melvin, Bob Thody, Bill Ward

Call to Order/Roll Call: Rick Huntley called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. There was no quorum until 7:14 PM.

Public Session: Pat Whitehouse was present on behalf of Joe Davenport for the Durham Fair Association. The intent to use White's Farm areas during the Durham Fair is same as last year for parking, Life Star landing area, livestock camper parking, and staging for motorized events. The use during the fair is in accordance with their lease.

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

Approval of July 2016 regular meeting minutes: Josh Miller, seconded by Lucy Meigs to approve the July 2016 regular meeting minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Payment of Bills: Carl Dahlman, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve payment of \$20 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services, made a motion. Motion passed with one abstention by Rick Huntley. Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Carl Dahlman to approve payment of \$110 for CACIWC membership renewal for 2016-2017, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Property Steward Reports/Parcel Status Updates

- Whites Farm – Bill LaFlamme: Bill reported that the *No Motorized Vehicle* sign has been moved to the side of the road from down near the barrels. Rick Huntley has asked Brian Curtis for a basic plan for the White's Farm area with identified locations for lateral parking, expanded parking around the cul-de-sac and locations of posts and rails around the areas. Rick has received one quote to repair the haul road and cul-de-sac area near the Memorial Tree grove. He will be getting two additional quotes.
 - Results of CATO Low Power Loudspeaker Demonstration: Bill LaFlamme attended the demonstration and indicated that the loudspeaker system was quiet. Rick Huntley also heard from Tina Gossner that the sound level was barely audible so she is fine with the speakers.
- Pent Road/Parmelee Hill Road/David Road – Melynda Naples: Melynda was not present.
 - Deerfield Farm Lease Extension Update, Review of Policy Questions: Rick Huntley reported that according to the town attorney, there is no need for an extension. Rick has developed a list of questions to aid in determining how best to move forward with a new lease. Laura Francis provided input on the questions and suggested edits. He will circulate the list once he has incorporated the input and suggested edits. There was discussion about having a long-term lease. Josh Miller asked about including language to utilize fields to their fullest.
 - Waste Management Issue Update: There was a meeting with NRCS representatives, Jane Brawerman and Kelly Starr from the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, John Jenkins, Bill Milardo, Brian Curtis and Rick Huntley. There may be grant funds available from DEEP through the district.
- Howd Road – Josh Miller: Josh reported some mowing has been done. Rick Huntley reported that he has not contacted the tree warden about a replacement planting plan for the tree plantings. Additional boundary signage needs to be posted when the weather is better.
- Pisgah Mountain and Chalker Brook Valley – Lucy Meigs & Rick Huntley: Lucy Meigs has the letter to adjacent land owners about locked gates ready to send. She reported that the cable has been put back up across the Ericksen property. There are signs of quad activity on top of Mt. Pisgah. Lucy wished to make the Commission aware of the after school program she is conducting on the Middlesex Land Trust property and may go onto the open space property as well. She asked if certification of insurance needs to be submitted. There was discussion about what was needed for a program that had a fee.
 - Review of Parking area Plans and Draft Inland Wetland Application – Rick Huntley: no further information to

share at this time.

- Curtis Woodlands – Charles Ingold & Sheehan Michael: Charles reported that all is well on the property. Charles asked on behalf of a neighbor whether it would be possible to have a perimeter swath around the field mowed twice a year by the town. Rick Huntley responded that he would request Public Works to mow a swath around the field a couple of times a year.
 - Status of land clearing – Josh Miller: The work has been completed. All the Tree of Heaven are cut and pushed into the woods.
- Wimler Property – Dick Porter: no report.
- Sawmill Road – Ray Koba: Rick Huntley spoke with Ray. There are no issues to report. There is a neighbor that keeps a perimeter trail mowed. Rick indicated that anyone working on the property should sign an annual indemnification form. Ray is agreeable and Rick will send a copy of the form. A future idea is to develop a perimeter trail around the property.

Old and New Business

Status of proposed open-space regulations revisions: Rick Huntley received information from the town attorney that the revisions can be accomplished via the ordinance process. However, the fines cannot be set at the level proposed in the revision. He has asked Maryjane Malavasi to review the section on indemnification for accuracy.

Index of all open areas as mandated by the Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-131a (b): Rick Huntley has submitted a municipal service request to the COG for updated mapping.

Status of Curtis Woodlands Comprehensive Management Plan: Rick Huntley has not heard back from the Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation. The Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District can do it for a fee but currently may not have the staff available.

Website Content for Conservation Commission: no update.

Report of Co-Chairmen: Rick Huntley has asked Brian Curtis to create 8½” x 11” maps of the major properties. Rick spent a day pulling water chestnut from the Mattabeset River. The town has received a survey on Canada geese nuisance issues. Rick reviewed the list of items he has requested from Brian Curtis. The commission needs to develop a sign for the Otte Meadows property. Rick needs to work out the rest of the details for the Howd Road RFP with Maryjane Malavasi.

Bill LaFlamme reminded the commission that a second CATO low power speaker demonstration would be held on August 20, 2016 at 11 AM.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary