

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 13, 2016
7:00 at the Durham Public Library

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

Call to Order/Roll Call: Rick Huntley called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Amendments to Agenda/Approval of Agenda: Motion by Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Bob Thody to approve the September agenda as amended with the addition of hunting lottery, review of Cream Pot Road gate letter responses, review of possible acquisition and steward release form. Motion passed unanimously.

Hunting Lottery Approvals: The permits were signed for the lottery winners that were present. The rest will be mailed.

Gregg Strede from the Operating Engineers - Proposal to use the White Farm for operating a drone: Gregg Strede was present. He is a trained instructor for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 478. They are located in Meriden, CT. They supply heavy equipment operators, apprentices and journeymen for various contractors. They also supply land surveyors, site construction, and mechanics. The changes in technology have them involved with GPS, grade control machines and aerial surveys. Drone use is expanding rapidly into surveying, equipment and structure inspections. The training site in Meriden is located near the Meriden-Markham airport, so they cannot use the property for drone operation training. They would communicate with the other groups (radio control planes and rocket club) that use the property so there would not be any conflicts. Safety is a priority, so they would be mindful of people using the walking paths. They do have insurance. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Bill Ward to conditionally approve Gregg Strede from Local 478 of the International Union of Operating Engineers to use White's Farm for the purpose of formal training in drone operation for groups of 6 to 12 people, not to exceed twice a month with proper insurance for the period of one year, permission to be approved annually. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of August 2016 regular meeting minutes: Motion by Lucy Meigs, seconded by Rick Huntley to approve the August 2016 regular meeting minutes as distributed. Motion passed with abstentions by Jon Herzig and Bob Melvin.

Payment of Bills: Motion by Bill Ward, seconded by Josh Miller to approve payment of \$35 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services. Motion passed with one abstention by Rick Huntley.

Public Session: none

Property Steward Reports/Parcel Status Updates

- Whites Farm – Bill LaFlamme: Rick Huntley distributed the maps that have been produced. Rick and Bill LaFlamme looked at the area and current post locations. Rick has one quote for reseeding the old haul road. Brian Curtis will create a plan to expand the parking areas a little bit. The wooden posts will be changed out for a guide rail system. The concrete barrier will be removed at some point. A walking path around the perimeter will be identified. Bob Melvin asked if the Conservation District had contacted the commission about using grant monies to establish a riparian buffer along Allyn Brook. Rick will talk with Jane Brawerman tomorrow.
- Pent Road/Parmelee Hill Road/David Road – Melynda Naples: Melynda was not present.
 - Deerfield Farm Lease Extension Update, Review of Policy Questions: Rick Huntley distributed the policy questions for review. He asked the group for significant edits or additions. The Commission, Board of Selectmen and the community need to supply the answers to the questions. Discussion ensued. There needs to be a preamble to the list of questions stating the parameters for use of the property according to the restrictions when the acquisition was made. Rick will draft the preamble. The members are asked to answer the questions by the next meeting.

- Continued Review of Policy Questions/Subcommittee Appointment: Rick would like a couple of volunteers that would meet to collate any answers to the questions come up with the process. Bill LaFlamme and Carl Dahlman volunteered to assist Rick.
- Waste Management Issue Update: There has been lot of communication from Brian Curtis about the issue. It is likely that a combined system (processing waste and restroom) will be proposed. They are working on estimates of cost and looking into a grant from the Conservation District. Rick is trying to get the proposal together by the October Board of Finance meeting. Dick McManus is doing a cost estimate for a small restroom facility.
- Howd Road – Josh Miller: Josh reported mowing around the road is done. Rick cut down stuff around the parking lot.
- Pisgah Mountain and Chalker Brook Valley – Lucy Meigs & Rick Huntley: Lucy Meigs reported that consent letters regarding the gates have come back signed from Mr. Rodd and Ms. Caso. Lucy spoke with Mr. Eriksen and he is interested in meeting on site to make sure that people won't be able to gain rapid access onto his property. Rick mentioned that the Land Trusts should get the letter as well. Lucy will send letters to the Land Trusts.
 - Review of Parking area Plans and results of Inland Wetland Review Application – Rick Huntley: Rick received approval for the parking area plan. The next step is to get a cost for the project and ask the Board of Finance for funding.
- Curtis Woodlands – Charles Ingold & Sheehan Michael: Charles reported that all is well on the property.
- Wimler Property – Dick Porter: no report.
- Sawmill Road (Otte Meadows) – Ray Koba: no report.
- Stewards Release Form - The form for 2016-17 is available. Anyone working on open space properties need to complete one.

Old and New Business

Approval of low-power speaker system for CATO Rocket Club (CATO): Motion by Rick Huntley, seconded by Jon Herzig to approve low power speaker system for CATO Rocket Club. Discussion ensued. Rick commented that there was no negative feedback from the demonstrations of the system that were held. Motion passed unanimously.

Request by CATO to change September launch to Sunday the 18th from noon – 6: Motion by Rick Huntley, seconded by Lucy Meigs to approve the request by CATO to change the September launch to Sunday, September 18th from 12 PM (Noon) to 6 PM. Motion passed unanimously. Rick Comshaw from CATO commented on the good job the Commission does managing the property.

Status of proposed open-space regulations revisions: Rick Huntley shared the revisions made by the town attorney. The major change was in the penalty section. Other changes were minor in scope. Consensus of the Commission is that the revisions are acceptable.

Index of all open areas as mandated by the Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-131a (b): Rick Huntley continues to request that the submitted municipal service request to the COG gets acted on.

Status of Curtis Woodlands Comprehensive Management Plan: The Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District can do it for a fee but does not have the staff available.

Website Content for Conservation Commission: no update.

Review of PDF Maps of Open Space Parcels: Rick Huntley distributed the maps for review. Suggestions for changes were noted for each map. Road names and stream names should be added, make north arrow easier to see.

Review of Possible Acquisition: Laura Francis has been contacted by an attorney for Robert Rebesch about interest in acquiring two parcels of land. The parcels are 6.26 and 63.3 acres. Discussion ensued. Consensus is there is interest depending upon price.

Report of Co-Chairmen: no additional items.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary