

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 11, 2016
7:00 at the Durham Public Library

Members present: Carl Dahlman (7:12), Jon Herzig, Rick Huntley, Bill LaFlamme, Lucy Meigs (7:10), Bob Melvin, and Josh Miller

Excused: Bob Thody and Bill Ward

Call to Order/Roll Call: Rick Huntley called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Amendments to Agenda/Approval of Agenda: Motion by Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Jon Herzig to approve the October agenda as distributed. Motion passed with abstentions by Lucy Meigs and Carl Dahlman.

Approval of September 2016 regular meeting minutes: Motion by Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Jon Herzig to approve the September 2016 regular meeting minutes as distributed. Motion passed with abstentions by Lucy Meigs and Carl Dahlman.

Payment of Bills: none

Public Session: Rick Comshaw was present to request the use of White Farm for TARC (Team America Rocketry Challenge) teams. TARC is a high school student mid-power rocketry competition sponsored by NAR (National Association of Rocketry). There are four teams that are requesting to fly on weekends through May 2017. Rick Comshaw, CATO Rocketry Club, would be coordinating the teams' launches. The teams are 5-15 students in size. Motion by Rick Huntley, seconded by Jon Herzig to authorize TARC teams to fly test and final rockets through May 2017 with appropriate insurance and any flights on Sunday begin after 12 noon. In addition, Rick Comshaw of CATO will coordinate the team flights as much as possible. Motion passed unanimously.

Property Steward Reports/Parcel Status Updates

- White Farm – Bill LaFlamme: Bill LaFlamme reported that there is not much damage from the Fair parking and most Fair related items have been removed. There is a tree complete with roots dumped in the field. Rick Huntley reported that he will be attending the October 18th Board of Finance meeting to ask for funds for engineering costs for the proposed parking area. Bob Melvin reported that there are 3, maybe 4 dead trees in the Memorial Tree Grove. Motion by Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Carl Dahlman to replace the dead trees in the Memorial Grove spending no more than \$1,000 from the maintenance account. Motion passed unanimously. Bob Melvin will arrange for the replacement trees. Rick Huntley reported that a project to plant a riparian buffer zone along Allyn Brook from Maple Avenue to the turn in the brook is requested. The funding would come from a 319 (Clean Water Act) grant from the Conservation District.
- Pent Road/Parmelee Hill Road/David Road – Melynda Naples: Melynda was not present, however she emailed the updated report on activities held in 2016 to the Commission.
 - Deerfield Farm Lease Extension Update: Rick Huntley reported that there is no further update.
 - Subcommittee Meeting Schedule: The subcommittee of Carl Dahlman, Bill LaFlamme and Rick Huntley scheduled a meeting for Friday, October 21st at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall. The subcommittee needs to go over the criteria developed, answer the questions and determine how to get public input. The Board of Selectmen will also be asked to answer the questions.
 - Deerfield Farm Waste Management Issue Update: Rick Huntley is working to get cost information for the waste management and septic system.
- Howd Road – Josh Miller: Josh reported no updates at this time.
 - Lease RFP Status Update: The RFP is going out. The only criteria are mowing the berms and the best quote.
- Pisgah Mountain and Chalker Brook Valley – Lucy Meigs & Rick Huntley: Rick Huntley will be meeting with Public Works to review the parking area plan to get costs. The request for funding will be brought to the Board of Finance unless the work has to be scheduled for the next fiscal year. Lucy reported that vehicles are going around the gate. Mr. Ericksen wants to meet with the Public Works and the Commission to hear the plans for the gate relocation.

- Curtis Woodlands – Charles Ingold & Sheehan Michael: Charles reported that all is well on the property. The invasive plants are spreading.
- Wimler Property – Dick Porter: no report.
- Sawmill Road (Otte Meadows) – Ray Koba: no report. Rick Huntley reported that he is requesting to add a perimeter trail on the property that is fully ADA compliant via a new round of grants if appropriate.

Old and New Business

Status of proposed open-space regulations revisions: Rick Huntley has requested how to format the changes in the document for public review. This should be getting into the Town Hall administrative queue to complete.

Index of all open areas as mandated by the Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-131a (b): Rick Huntley reported he is trying to get a meeting together of all interested parties. We need to know what we want, what we have and to get the data uploaded to the CT-ECO website. Dan Bourret indicated that the work could be added to his work plan.

Status of Curtis Woodlands Comprehensive Management Plan: no update.

Website Content for Conservation Commission: The comments on all of the PDF maps of the properties have been submitted. Once the maps have been updated they will be placed on the website.

Report of Co-Chairmen: Rick Huntley and Charles Ingold will be attending an Invasive Plants workshop on October 19th.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary