

MINUTES

NEW DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

AUGUST 26, 2008

Chairperson Dennis Gagne called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Roll Call: Dennis Gagne (Chair), Bob Craycraft (Alternate), Charles Berube (Vice-Chair), Bill Malay (Alternate), Ron Gehl (Selectman's Representative)

Others Present: David Bickford, Mark Fuller, Cathy Orłowicz

Town of New Durham: Mark Fuller, Road Agent, described the Highway Department's application for a Minimum Impact xxx. It is a request to replace a 50+ year old cement box culvert with at 72" polymer-coated corrugated metal pipe culvert. The Minimum Impact Permit is required because the diameter exceeds 36".

The culvert is located on Valley Road near parcel 5-7. The site has seasonal high water, and has had water over the road during periods of flooding in the Town. The concrete on the existing culvert has begun to crumble.

Ron Gehl moved to approve the application and waive the Conservation Commission's right to intervene. Bill Malay seconded. Unanimous with no abstentions.

Red Oak: Commission members discussed the Red Oak subdivision proposal and noted there had been damage to some trees on the south side of Mt. Eleanor during the tornado. Nobody had new information about the status.

Code Enforcement: Charles Berube asked if NHDES had taken any action on the complaints about 324 South Shore Drive. Several people have asked him why that property owner has been allegedly able to violate the state Shoreland Protection Act by extending his lot into the lake. David Allen will follow up with DES and with the Town Administrator and Code Enforcement Officer.

Ball field Walking Path: Dennis Gagne asked Commission members if they wanted to contribute funds to the observation platforms that are planned as part of the boardwalk that will be constructed near the town ball fields. Bob Craycraft suggested the Commission install informational signs with a conservation related message. Commission members agreed to that concept. Mr. Gagne will discuss that idea with Sherry Joy of the Recreation Commission.

Motorized vehicle damage to trails: Charles Berube reported continuing problems with significant damage to Class 6 roads north of Merrymeeting Lake and to off-road areas. Bill Malay noted that web sites managed by off-road enthusiasts are promoting the area as a "Rally site". People are driving ATVs, 4-wheelers, 2-wheelers, and even pickup trucks in ways that spin wheels and tear up what little topsoil there is both on and off the trails. This is causing serious erosion, and is a threat to the water quality of Merrymeeting Lake.

Ron Gehl told the Commission the Board of Selectmen had discussed this concern during their conversations about Class 6 road policy. He said they would be discussing it more in the future.

Minutes: **Ron Gehl moved to approve the minutes of June 10, 2008 as amended. Bill Malay seconded. Unanimous with no abstentions.**

Ron Gehl moved to approve the minutes of July 29, 2008 as amended. Dennis Gagne seconded. Unanimous with no abstentions.

Adjournment: Dennis Gagne moved to adjourn at 8:52 PM. Charles Berube seconded. Unanimous with no abstentions.

Respectfully submitted,

David Allen
Land Use Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved 9/30/2008