

# DRAFT MINUTES

## NEW DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### AUGUST 30, 2011

Chairperson Cathy Allen called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**Roll Call:** Cathy Allyn (Chair), Charles Berube (Vice-Chair), Bill Malay, Paddy McHale, Ron Gehl (Alternate), Bob Craycraft (Alternate)

**Others Present:** Trish Rouleau

Cathy Allyn reported that she had checked with PSNH about their conservation grants program and discovered they made grants ranging from \$1200 - \$1500. Proposals are due September 15. After some discussion the Commission agreed that a grant request to bring school children to the Old Meeting House site for a guided nature and history tour would be the preferred proposal.

**Natural Resource Inventory:** Bob Craycraft introduced Trish Rouleau, an environmental engineer from FB Environment in Portland, ME. Trish has done the majority of work to create the New Durham Natural Resource Inventory.

Ms. Rouleau walked through the report for the benefit of the Commission. It is a very comprehensive documentation of natural resources in the Town. She focused particular attention on nine large maps produced as part of the Inventory. Each of these maps gives information on a separate area of natural resources, e.g. bedrock geology and wildlife habitat. Commission members agreed it would be helpful to have these maps available at all Commission meetings.

Ms. Rouleau talked about the issue of the amount of impervious cover in a town. Overall in New Durham 2.8% of the area has impervious cover. This is a reasonable level. When impervious levels reach 4% in a watershed trout begin to be harmed. When levels reach 10% a noticeable level of degradation begins in overall stream or river ecology. Ms. Rouleau emphasized that it is much easier and more effective to protect streamsheds from too much impervious surface than to correct problems that have already developed. She noted that the Lake Wentworth Lake Association has recently committed \$70,000 for a watershed management plan which will be managed by both professionals and volunteers.

Ms. Rouleau noted that phosphorus is a major source of water pollution. One culprit is golf courses who do not check to see if there is adequate phosphorus in the soil before adding phosphorus based fertilizers.

The Commission asked for guidance on what the next steps might be to take advantage of the Inventory. Ms. Rouleau stated there are 4 basic steps to go through in developing a plan for resource protection. The first step is the inventory which has now been completed. The second step is to create co-occurrence maps based on the themes that the Commission believes are most important. These themes should be selected in advance, using the maps as a guide.

The third step is to prioritize lands for protection based upon the information from the co-occurrence studies. The fourth, and final step, is to make action plans based on those priorities. She suggested that the commission can think in terms of it taking three years to move from a reactive position (reacting to opportunities and threats) to a proactive position of acting based on the Commission's long range plan.

**Driscoll:** The commission reviewed a Shoreland Permit Application for Carol Driscoll, 149 Lions Camp Pride Road, Map 104, Lot 005 to demolish an existing camp and replace it with a new house that has a 350 sq ft larger footprint, increasing impervious area from 22% to 24.4%.

Commission members decided they needed more information in order to make a recommendation. The application implies that some stormwater BMP's are planned for the site, but the applicant provides no information about them. Commissioners could not tell if the applicant needs a ZBA variance for impermeable surface or a Stormwater/Steep Slopes conditional use permit from the Planning Board. They asked staff to send letters to DES, the ZBA, and the Planning Board expressing their concerns and asking that no action be taken until additional information is available.

**Collins:** The Commission reviewed a Minimum Impact Expedited Application for David Collins, 140 South Shore Road, Map 122, Lot 027 to replenish the sand on an existing beach with 10 cubic yards of sand.

David Allen calculated that 10 cubic yards of sand would create about a 4" depth of sand. Since Mr. Collins referred in his application to rocks on the beach that were once covered with sand, and those rocks appeared to be 6-12" above the current level of the beach, Commission members expressed great concern that Mr. Collins might find that 10 cubic yards of sand was inadequate and then place additional sand on the beach.

Commission members asked Mr. Allen to write DES expressing the Commission's concerns.

**Hiring of Land Use Administrative Assistant:** Commission members discussed the hiring policy adopted by the Board of Selectmen as it relates to the newly

amended RSA regarding Land Use Board participation in hiring. They will continue the discussion at later meetings.

**Minutes of July 26:** Paddy McHale moved to accept the minutes of July 26 as presented. Bill Malay seconded. Ron Gehl and Cathy Allyn abstained from voting as they were not present. Approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

David Allen,  
Land Use Administrative Assistant