

DRAFT MINUTES
NEW DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 10, 2012

Ron Gehl called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

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

Others Present: David Allen (staff)

Budget: Commission members discussed the failure of the BOS and Budget Committee to fund dues for Strafford Rivers Conservancy and Moose Mountain Regional Greenway in the 2012 budget. The Commission continues to feel strongly that the close working relationship with these two groups and the amount of assistance they give to the commission warrants inclusion in the budget. They decided it might be more effective to try to amend the budget from the floor at Town Meeting than at the Budget Committee meeting the next night. They will discuss this further before Town Meeting.

Enforcing Conservation Permits: David Allen shared with the commission the Access report format that he has developed to give information to Code Enforcement Officer Arthur Capello. The information will guide him in scheduling site visits to ensure proper implementation of state wetlands and Shoreland permits.

Bob Craycraft moved

1. to formally request the Code Enforcement Officer to inspect state conservation permit sites to ensure that all terms of the permit are being observed as the permitted work is in process; and
2. to delegate to the Land Use Administrative Assistant the responsibility for informing the CEO of site specific permit terms and requirements that should be monitored.

Charles Berube seconded. Approved unanimously.

Board of Selectmen Request: Chair Allyn informed the Commission that the Board of Selectmen had asked in writing if the Conservation Commission would help purchase the three acres of Map 251-021.1 on Berry Road from the State of New Hampshire. For many years the parcel has been considered a part of the Shirley Town Forest. Recently the town has learned that it is in fact owned by the state, and the state is planning to put it on the market.

Members expressed appreciation and support for the Board of Selectmen's effort to protect the parcel. They reviewed the maps prepared for the Town Natural Resource Inventory and found that the location did not rank highly on any of the criteria shown on the maps, or that the commission is developing for purchase of land.

Bob Craycraft moved that the Conservation Commission thank the Board of Selectmen for their concern about protecting land in the town, and communicate to them that the Berry Road property does not align with the commission's priorities based on the information from the Natural Resource Inventory. Charlie Berube seconded. Approved unanimously.

Hammond Property: Ron Gehl reported that the USDA is starting its process for making wetlands grants for 2012. Funding has been released for the year, and preliminary indications are that the USDA staff working on these grants view the Hammond property favorably.

Minutes: Ron Gehl moved to accept the minutes of November 30, 2011 as amended. Bob Craycraft seconded. Approved unanimously.

Bob Craycraft moved to adjourn at 7:43 PM. Charles Berube seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

David Allen
Land Use Administrative Assistant