

**MINUTES**  
**NEW DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**JANUARY 31, 2012**

Chairperson Cathy Allen called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM.

**Roll Call:** Cathy Allyn (Chair), Paddy McHale, Ron Gehl

**Excused:** Bob Craycraft (Alternate), Bill Malay, Charles Berube

**Others Present:** David Allen (staff)

**Chair's Comments:** Chair Cathy Allyn reported that Arthur Capello had notified her of a site visit he made to 92 South Shore Road. Mr. Relf Fogg is the contractor for repair of a 60 year old retaining wall. When Mr. Capello visited, there was no silt fence in place for erosion control as described in the Wetlands Permit Application. Mr. Capello notified Mr. Fogg that he needed to put full erosion control measures in place before doing any additional work or he would be subject to a cease and desist order. Commission members greatly appreciate the Code Enforcement Officers willingness to oversee state lakeside permits.

Ms. Allyn reported on plans for the town's 250th Birthday Celebration in July. It will not be possible to plant a chestnut tree as had been hoped. She suggested that instead the Commission arrange for the planting of a Town Christmas tree on the library property. The tree in front of Town Hall has grown so big that is very difficult to decorate.

Commission members discussed the details of getting a donated tree, asking the Highway Department to dig the hole and place the tree, and an appropriate ceremony for the Birthday celebration in July.

Cathy Allyn announced that because of amount of time she is spending care giving for her sick mother she will need to step back from some of her responsibilities on the Commission. She will definitely be resigning as chair, and

may need to resign from the Commission.

People discussed potential new members of the Commission. Cathy Allyn will contact Laurie Edwards who is serving as the Town's representative to the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways.

**Farmer Shoreland Permit Application:** Commission members reviewed the application materials and were surprised by how little information was provided in the application. Paddy McHale noted that the existing conditions plan had no measurements, and there was no plan showing proposed new conditions. Ron Gehl added that the required tree count by 50' shorefront blocks was missing. The drawing does not show the 50' setback from the water and therefore it is impossible to know which if any parts of the structures are non-conforming;

No dimensions are given for any of the structures or impermeable areas making it impossible to confirm calculations regarding impermeable surface. Since the lot already has 37% impermeable surface, and the proposed decrease in impermeable surface is minimal, this is critical missing information.

David Allen noted there is no indication of intent to apply for Town permits: the plan will probably need a variance from the ZBA, and a Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Conditional Use permit.

Ron Gehl moved the Commission write to DES and the applicant noting these information deficiencies, and the relevant Town policies. Paddy McHale seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Dudley Property:** Town Administrator Alison Webb had provided a copy of a letter from Mr. Peter Dudley in response to a request from the Board of Selectmen for an easement in order to access the Merrymeeting River Dam that creates Downing's Pond.

Commission members expressed significant concerns about potential contamination of the site, and did not feel it met their funding priorities. Since the letter was informational only and was not accompanied by any formal request they took no formal action.

2012 Budget: Commission members agreed by consensus to accept the

BOS/Budget Committee recommended budget.

Conservation Fund: David Allen shared the yearend financial statement on the Conservation Fund which shows a balance of \$108,000. Members were pleasantly surprised: they had thought it was closer to \$60-70,000.

Paddy McHale moved to adjourn at 8:06 PM. Ron Gehl seconded. Approved Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

David Allen  
Land Use Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted as amended on February 28, 2012

Town of New Durham