

Town of Durham
Board of Selectmen
Monday, September 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
3rd floor, Town Hall, and Remote via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Recording

Passcode: =7qA=7M@

1. Call to Order

First Selectman Rea called the Board of Selectmen meeting of Monday, September 15, 2025, to order at 7:00 p.m. Also present: Selectman Chadd and Selectman Hennick.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

First Selectman Rea led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION BY SELECTMAN CHADD, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VOTE: ALL AYE

4. Public Comment (open to agenda items only)

Roger Kleeman: disappointed the town only received one bid for Bear Rock Road Culvert.

Rick Parmelee: disappointed the town only received one bid for Bear Rock Road Culvert.

5. Accept nominations and vote to fill the following vacancies (per Charter Sec. 2.6):

a. Building Code of Appeals

None.

b. Ethics Commission, Regular, 2028

None.

c. Ethics Commission, Alternate, 2028

None.

d. Fire Company Trustees, D, 2026

None.

e. Sustainable Durham, Alternate, 2027

None.

6. Discuss 8-24 Referral Request for Discontinuation of 301' Feet of Shunpike Road and Lot Line Revision

First Selectman Rea explained that Benjamin & Bascom presented to the board on July 21st on behalf of the Mesick's. It was then referred to Planning and Zoning for an 8-24 review. Planning and Zoning met on August 10, 2025, and voted unanimously to send a positive referral for the discontinuation of 301' of Shunpike Road and a lot line revision between the Town's ROW and property owned by James & Deborah Mesick. The board agreed to move forward and send the above request to town meeting.

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO ADD THE REQUEST FOR DISCONTINUATION OF 301' FEET OF SHUNPIKE ROAD AND LOT LINE REVISION TO THE NEXT CALL TO SPECIAL TOWN MEETING. VOTE ALL AYE

7. Discuss and take action to approve the Call the Annual Town Meeting

MOTION BY SELECTMAN CHADD, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO HOLD THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M., IN THE GYMNASIUM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. To establish the date for the Annual Budget Meeting.
2. To elect one member to the Durham-Middlefield Interlocal Agreement Advisory Board, said term to expire June 30, 2027
3. To fill 1 vacancy for the term expiring 2028 on the Compensation Review/Personnel Policy Board
4. To elect one member to a five-year term on the Compensation Review/Personnel Policy Board expiring 2028
5. To elect one member to a five-year term on the Compensation Review/Personnel Policy, expiring 2030
6. To elect 1 town representative to a term expiring 2028 on the Board of Trustees of the Durham Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
7. To elect 3 members to terms expiring 2028 on the Board of Library Directors.
8. To discuss and act upon the proposed discontinuation of 301' of Shunpike Road and a lot line revision between the Town's ROW and property owned by James & Deborah Mesick as shown on a map entitled, 'Property/Boundary Survey showing the Right of Way of Shunpike Road and individual properties of James A. & Deborah B. Mesick as revised, Shunpike Road & Madison Road, Durham, CT, Scale 1"=40', February 14, 2025, Prepared by Bascom & Benjamin

9. To request a transfer of \$38,646 from #8450105-57206 Library Reserve to #9450105-57206 Library CIP for the moving of furniture and fixtures, new carpeting, and painting in the Children's Room as recommended by the Board of Finance at their September 9, 2025 meeting

VOTE: ALL AYE

8. **Bear Rock Road Bid Award**

First Selectman Rea explained the town went out to bid for Bear Rock Road Culvert Lining at Unnamed Brook. The project primarily consists of a culvert lining and associated road work. The bid was posted from August 22nd to September 3rd and a non-mandatory pre-bid conference was held. The bid was posted on the town website, on Nathan Jacobson's website and the CT State Portal, where it is directly emailed to 100's of contractors. The bid documents were downloaded by (44) contractors. The town received (1) bid from Dayton Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$473,350.

First Selectman Rea agreed he would have liked more than one bid on the project. After speaking with the engineers, they felt lack of bids could have been due to the hybrid nature of the job with road work and lining of a culvert. He added that the \$473,350 is within the town's budget and the engineer's verified documentation and received positive reviews from checked references. Ultimately, Nathan Jacobson recommended the town move forward with awarding the bid based on those factors. First Selectman Rea explained the timeframe for this project to begin is after the Durham Fair. If the town does not award the bid tonight, it will need to wait to be re-bid for Spring 2026 and prices may come back higher.

MOTION BY SELECTMAN CHADD, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO AWARD THE BEAR ROCK ROAD CULVERT LINING AT UNNAMED BROOK BID TO DAYTON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$473,350.00. VOTE: ALL AYE

9. Discuss and take action to enter into an agreement for the one-time purchase of phone equipment with CCI Voice (state contract)

Selectman Chadd explained this contract is for all town buildings and will replace the towns current vendor, Comcast. CCI Voice will save the town 2/3 of what they are currently paying. There is also cost savings being a part of CROG and CCI Voice is on State Contract. Selectman Chadd added that CCI Voice also does video security and secure fax, which are things the town can consider purchasing at a later date. Another advantage to this product is that staff will be able to use their laptops as their work phones if they are working outside the office. The town currently leases phones from Comcast; this contract will have the town buy the phones outright.

Selectman Hennick commented on the cost savings. Selectman Chadd noted the town is also changing internet providers, which will increase internet speed at a lower cost.

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE ONE-TIME PURCHASE OF PHONE EQUIPMENT WITH CCI VOICE (STATE CONTRACT). VOTE: ALL AYE

10. Discuss and take action to enter into an agreement for Connecticut Energy Assistance Program for fy25-26 with Community Renewal Team

This contract allows the Social Services Coordinator to process Energy Assistance applications for residents. It is a yearly contract.

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN CHADD TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR CONNECTICUT ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR FY25-26 WITH COMMUNITY RENEWAL TEAM. VOTE: ALL AYE

11. Discuss and take action to enter into an agreement for Municipal Electronic Voting Equipment with the State of Connecticut

The State of CT originally leased the new tabulators to each town but are now gifting them. The town is still responsible for the maintenance of the machine, which the Registrar of Voters did budget for fy26-27. The agreement was reviewed by Town Counsel.

MOTION BY SELECTMAN CHADD, SECONDED BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTRONIC VOTING EQUIPMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT. VOTE: ALL AYE

12. Fiscal Analysis – ending June 30, 2025

First Selectman Rea read the following Fiscal Analysis from the Finance Director. The 2025 budget stands as follows:

	Expenditures	Revenue
Original Budget	33,560,332	33,560,332
General Appropriations/Undesigned Fund Balance	347,000	347,000
Grant Appropriations		
Prior Year Carryovers	671,048	-
Reserve Appropriations	288,929	288,929
Due From Reserve	111,128	111,128
Revised Budget	34,978,437	34,307,389
YTD Encumbrances	-	-
YTD Expense/Revenue	33,904,397	33,709,402
Balance Unspent or Uncollected	1,074,040	597,987
Percent Spent of Collected	96.9%	98.3%

Revenues

Combined tax revenue of Real Estate, Personal Property, and Motor Vehicle are 99.2% collected. Motor Vehicle Supplemental totaled 135.0% or \$104,886 over what was budgeted.

Building permits and conveyance tax were collected higher than budgeted at \$123,300 while recording fees were down by \$9,000. Bank interest and investment earnings were budgeted at \$600,000 and came in at \$514,902 or 86%.

State revenue came in at 99.6% collected and Educational Cost Share was 100% collected.

Expenses

Preliminary budgetary expenditures are 96.9% spent. There are budget lines that have exceeded their available budget. Most of these expenses are related to departmental salary budgets and associated budgets, information technology, animal control boarding expense, electricity, and phone/cable/internet. Contingency and several other budget lines will be used to offset these overages. It should be noted that transfers from associated budgets are used first.

Snow and ice removal, along with vehicle maintenance and facilities management came in over budget more than \$20,000 and will require town meeting approval. The overages in vehicle maintenance and facilities management are partly due to the impact of hiring a dedicated facilities manager and public works mechanic.

No appropriations have been made from undesignated fund balance.

Community Center

The fiscal year 2024-2025 operating budget for the Community Center was approved in the amount of \$129,981 and was 87% expended or \$16,806 under budget. This being the second year of the budget cycle we are now getting closer to actual costs and will continue to make yearly adjustments to the budget.

Capital Investments at the Community Center include new flooring for the café, oil tank removal, masonry in the emergency management office, a floor scrubber, fire alarm panel, fire suppression in the kitchen, and maintenance contract for the chiller to name a few. These expenditures were paid through the general fund.

Additional expenditures related to the community center for routine maintenance, alarm monitoring, and fire extinguisher services can be found in the facilities maintenance budget.

An appropriation from Community Center Reserve in the amount of \$75,092 will be made to offset both budget overages.

Community Center Reserve Update

May 4, 2021, Referendum	\$1,000,000
FY 2023 Operating / Capital Expense	-212,436
FY 2024 Operating / Capital Expense	-557,410
FY 2025 Operating / Capital Expense	-75,093
Balance Remaining 6/30/2025	\$155,062

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Below is a snapshot of where the ARPA funds stand as of 6/30/2025. It should be noted that these numbers are preliminary.

ARPA Funds	
6/22/2021	1,060,242.97
9/30/2022	364,384.34
11/30/2022	695,858.63
Total ARPA Funds Received	2,120,485.94
Interest used against projects	145,406.34
Total Revenue	2,265,892.28
fy2022 Approved Allocations	200,000.00
fy2023 Approved Allocations	1,746,500.00
fy2024 Approved Allocations	102,725.00
fy2025 Approved Allocations	216,667.28
Total Allocations as of 6/30/2025	2,265,892.28
fy2023 Expenditures	102,911.88
fy2024 Expenditures	726,364.09
fy2025 Expenditures	1,035,293.09
Remaining Balance to be spent at 6/30/2025	401,323.22
Total Expenditures	2,265,892.28

Interest earned to date	217,400.44
Interest used against projects	145,406.34
Balance at 6/30/2025	71,994.10

The remaining balance to

be spent at 6/30/2025 is related to the completion of the following:

- Economic Development
- Main Street to Allyn Brook Sidewalks (completed in fiscal year 2026)
- Information Technology upgrades (to be completed in fiscal year 2026)
- Dryer installation at the Fire Company building
- Generator installation at the Community Center
- Communications Radios

The bulk of the ARPA funds were expended in fiscal year 2024-2025. Below is a summary of projects.

Town Hall

- Roof Replacement
- Interior Painting
- Building Management System

Library

- Furniture
- Building Management System

Fire Company

- Bathroom Renovation
- New door frames and doors
- New electrical panel and upgraded service
- Generator and pad
- Turn Out Gear and Dryer

Community Center

- Gym renovation that included the removal of old asbestos flooring installation of new epoxy flooring, paint, energy efficient lighting
- Sprinkler system
- Access Control System and ADA doors
- Fire Panel
- Installation of natural gas service
- (2) new boilers
- Generator and pad
- Sidewalk installation
- New playground equipment

Deerfield Farm

- New roof and installation of gables and gutters

Miscellaneous

- Emergency Management light towers
- Communications console and mobile radios
- Information Technology (IT) upgrades
- Sidewalk installation from Main Street to Allyn Brook Park
- Durham Middlefield Youth Family Services allocation
- Economic Development

Major Projects

Sidewalks: The 2nd portion of the sidewalk project, the northerly half, is still pending LOTCIP (Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program) state funding. New cost estimates and revisions were submitted to CT DOT in July. Discussions between CT DOT and the towns engineer and First Selectman were held regarding some unexpected issues that have been resolved but have impacted on the timeline. As of July 29th, new plans and updated estimates have been submitted. We are awaiting response from CT DOT.

Shady Lane Road Improvements

Two grant applications were submitted for Shady Lane Improvements. In January the town applied for a Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP) grant through the Lower CT Valley Council of Governments and a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Grant. In May the town was notified that it was awarded a STEAP grant in the amount of

\$1,000,000 dollars with a municipal match of \$270,000. The town has yet to receive the contract and anticipate it should be coming in the next month.

Culvert Projects – Bear Rock Road

The town continues to carry approximately \$447,000 in bond proceeds that is allocated to the Bear Rock Road culvert project. This project is also being supported by capital funding earmarked for major culvert repair in the amount of \$117,522. An Invitation to Bid was posted on August 11, 2025. Sealed bids will be received on September 3rd with the project being completed this fall.

Guire Road Culvert: In March 2023 preliminary cost figures for this project were estimated at \$1,605,900. A SLBP (State Local Bridge Program) grant application was submitted in May 2023. The Town received word in July 2024 the application was not approved and was encouraged to resubmit an application for funding for fiscal year 2026. A preliminary application was submitted in May 2025 for the SLBP 2026 fiscal year with a revised estimated project cost of \$2,398,437. The project grant request is 50% of this amount or \$1,199,219.

Anticipated schedule would be to complete the design, property acquisition and utilities in August of 2026 with the start of construction in May 2027. The town has currently set aside approximately \$147,840 for engineering services for this project.

Pickett Lane Side Project – Connectivity Grant

As noted earlier, ARPA funds were expended to continue the sidewalks from Main Street to Allyn Brook and some sidewalks at the Community Center. An application for a Connectivity Grant to continue the sidewalk from Allyn Brook to the Community Center was submitted in May 2025 with an estimated total project cost of \$685,200. There is an eight-month span from the solicitation for applications to commitment to fund letters.

Community Center – Eversource Energy Efficient Lighting Program

The Board of Selectmen signed into a proposal with RLE (Resource Lighting & Energy) in June 2025 for the conversion of lighting to LED with controls through Eversource. The total project cost is \$126,000 and is anticipated to save \$20,847 annually in energy savings and lamp replacement savings of \$3,517 for total project savings of \$24,364. The project also qualifies for an estimated \$28,464 in Eversource incentives. After the incentive the total cost to the town is \$97,544 at zero interest over 60 months. The next step in the process is to receive a letter from Eversource confirming the project.

13. Discussion on Fire Pond at PermaTreat

First Selectman Rea explained he is in the process of talking with the Health District on how to test the water. He recommended tabling this item until next meeting.

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO TABLE #13 DISCUSSION ON FIRE POND AT PERMATREAT UNTIL THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING. VOTE: AL AYE

14. Local Traffic Authority:

a. Rt 68/Maple Flock Camera Discussion

First Selectman Rea explained that the Department of Transportation has suggested the installation of "Your Speed" digital signs along with posted speed limits and Flock cameras for speed enforcement in both directions. This option would come at a low cost to the town and still be effective. The board discussed and agreed to table this option until they have a better handle on the Speed Cameras.

MOTION BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, SECONDED BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. VOTE: ALL AYE

b. Discuss speed camera feedback and discuss possible date for Public Hearing on Speed Cameras

First Selectman Rea explained that Altumint, Inc. conducted a speed study on the following locations: Main Street, Maple Avenue, Maiden Lane, Pent Road, Guilford Rd (Rt 77), Madison Rd (Rt 79), Wallingford Rd (Rt 68), and New Haven Road (Rt 17). Selectmen discussed the feedback, which will be included in the minutes. They noted some of the locations could have been moved, but the data collected was interesting. First Selectman Rea felt the data showed an incredible amount of speeding in town, for example 49% of drivers on a Friday evening are speeding on Maiden Lane.

The board spoke about holding a public informational meeting to present the data from the Speed study and to discuss the potential for speed cameras. First Selectman Rea noted he will have representatives from Altumint Inc., Resident State Troopers and Complete Streets members. He will also ask the Police Chief in Middletown to attend, as Middletown recently went through this process.

MOTION BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, SECONDED BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, TO HOLD A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING TO DISCUSS SPEED CAMERA FEEDBACK AND ATESD CAMERAS ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025, AT 7:30 P.M., AT THE DURHAM COMMUNITY CENTER. VOTE: ALL AYE

MOTION BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, SECONDED BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA TO MOVE THE REGULAR BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING OF MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025, TO 6:30 P.M., AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER. VOTE: ALL AYE

15. Approval of Meeting Minutes: August 18, 2025

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES

OF AUGUST 18, 2025, AS PRESENTED. VOTE: ALL AYE

16. Approval of Tax Refunds

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN TO APPROVE (16) TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$10,176.75 AS PRESENTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR. VOTE: ALL AYE

17. Old/New Business

Tabled.

18. Selectmen Comments

Selectman Chadd spoke about the correspondence the board has received from the public regarding Whites Farm and the possible blocking off road access into Whites Farms by the Conservation Commission. He suggested the board call a joint meeting with the Conservation Commission to further discuss. Many individuals are upset. First Selectman Rea will reach out to the Conservation Commission for a joint meeting.

19. Public Comment (open to non-agenda items)

Stevan Akerley: was in attendance to speak about issues at White Farms. Steve and several others had a meeting with the First Selectman on August 22nd to discuss concerns they had about the Conservation Commission's proposed effort to enclose car access to the east/west access road at Whites Farm open area. He noted the open space has been used for decades by hunters, walkers, out-of-town visitors, model airplane clubs, CATO Rocket Club, bird watchers and many others. Conservation Commissions concern is that vandals who enter Whites Farm and do damage with their vehicles in the crop/hay area. He suggested the town invest in trail cameras and public signage instead. The towns Plan of Conservation and Development specifically mention several activities that take place on this land, noting the deed sites open space is for open use. He felt a gate would eliminate free access to visitors and a combination lock on the gate is not practical or secure as it would require hundreds to have the code. He noted the groups also give back to the area, last year Airplane Club received permission from the town to brush hog part of the field and used club money. He was happy to report the area is back to emergent grassland (full statement read attached).

Stevan Akerley: read an email from Pam Hogarth into the record (attached).

Roger Kleeman: questioned the wires on the roads, asked the cost of the phone contract and asked if there would be a monument placed on Shunpike Road if approved. First Selectman Rea confirmed the wires were put down for the traffic study, by a subcontractor and felt the installation of a road monument was general practice but will confirm with Bascom & Benjamin. Selectman Chadd stated it is budgeted in the IT budget and the contracted up-front cost for the phones is \$13,139.00.

Rick Parmelee: agreed Whites Farm should not be closed off and suggested setting hours, spoke about important information received from the Historic District Commission regarding a walking tour of Main Street, would like to see more information on the town website including all contact emails, felt the town should not have awarded the Bear Rock Road bid based on only receiving one bid, Seward Road should have a town road sign. Selectman Chadd responded that contact information for staff or chairmen can be located on each individual page on the website.

20. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.,

Respectfully submitted,

Jaclyn Lehet

Meeting with Brendan Rea, at Durham Town Hall, on August 22, 2025, at 10:30 to 11:00 AM.

Subject: Proposed Closure of East West Access Road at Whites Farm Open Area

Attendees:

Brendan Rea	Stevan Akerley	David Kehoss
Jane Greebel	Sue White	

Outline of Subjects Covered:

Primary purpose of meeting to Discuss the Proposed Closure of the East West Access Road at Whites Farm Open Area

Brief Historical Review of Whites Farm Area

110 acres procured by grants; Federal (\$16,500), State (\$19,250), Town (\$19,250).

To be used for Public Recreation "Open Space Land".

"... to be easily and readily accessible for public access".

Who's Using the Road for access to the "Open Area".

Hunters, Walkers, Out of Town Visitors, Model Airplane Clubs, CATO Rocket Club,
Bird Watchers, and many others.

The road has been primary access to the center of the Whites Farm Open Area for decades.

Model airplane enthusiasts have been using the field since 1966 (Flying Aces Pinkham Field)

Gating of the road would eliminate free access to all visitors, and access by combination lock on a gate would require more than a hundred people to have the combination. Not practical or secure. In addition this would violate ***"easily and readily accessible for public access"***.

Review and Discussion of the ***"Plan of Conservation and Development, Town of Durham"***. Specifically;

7.11. Municipal Recreational Land

7.11.1. The White Farm The town purchased the 110-acre White Farm in 1965. This parcel augments the existing state-owned wetland area of Durham Meadows, and provides the town with an extremely valuable recreational site. ***The site is used for model airplane flying, dog obedience events, hunting, fishing and several other uses. The steep slope off of Maple Avenue is used for novice hang-gliding, tobogganing and sledding. A portion of this parcel is used for temporary parking during fair events***

The "Deed Agreement" set forth in Durham land records Book 71 Page 387 which requires the property be used as defined in Conn. General Statute 7-131d. Such Deed Agreement shall require the property be made available to the general public for appropriate recreational purposes the maintenance of which recreational access shall be the responsibility of the Grantee.

Review and Discussion of the DEEP Grant activities for Open Spaces and Green ways. One of the towns planning and zoning employees is familiar with the states grant process for open spaces and should be consulted .

Vandalism and damage to the natural environment by off road vehicles, is a recognized problem. It was noted that the Conservation Commission is choosing to take an expensive, inconvenient, restrictive, and ineffective approach to limiting vandalism of the fields by off road vehicles. The Commission is

considering fencing or using telephone poles to line the edges of the fields and gate the access road, thus restricting access by the citizens.

A less expensive solution would be to use trail Cams to monitor the wild life, which would also serve to document vandalism. All the Commission would need to do is to monitor the trail cam videos and confront the perpetrators. It is recognized that the town has failed in the past, for various reasons, to confront the perpetrators, even when license plates were known. It is time to do the right thing, even if it is difficult, to protect the open spaces, instead of restricting legitimate use of these open spaces by the tax paying citizens.

The Suggestion to use access off of Route 68 was discussed briefly, but found to be unsatisfactory, for the following reasons;

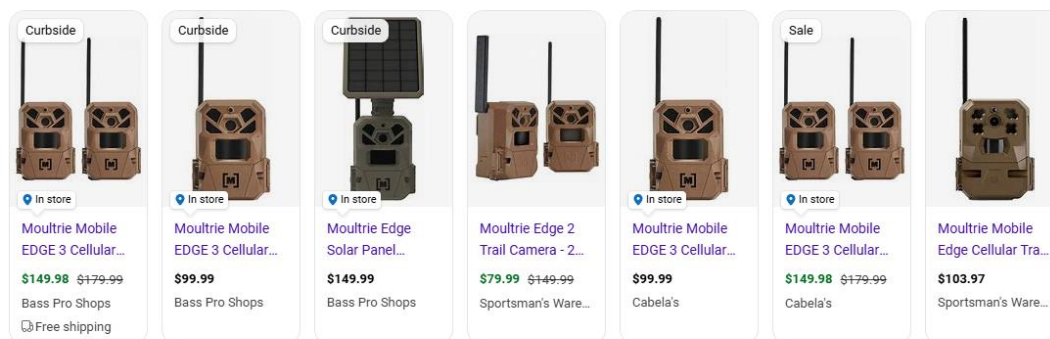
1. The area is all overgrown with brush.
2. It is a wetlands area and would be more difficult to maintain than the current access road.
3. The road would be longer than the current access road, and would disturb more land area.
4. It is gated and would limit citizens access for the same reasons gating the current access road would be undesirable.
5. The access to the gate would be dangerous as it would cause cars to stop on a busy high traffic route prior to turning onto the approach. This could pose a high risk for high speed traffic accidents.

Reference Information:

1. Moultrie Edge Trail Cams

<https://www.moultrie.com/>

See Moultrie Edge Trail Camera >



Cabela's
<https://www.cabelas.com>

Moultrie at Cabela's® | Cabela's® Moultrie

2. <https://www.basspro.com/l/moultrie-shop>
3. **Multiple States are now using cameras** to apprehend speeders, red light runners, and for tolls.
4. **DEEP OSWA Grant Application, pages 3-4, Public Access Compliance.....**
5. **Whites Farm in 1974 photo** - The picture below is White's Farm in the background. This is what the property looked like and this is what the Town fathers promised to maintain it as.



I grew up in Middlefield/Durham



Jim Rossi · Feb 16 ·

Main Street, 1974. Merrium Manufacturing at the bottom.



Future Discussion Topics

1. **Harvesting Hay** off of the fields has not worked well For several reasons;
 - a. First harvest date allowed by the Conservation Commission is too late for good hay.
 - b. Fields are badly rutted and cause problems for the harvest equipment.
 - c. Some of the Fields have been allowed to go wild and are no longer viable for hay.
 - d. The fields need to be brush hogged and allowed to revert back to "Emergent Grasslands" suitable for haying and recreational use.
2. **Trash Barrels** should be positioned in the appropriate locations so that trash can be properly collected several times per week. Presently responsible citizens are having to cart out other peoples trash, which is not only inconvenient, but also UNSANITARY ! The Covid Pandemic was used as the excuse to remove the barrels, but the pandemic is long over, lets get on with regular sanitary practices.

Pam Hogarth <phogarth@comcast.net>
To: You SWA

Thu 8/21/2025, 9:42 AM

no response as yet

----- Original Message -----

From: Pam Hogarth <phogarth@comcast.net>
To: "paugur@townofdurhamct.org" <paugur@townofdurhamct.org>,
"brea@townofdurhamct.org" <brea@townofdurhamct.org>,
"thennick@townofdurhamct.org" <thennick@townofdurhamct.org>,
"rchadd@townofdurhamct.org" <rchadd@townofdurhamct.org>
Cc: wendy Civitillo <wbcivitillo@gmail.com>, Jane Greebel <janemarla55@att.net>,
"jfhogarth@comcast.net" <jfhogarth@comcast.net>, Leslie Bullion
<lesliebullion@gmail.com>
Date: 08/17/2025 12:28 PM EDT
Subject: Whites Farm maintenance

Dear Phil and Selectmen,

With the dry weather I was able to walk the perimeter of Whites Farm this morning having not done so for months. I was alarmed that the giant ragweed, purple loosestrife, other large weeds and many sapling trees are rapidly taking over the large west field. It has gotten much more overgrown since last year and shows no sign of slowing. Please move developing and implementing a plan for reclaiming and then maintaining the meadows to the top of the Conservation Commission's priority list. Addressing the vandalism that plagues Whites is important, but not more important than taking care of the land itself.

Whites Farm is loved and used on a daily basis by many community members. It needs a plan that embraces its multiple year-round uses, from playing in the stream in summer, hunting in the fall, and snowshoeing in the winter to birders, model airplane enthusiasts, rocketeers and walkers in all seasons. Please ensure that this town treasure continues to be a viable space for the bobolinks and all the people who value it.

Sincerely,
Pam Hogarth