

Received 3/12/26  
4:01 PM Jodi Moore, ATC

## **Durham Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2026**

- 1) Chair Augur called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Members present: Augur, Paskiewicz, Cordes, DeVito, Lawlor, LaFlamme, Miller, Meigs.
- 2) Approval of agenda: LaFlamme moved, Lawlor seconded. All ayes.
- 3) Public comment: no public comment.
- 4) New Business
  - a) White's Use request – Glastonbury Modelers, Paul Stott:  
Seeking permission for White's Farm, they moved June event to May to account for Bobolinks. Won't appear again till August 9th. Meigs asks where they will be launching: Stott says it depends on the wind. Meigs asked them to be extra careful because the May date is around when the bobolinks are returning to the area. Motion to approve as presented by Lawlor, DeVito seconded. Motion carried with all ayes, save Meigs who abstained.
  - b) White's Use request – CATO, Brad Oestreicher:  
Oestreicher is asking for use for Whites Farm with dates adjusted for the fields wild life (no dates in May, June, and July). LaFlamme asks where they launch from: Oestreicher says it's wind dependent but generally on South side of the East-West road. Meigs states she has limited concerns for one rain date because of the bobolinks and areas to avoid for a kestrel nesting box. Meigs will mark an aerial view with the location of the kestrel box which Augur will circulate to applicants for awareness. Motion to approve as presented by Lawlor, Miller seconded. Motion carried, with Cordes and Meigs voting nay.
  - c) White's Use request – 4H Fair, Holly Andrews:  
Tabled till April.
  - d) Spring Turkey Hunting Lottery:  
The lottery was administered and the results are attached as an appendix, which will be posted on the website. Augur commented on the two abandoned tree stands he'd emailed the commission about, noting one had include an item penetrating bark, which was not technically against the rules as previously written, but they will be rewritten to preclude all bark penetration. Augur the First Selectman to ask the town attorney about a possible fine for having flouted the rule about stand removal, and the attorney said that as the hunters agree the terms of the lottery when they participate that would be fine. Augur floated a fine of \$50 to make a point, after which it's paid the stand could be retrieved by the

owner. Miller suggested notice of the fine be added to the terms and conditions moving forward.

e) DEEP program:

Augur had sent a note to everyone when he heard of a grant opportunity that he could not work on. Dudko and Cordes worked on it. Cordes explained there's a forest resiliency fund that's been created with decent funding, which will reward grants to municipalities for forest resiliency projects. Cordes submitted an application using the Curtis Woodlands Forest Management Plan as the backbone. Heard back from Dave Irvin who Cordes will meet with on site. In person he will also seek clarification as to whether only one site or multiple can receive grant money. Cordes did note that invasives treatment alone would not qualify, but invasives treatment in coordination with a forestry activity should.

5) Communications:

Nathaniel Gosselin had reached out to Phil offering forestry services as he was also aware of the money and wanted to help out Durham as a past member of the Commission. He put in some information regarding the Howd Road and Pisgah properties on our behalf.

Lelin Tsai, a Greenwich, Conn. student, emailed on a Friday asking for permission for a club to launch rockets the next day. Augur was not able to respond until days later and made it clear there's an application process which is to be submitted well in advance.

Augur touched base with the parents involved in the Otte Meadow rehabilitee work to keep it front of mind as the weather begins to turn.

6) Old Business:

Twice annual joint Boards and Commissions meeting coming up. Augur is unavailable and asks if anyone else is interested. LaFlamme says he will be present for ZBA anyway and will represent Conservation.

Augur approached Joe Greenbacker regarding the mowing the Commission voted to approve at White Farm. Joe and his brother agreed they will work at the same hourly rate as the prior project, understand what the Commission is looking for, and will reach out if there are any items that arise requiring a judgement call.

Goats: Augur sent the Farm the three parcels discussed at the last meeting, and has some high-level pricing information, but a couple variables are too wide so he has sought additional specificity before feeling it's ready to circulate.

Regarding the tree cutting Meigs had previously asked about Augur reached out to a member of the Fire Dept, with no response, so more recently he asked another who provided the the Chief and Secretary's info – hopefully a response will come soon.

7) Payment of bills – Sue White mowing summer 20025: Motion to pay her \$1,200 by Lawlor, DeVito seconded. All ayes

8) Feb. 10, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes garnered no corrections nor comments and thus are approved as presented.

9) Lawlor moved for adjournment, Cordes seconded. All ayes at 7:31

## Appendix

<b>Town of Durham Conservation Commission</b>				
<b>Lottery for Permission to Hunt Town-Owned Parcels</b>				
<b>Spring Season 2026 -- Turkey Only -- 8 Slots Across 4 Parcels</b>				
<b>March 12, 2024</b>				
	<b>M2</b>	<b>M3</b>	<b>M4</b>	<b>M5</b>
	<b>Curtis Woodlands Dunn Hill Road (c. 139 acres)</b>	<b>Pent Road (c. 200 acres)</b>	<b>Otte Meadow Saw Mill Road (c. 104 acres)</b>	<b>Howd Road (c. 158 acres) ARCHERY ONLY</b>
<b>Archery or Shotgun</b>	A - Allen Rice	A - Michael Szilvasy & Paul McCarthy	A - Christian Gonzales & Owen Gonzales	A - David Heath
<b>Turkey Only</b>	A - John Amendola (solo)			B - Ted Berry (solo)