

Received 6/10/26  
8:57 AM Jodi Moore, ATC

## **Town of Durham Conservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes**

Jun. 9, 2026

- 1) Augur called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Members present: Augur, Cordes, Dudko, LaFlamme, Lawlor, Meigs (until ~ 7:25), Miller, Paskiewicz.
- 2) Lucy moved approval of the agenda with PoCD moved to first item of Old Business, Dudko seconded, unanimous.
- 3) Public comment: Steven Akerley noted the airfield at White Farm had been there 38 years and that the new location the Commission has put forth is not viable for a number of reasons. He noted the movement of the airfield was a unilateral decision of the Commission.

Jane Greebel shared that she supports Akerley and the airfield, and then went on to list four grievances regarding White Farm:

- i) the old sign at the entry way has not yet been replaced
- ii) the fencing over the swale has been damaged and not repaired
- iii) she dislikes the pile of telephones which she believes is "toxic"
- iv) she requests garbage cans on site and notes that since town personnel already empty the dog waste receptacle it would be no additional work.

Greebel also commented that she appreciates the town crew took care of the roadway at White Farm.

- 4) New Business: none
- 5) Communications: none
- 6) Old Business
  - a) PoCD

Meigs had Cordes bring in a large physical map with various colored parcels, including Town owned open space, state owned accessible land, Farm trusts, Land trusts, etc. Augur noted the town's GIS software can have layers modified

or added, as he has suggested and it was implemented an "open space" layer that excluded the smaller subdivision conservation easements. So it was agreed at the next meeting that the Commission have a computer with the GIS layer up so that it may provide a suggestion of a new "Accessible Open Space" layer that includes in a single view space that the public can access (including state land, town owned, etc.). Augur will give the Town Planner a heads up the Commission will be working on that.

Meigs also noted the Commission had said it would work on descriptions of the parcels for the PoCD. LaFlamme noted the ERTs from years back could be a good starting point for those. The ERTs will be scanned and circulated and the Commission will work on these next meeting.

#### b) Charter Revision

The Charter Revision Committee had asked input from all boards and commissions, including Conservation. They have circulated their proposed draft and will have a hearing on Wed., June 10. The Commission agreed that a statement by Conservation should be read at that hearing, noting that heretofore Durham has benefitted from having people in town committed to the open space, and that if new people were interested there exists mechanisms for them to come forward to seek appointment, and that it is unclear if a Town Administrator is likely to be best for the open space.

#### c) Priorities

Augur noted that this is under Old Business as the Commission has discussed its Mission or "vision statement" before, but that as the makeup of the Commission changes over time it is good to revisit.

Paskiewicz shared that he believes the driving force is:

- i) Maintaining the health of the land
- ii) Protecting the flora and fauna
- iii) Determining appropriate public access thereto, mindful of i and ii.

Beyond the Mission, the Commission agreed it would be good to work on specific priorities for each parcel. In keeping with the RFP topic later on the agenda, the Commission will meet, weather-permitting, on site at Curtis Woodlands next month to discuss specific priorities for that parcel.

d) Budget

Dudko had suggested reiterating to the Board of Finance funding the Open Space Acquisition account as it is the type of activity that is beneficial to grant applications, which he has been reviewing. Cordes asked if we know if a developer pays the fee in lieu of a conservation easement if that money goes to that account. As the answer was not know, Augur will reach out to the Town Planner and Finance Director and ask.

The mowing at White Farm the Commission approved in Dec. came up, as the Fiscal Year is drawing to a close. Augur shared he had followed up with the Greenbackers noting any headway that could be made this month and billed in this FY would be greatly appreciated.

e) State RFP

Cordes notes that the state is targeting June 15<sup>th</sup> as the opening of the RFP process for woodland work, which has a large matrix of eligible activities, many of which overlap with the Curtis FMP, but things like invasive treatment are only eligible if ancillary to primary forestry work. Augur asked when the due date is, and whether the Commission would have time to meet at the regular date in July to discuss this or if it will require a Special Meeting. Cordes will look into the due date and then a decision can be reached on timing of the discussion. Miller noted that working on these things with towns can be exceedingly challenging.

f) Hunting Review

Augur noted he had circulated draft Terms & Conditions, and shared the turkey hunter surveys received thus far, which report no turkey bagged. Consensus

was the draft T&C were good. The hunting lottery applications will open this week and the drawing will be held at the July meeting.

g) Invasives Management

Cordes pursued additional information on chemical treatment of Japanese knotweed as discussed last meeting. All Habitat provided a plan which was very similar in approach, timing and chemical composition to what the Commission had procured from a prior vendor. All vendors note knotweed is a tough plant that requires a multi-year follow up to eradicate. Augur noted All Habitat was a bigger organization than the prior vendor and thus more likely to remain available to push through the iterations which are necessary. Commission agreed to have a look at the Curtis Woodlands property to see if it has enough knotweed to be a good proving ground, which then may also be useful in the RFP application as a demonstrated commitment to improving the parcel. To be discussed on site in July.

- 7) No feedback was provided to the minutes of the Apr. 14, 2026 Meeting so they are approved as presented.
- 8) Adjournment was motioned by Lawlor at 8 PM, seconded by Cordes, all ayes.