

Received 9/14/26
11:36 AM Jodi Moore, ATC

Town of Durham Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting

Sept. 8, 2026; 6:00 pm

Frederick White Farm, near Memorial Tree Grove

- 1) Call to order / roll call – Meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Bill LaFlamme at 6:00pm / Members present: Ken Divito, Bill LaFlamme, Mark Lawlor, Lucy Meigs, Glenn Paskiewicz.
- 2) Approval of agenda – Lucy Meigs made a motion to amend item 4) Old Business, sub item e) to read - Plan to Protect, Restore and Steward Frederick White Farm Open Space. Second by Mark Lawlor, all Aye.
- 3) Public comment – Public comment and/or letters were given by many members of the public in attendance, residents and non-residents included. The consensus was appreciation and support for the work the Commission does on all the Town of Durham Open Space properties. There was concern and support for delayed mowing on White Farm, protecting not only the Bobolinks but also other species of birds, wildlife and the flora they need to survive. Requests to develop a complete conservation plan and enact binding protections. Discussion of the diverse uses and activities on the White Farm property. The Commission thanked everyone that came out or wrote letters for taking the time to voice their concerns, suggestions and provide information.
- 4) Old Business
 - a) PoCD: Public Hearing Nov. 4th – Chairman Augur was not in attendance but wanted the Commission to be aware of the Nov 4th Public Hearing date on the PoCD. Also to advise that P&Z has moved the process along and has collaborated with other town entities including the Conservation Commission. Our input can be seen on pages 40 through 46. Anyone that

wants to provide feedback or information can do so at the aforementioned Public Hearing on Non 4th.

- b) Curtis Woodlands Forest Improvement Project: grant application submitted Aug. 31st - Chairman Augur shared the draft with the First Selectman, Town Planner, and Finance Director prior to submitting, there were no changes and the application was submitted as per the draft he had circulated.
- c) CLCC membership (tabled from July mtg.) – Lucy Meigs made a motion to join the Connecticut Land Conservation Council and pay the Municipal Commissions/Affiliates dues of \$100.00. Second by Ken Divito. All Aye.
- d) Charter Revision – Acting Chairman LaFlamme made the Commission aware that the BOS voted to advance several charter revision questions for the November 2026 ballot while removing the proposed town administrator position. Also that neither the Charter Revision Commission, or the BOS formally addressed the question of why the proposed charter revision changes the appointment of Conservation Commission members by the BOS to appointment strictly by the First Selectman. The request at Public Hearing of the BOS on charter revision and in an in person meeting with the First Selectman to remove the following new language from the proposed charter revision “The Conservation Commission shall possess only those powers and duties granted by the General Statutes and shall serve in an advisory and statutory capacity only. Except as otherwise provided by the General Statutes, the Conservation Commission shall not possess independent authority over Town-owned property, capital projects, expenditures, contracts or Town assets.” Was never addressed by the Charter Revision Committee, or to them by the First Selectman or BOS in any of their minutes. And no answer was ever received from any of the above. Also the Charter Revision Committee never once asked to meet with the Conservation Commission throughout the charter revision process.

- e) Plan to Protect, Restore, and Steward Frederick White Farm Open Space – Chairman Augur provided written feedback that after personally visiting the parcel in mid-July regarding the mowing north of the laneway, believed there was circumstantial evidence to support the idea of no impact on bobolink activity in that area since the area was substantially overgrown and past the type of habitat they favor. He believes the path the Commission is pursuing balances a number of stakeholders differing needs and the completion of the fencing south of the laneway to block off vehicular trespass, repair of ruts, restoration of annual haying on or after July 15th continues to be the right course of action.
- f) Pisgah beaver activity update – Lucy Meigs advised the beavers are very active on the north side of the old flooded section of Creampot Rd, in the Creampot Valley. If the activity continues it may eventually affect the current rerouted trail.

5) New Business - None

6) Communications – None.

7) Approval of minutes: Since there were no changes, additions or omissions to minutes, the minutes were deemed approved as written by Acting Chair LaFlamme.

- a) July 14, 2026 Regular Meeting

- b) July 29, 2026 Special Meeting

8) Adjourn – motion to adjourn made by Mark Lawlor, second by Lucy, all Aye.
Meeting adjourned at 6:5pm.

Respectfully submitted

William LaFlamme

Secretary