Received 11/12/2026
9:55 AM Jodi Moore, ATC

Town of Durham Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Nov. 10, 2026

1) Chair Augur called the meeting to order at 7. Members present: Augur, Cordes, DeVito, Dudko, LaFlamme, Lawlor, Miller, Meigs, Paskiewicz.
2) LaFlamme moved agenda as presented, Lawlor seconded. All ayes.
3) No members of the public present, thus no public comment.
4) Old Business
   a) Curtis Woodlands Forest Improvement Grant – Augur reiterated what he'd emailed members about, that subsequent to the Spec. Mtg. he'd found DEEP had sent a second email, about a half hour after the original which had forwarded, which clarified Durham's application had no ineligible elements. Augur also reported he'd spoken with Eric Hansen of Ferrucci & Walicki who will be provided a quote for the technical services, as recommended by DEEP and discussed at the special meeting. That will be part of the revised budget which needs to be sent to DEEP by Friday the 13th.
   b) White Farm Sub-committee – The motion from the Sept. meeting to form a sub-committee to focus on the protection of the Frederick White Farm was discussed. While sub-committees have been used effectively in the past for small tasks, such as reviewing and modifying draft leases, their work product returns to the full commission for action. In the case of White Farm the consensus was the commission as a whole should continue to oversee the parcel. There was a discussion and debate around elements of the approach over the years and in the more recent path. There was discussion and debate around various uses of the parcel and how they could best be accommodated, if they should be accommodated. There was discussion and debate over the proposed barriers intended to limit to vehicular trespass and

damage, with modified concepts floated, which will be reviewed in greater detail at the next meeting when more concrete facts and figures can be brought to the table.

c) Pisgah – Meigs reported a 2nd grade field trip was brought out to observe the significant beaver activity, which has fully flooded an area that in the past had had more limited water and had been almost an attractive nuisance as motor vehicles would occasional go "mud bogging" there—that is no longer a concern given the beaver activity.

5) New Business
   a) 2027 Meeting Dates – Lawlor moved adoption of the 2027 meeting dates as presented, being 2nd Tue of each month except Aug., 7 PM at the Town Hall 2nd floor meeting room; Cordes seconded. All ayes.
6) Payment of Bills: Sue White Mowing – Lawlor moved payment of Sue White's mowing bills, for 13 total mowings in a one year period, 7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026; DeVito seconded. All ayes.
7) Communications – Augur reported the following communications received:
   a) Russ Hammond of the Bimbler's Bluff sent a thank you note to the Commission and included a $200 donation to the Friends of account.
   b) Dave Bellemare of David Road sent an email reporting the portions of the field leased to Deerfield that have not been mowed for several years are being to see woody vegetation. Miller suggested reaching out to the tenant about bush hogging areas not being mowed for hay regularly.
   c) David and Taylor Goduti had sent an email enquiring about the Otte Meadow field on Rt. 17, explaining they were aware of a parcel in Middletown where flowers are grown. Augur explained to them that field is under contract.
   d) Michael Iaquinto reached out about volunteering to help on town open space. Augur will refer him to Dudko who's lead volunteer work parties over the past several years.

e) Honor Lawlor of the Trust for Public Land wrote to the First Selectman and the Chair of Conservation explaining they'd secured another grant and thus are closer to the agreed purchase prices on the two "Forline properties" and revising her request of Durham to $95,000. Augur noted this is in the Board of Selectmen's purview and there's nothing more for Conservation to do.
f) A hunter who has been part of the lottery for the past few years reached out saying he noted in Conservation's minutes a discussion of beavers at Pisgah and offered to trap. Augur explained those beaver are not a concern and will not be trapped, but that if any nuisance beaver activity comes up, such as that of the past where homes on James Road were imperiled, he and others who have trapped will be contacted.
g) An abutter on Howd Road had contacted the First Selectman, Tree Warden, and Chair of Conservation with a concern about a tree on Town land. Miller and Augur met with him, Miller noted the disease the abutter's arborist had flagged, and it was agreed the tree will be felled under the auspices of the Tree Warden.

8) Approval of minutes:
   a) Sept. 9, 2026 Regular Meeting – Meigs had shared some feedback on these minutes with LaFlamme, and there were some issues with some emails possibly not going through, so these were tabled til next meeting.
   b) Nov. 3, 2026 Special Meeting minutes garnered no corrections nor comments and thus are approved as presented.
9) Cordes moved for adjournment, Lawlor seconded. All ayes at 8:08.