

LAND STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE
Town Hall Chambers – 8 Newmarket Road
Meeting Minutes for July 10, 2024

Members Attending: Gale Carey, John Carroll, Neil Slepian, Myrta Janosz, and Marty Gorham.

Absent: Ted Howard, Darrell Ford, Ann Welsh, Larry Brickner-Wood, and John Nachilly.

Also attending: Sara Callaghan, and Todd Selig

1. The Meeting was called to order at 8:31am by Gale Carey.
2. The meeting agenda was approved.
3. The minutes for the June 12, 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved.
4. Town withdrawal from Bee City.

Because the annual application process for Bee City membership has become too onerous, requiring much more effort than in the past and with no volunteers to take on the effort, the town will not renew the membership going forward. The town will continue with thoughtful initiatives that protect and support pollinator environments.

5. Longmarsh Preserve Bridges

Sara informed the subcommittee that a grant application to the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership was approved. The funds will help repair/resurface the Longmarsh Preserve's 100-foot and 300-foot bog bridges, and to replace a yellow trail wetland crossing.

6. Land Stewardship Coordinator Sara Callaghan Updates.

Sara met with Doe family heirs, visiting all the way from California, at the Doe Farm family cemetery.

Sara worked to brush out trail at the Stolworthy Wildlife Sanctuary.

Sara observed a washed out stone culvert along Old Bagdad Road Stolworthy access trail. This damage was brought to the attention of public works.

Sara is working with the conservation commission to create a subcommittee to provide education events based on land stewardship and natural resources, and to increase public engagement.

Sara is planning to contact Enock Glidden regarding an assessment of some Durham properties for wheelchair accessibility.

7. Myrta Janosz provided a summary of Durham Day - Discover Durham Trails event. The event was well attended, the display table was well received, and there was significant interest in the trail maps.

8. Reports from Committees

The Conservation Commission is working to complete a zoning amendment to the Wetland and Shoreland Overlay District.

The Agricultural Commission is planning for the 10th Annual Farm Day to be held on Saturday, August 17, 2024.

The Town of Durham is preparing a 5-year Climate Action Plan (CAP) with the help of UNH Sustainability Fellow, Sophie Goodwin. This plan will be an update to the CAP that was approved by the Town Council in 2022.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday, August, 14, 2024 at 8:30 am in the Town Hall Chambers.