

## Minutes for January 19, 2011 Hanover Conservation Commission Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 5:03 on January 19, due to regular meeting January 12<sup>th</sup> having been snowed out.

**Present:** Ed Chamberlain (chair), Ray Hogue, Michael Mayor, Douglas McIlroy, Anne Morris, Ruth Bleyler (scribe), Vicki Smith (staff), Lindsay O'Reilly (consultant), Tim McNamara (applicant)

**Absent:** Judith Reeve, Athos Rassias (selectboard)

### 1. Current Business

- Continuation of discussion about Pond Maintenance at Hanover Country Club  
Lindsay O'Reilly of Gove Environmental Services (Tim McNamara arrived 5 min. late) presented responses to questions and concerns about the plan. Maintenance will dredge existing pond to original depth, no deeper. Aeration may be considered if duckweed is not controlled. O'Reilly and McNamara met with athletic dept., golf course management and Dept. of Public Works. Buffer area cannot realistically be 75' around pond; proposal is for 15'. Cattail/reed area within 15' buffer will be maintained and mowed once/year. Currently, an integrated fertilizer/pest management system is in place that will be continued. Appears to be no reason to believe water main pipe is not working, but will look at it during engineering phase to determine if video is needed. Bleyler said 15 ft seems to be a good compromise. All concerns have been addressed.  
**Motion:** McIlroy made motion to approve. Hogue seconded. Unanimous acceptance. Chamberlain signed the approval.

- Update on Wilson's Landing  
Darlene Forst, Shoreline Supervisor for NH Dept. of Environmental Services indicated that she would respond to letters of Jan. 4 letters from Morris and Chamberlain within 2 weeks, dating from Jan. 10. Chamberlain's letter was briefly discussed.

- CC Program (Memo from Jonathan Edwards to Julia Griffin, 12/29/2010)  
Issues for FY2012 Budgets: Discussion re: costs for maintenance of conservation lands and trails.

There is a new vendor for town website, Virtual Town Hall, used by Lebanon.

Chamberlain noted that there was no mention in memo of establishing a steady income stream for the Conservation Fund, as has been discussed with Julia. Morris suggested CC write to Griffin re: consistent funding.

ACTION: Anne and Vicki will write the draft.

Discussion re: off-street bicycle paths under capital improvements bullet item: have we ever formally talked about trail along south bank of Mink Brook with fragile strip of wetlands and habitat of specially high value (as identified by Rick Van De Pol's Natural

Inventory of the Area? Morris identified items that Commission is not happy about, including the proposed Mink Brook Path, or responsibility for playfields and parks. McIlroy would be in favor of running a path along sewer line, or Perhaps a path could be more upland, further south, further from Greensboro road. Chamberlain suggested that developers should be involved in the planning process. McIlroy suggested the Commission should make positive recommendations, but not in the "red zone" of high habitat value.

Does Commission need a liaison to the Council? Chamberlain is emeritus member of the board. Do we need a shared member now that Vicki and Adair currently work closely on issues? Commission meetings are always open to the public.

ACTION: Morris volunteered to work on the display for town meeting to help people distinguish between the Commission and the Council, attempting to allay the chronic state of confusion.

## 2. Resource Stewardship

- Girl Brook Update

Vicki prepared grant report for to NH Charitable Foundation. There is frustration over lack of interest in and support for natural stream bank restoration of the whole channel. Instead, 10 hot spots have been identified for repair by DPW and Dartmouth College with the goal of making sure the trail is accessible. The Town and College are working on a regular protocol for how to handle problems. Pine Park Association has little money for regular maintenance and would like to install a bridge, but can't site it until the nearby banks have been stabilized. Vicki will talk to Julia about a definite schedule for closing out project.

## 3. Administrative Business

- Time of Commission meetings

Chamberlain led discussion about timing and public presentation with emphasis on efficient, effective meetings. Bleyler suggested that written info should be provided and meeting should deal with brief intro and questions or clarification within limited time frame. Decision was made to keep current schedule for now.

- Michael Mayor is Feb. minutes taker
- Ray Hogue is March minutes taker

## 4. Committee Reports

- Open Space Committee

Morris reported that conserving land in Etna may be possible, but need to determine how to move forward.

Mulherrin Farm: Conservation Commission would be decision-maker and not town mtg. on easement issue. Vicki has provided file to Jonathan. Landowner requests remedy from Commission and needs to make request to Julia. Land swap to take some land out of the easement area to accommodate the house and a small portion of lawn in exchange

for unprotected land south of the easement area and north of the Emily Lane Wetlands Conservation Easement seems best way to resolve the issue.

- Trails Committee

McIlroy reported that the Select Board has accepted suggestion of a simplified process for routine trail maintenance on Class VI roads. Instead of a written application to Peter Kulbacki and notification of abutters along the entire road, a call to Kulbacki and immediate abutters who wish it will suffice. Julia Griffin will send a letter outlining the new process to abutters of all Class VI roads.

The trail committee would like to install a puncheon at a wet spot in a trail at the Tanzi Tract. McIlroy asked whether the Commission needed to approve such an improvement. Chamberlain said no, this kind of decision is left to the judgment of the committee. McIlroy also asked for information about the location of the property boundary in order to tell whether a nearby downed tree could be used for the puncheon. No easy answer was at hand.

Members of the mountain bike community have checked out John Morton's proposed bike-trail layout in the Goodwin Tract. They prefer single-track to the wider treadway Morton suggested. They also propose modifying the route so as to avoid multiple crossings of a scenic brook. Alcott Smith has agreed to assess potential ecological impacts of the layout, after the snow is gone.

- Biodiversity Committee

Bleyler reported in Reeve's absence, that mtg. will be held on Jan. 25 with Bleyler attending.

**5. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of December 16, 2010

**Motion to approve:** McIlroy made motion; Morris seconded. Unanimously approved.

**6. Other Business**

Ledyard Bank has donated money for seedlings. Vicki will check on using money for shrubs to replace barberry around the Town Office instead of using for seedlings.

Chamberlain reported being invited to Trescott Board and to join task force chaired by Peter Christie. Chamberlain is representing Commission. Management plan for forest has been proposed.

**7. Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned unanimously at 6:43 pm.

**Next meeting: February 9, 2011 5:00pm, Board Room, Town Hall (Mayor as minutes taker)**