

**Hanover Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, July 13, 2011  
Meeting commences at 5:05pm**

**Members present:** Ruth Bleyer, Ed Chamberlain, Ray Hogue (reporting), Anne Morris, Judy Reeve, John Trummell; **also,** Nick Fiore, P.E. of Engineering Ventures, Project Manager for Friends of Hanover Crew; Bruce Williamson, applicant regarding point #2 below.

**1. Closing on Phase 1 of Storrs Farm:** Ed Chamberlain indicated that the closing on the first phase of the conservation project regarding Storrs Farm occurred July 12, 2010. Fundraising for Phase Two has already commenced.

**2. DES Shoreland Permit Application for Project Proposed by Friends of Hanover Crew (FOHC):** Ed Chamberlain said that due to the late notice regarding the FOHC's DES Shoreland Permit Application (it was received by DES June 21, 2011, by the Town of Hanover June 22, 2011 and the Conservation Commission (CC) July 1, 2011, the Conservation Commission held a special meeting last Wednesday, July 6, 2011 to go over it with the public. The deadline for responses is July 18, 2011. Ed indicated that the CC did not discuss the application over the last week. Ed drafted a letter to DES on behalf of the CC providing responses to DES by the CC. The letter was reviewed by the members of the CC and comments were made by the public. It was considered whether the application was complete since it did not include consideration for the canoe cages explicitly called for in the deed. Nick Fiore said that the cages were not included because Dartmouth has agreed to allow FOHC to store the canoes and any ancillary equipment and supplies in the barn – and therefore there will be no canoe cages or any other related structures on the property, other than those proposed in the DES Shoreland Permit Application. Alice Creagh (abutter) expressed concern that given FOHC's history of changing its plans regarding improvements and usage of the property at Fullington Farm, that the cages may later appear on the property and Nick Fiore reaffirmed his representation concerning the canoe cages to her and the CC. The CC edited Ed's letter to DES to include a suggestion to DES that based on the wording of the deed regarding the canoe cages that any approval of the FOHC application be conditional on no canoe cages and related structures on the property. Alice Creagh also asked why the proposed sheds could not be located approximately where the chicken coops are, since that would be in the Creagh's view-line of the barn and not in their view-line of the river as the proposed sheds are.

Ed reiterated one of the comments in the letter – that the DES should take note that the applicant will have to receive a special exception from the Town of Hanover for the placement of the boat sheds within the 75-foot water body buffer, and that approval from the Hanover ZBA for placing a significant structure entirely within a water body buffer -- when there are multiple suitable areas outside the buffer -- would be precedent setting

Judy Reeve moved to send the amended response to DES regarding the FOHC Shoreland Permit Application dated June 21, 2011, file #2011-01474. Anne Morris seconded; vote: unanimous.

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**Discussion and Recommendations to the ZBA Regarding the Wetlands Impacts Associated with Improvements Proposed at 33 Partridge Road:** Applicant Bruce Williamson (Peter Storrs is the owner of the lot) presented certain proposed site improvements for the lot, including a driveway. Mr. Williamson indicated that he would have liked to have spoken with the CC before finalizing the approach to accessing the property shown in his map, but that he was told by Town personnel that it was not appropriate. Ed said that an informal hearing to provide feedback on potential concepts would be a good idea in such an instance in the future.

Mr. Williamson indicated that the question regarding the current plans for the property, is whether the property should be accessed by the proposed driveway (that itself spurs off an existing private driveway serving multiple residences) through a wetland, which is the shortest path by far, or if it should be accessed further down the existing private driveway and then access the property by way of a longer driveway on the property that would be partially within a 25-foot to 75-foot wetlands buffer. This alternate driveway access was not included in the map shown but its path was indicated as part of his presentation. Ed suggested that Mr. Williamson show both driveway plans to the ZBA and let it decide.

Judy moved that the CC support an alternative driveway access that does not have any direct impact on a wetland, and that a construction sequence and a plan for temporary storage of the excavated material be produced. Second: Anne; vote: unanimous in support.

**3. Daryl Burtnet, State Director of NH Chapter of the Nature Conservancy Asking the CC for a Letter of Support to Brad Simpkins of the State of NH Division of Forest & Lands Regarding the Mascoma River Headwaters Project:** Mr. Burtnet, in place of Mark Zankel of the Nature Conservancy, presented on the Mascoma River Headwaters – which Mr. Burtnet indicated was at over 13,000 acres the largest unfragmented combination of forest parcels in NH south of the White Mountains. As part of a project update, it was indicated that a purchase and sale agreement regarding the majority of the land included in the project had been entered into with Mr. David Roby of Lyme, NH. Mr. Burtnet indicated that certain portions of the project would be opened to logging. Ed mentioned that clear cutting as a forest management technique has been shown in Hanover to be counter-productive due to the extent to which this can allow existing invasive plant species to be provided a more conducive growing environment in the cleared areas. Mr. Burtnet indicated that the project covers part of the Mascoma River Watershed as well as two parcels on the other side of a separating ridge, and that the area is the home to certain key fauna. Further, certain parcels have underlying geology that makes them particularly attractive for conservation.

Judy moved that a letter be sent by the CC in favor of the Nature Conservancy and its Mascoma River Headwaters Project to Brad Simpkins of NH Division of Forest & Lands. Ed seconded; vote: unanimous in support.

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**4. Hanover 250 Celebration Hike:** Doug was not in attendance, but Ed said that Doug's proposed hike was up Moose Mountain to visit historic Hanover sites.

**5. Resource Stewardship:** Discussion put off to next meeting.

**6. Open Space Committee:** Anne confirmed that the first phase of the Storrs Farm conservation project closed July 12, 2011 and that funding was already coming in for Phase 2.

**7. Biodiversity Committee:** Judy said that before and after pictures of the rain garden that Judy helped to install at the Black Community Center are available and that Barbara McIlroy is working on signage for the project.

**8. Minutes for 6/8/11 & 7/6/11 Meetings:** The minutes were reviewed and edits were made. Judy moved to accept the 6/8/11 minutes as amended. Ruth seconded; vote: unanimous in support.

Ruth moved to accept the 7/6/11 minutes as amended. Anne seconded; vote: unanimous in support.

Judy moved to adjourn the meeting. Anne seconded; vote: unanimous in support. Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm