

**Hanover Conservation Commission
Site Visit
Meeting Notes
September 12, 2011**

Present: Ed Chamberlain, Ray Hogue, Doug McIlroy, Ruth Bleyler, Judith Reeve, Michael Mayor, Alice and John Creagh, Caryl Collier, Nancy Carter, Nik Fiore, Cindy Balcius, Tracey Tarr

The site visit began at Wilson's Landing then proceeded east along the access road to the site of the proposed boat storage sheds.

Nik Fiore noted that slight drainage changes around the barn had been made. Otherwise, the plans were the same as those the Commission had seen in their review of the Shoreland Permit application. Commission members said that there was no evidence of flooding during the hurricane Irene storms, but the existing dock was resting on a mud flat. The Connecticut River had been drawn down in anticipation of the heavy rains. Nik said that the proposed dock would not be stranded like that during draw downs. That is why the dock sticks so far out into the River.

DES has issued both the Dredge and Fill and Shoreland permits. The back edge of the dock had been staked out. Two bollards are proposed to be installed at the edge of the grass to protect the dock from vehicles.

Doug McIlroy was interested in considering elimination of the existing dock and siting the proposed dock in the existing dock's current location. This would minimize the amount of shore line taken up with docks. There was discussion about the pros and cons of each dock for mobility impaired users. Nik said that the Town had directed him to consider two dock scenarios, so that was what is proposed.

The distance between the two docks will be 48-50' which is not a lot of maneuvering room. Most boats will want to approach the existing dock from the south so the boat will be pointed into the current. John Creagh thought he would have a hard time doing this maneuver in his pontoon boat when the current is strong. Commission members wondered why recessed cleats could not be part of the proposed dock so public users could tie their boats to the dock. The crew folks plan on using the supports on the land side of the dock to secure their boats.

Caryl Collier wondered how long it would take from the time the students lifted their boat on to their shoulders until the time they boarded the boat. Nancy Carter thought it would be 8 minutes from the shed to the boat. Caryl was interested in knowing how long the access road would have students moving boats. First 4 students per boat will move oars to the dock area. Then 8 students directed by a coxswain will move the boat to the dock. Three boats can launch at a time. Twelve boats will be launched each morning. Then the process is reversed as the boats return to the dock and shed.

The boat width is 8 feet from rigger to rigger. The access road width varies. Nancy felt that a car and boat being moved by students could easily be accommodated. No changes are proposed for the access road.

The Commission would like to know how much longer in terms of time and distance it would be to transport an eight if the eight were stored closer to the barn in the area of the existing outbuildings.

Site Visit Notes are not approved, but there were no changes suggested to this report.

This will assist them in their consideration of avoidance and minimization of the impacts to the wetland buffer.

Car arrivals at the barn will begin at 4:50 AM and groups will arrive every ten minutes until 5:30 AM. No signs are proposed at the end of the access road.

Dual meets will be held at Wilson's Landing. The Invitational meet will be held at the Chieftain. Parent parking for the Invitational is provided at the Richmond school. The Lebanon crew rows from the Chieftain.

Handicapped parking permits allow parking at Wilson's Landing. An emergency vehicle which also transports the gasoline for the chase boats will be parked at Wilson's Landing.

A pervious path is proposed from the barn through the storage sheds. Two or three sections of fence will need to be removed. There will be quite a bit of excavation around the barn and to accommodate the storage sheds. No woody vegetation will be removed from the western edge of the storage shed development area. Twelve eights will be stored in a shed stacked 4 high. Alice Creagh was supportive of moving the sheds out of the vista along the tree line. The area of the existing sheds would be better in her estimation for the new storage sheds. Commission members liked that idea also since the sheds would no longer be in the protective buffer. The sheds would screen the cars parked near the barn and much of the activity around the barn. They would be taller than the existing sheds. Alice Creagh did not want the vista along the tree line interrupted.

Site visit adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Vicki Smith