

**HANOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JANUARY MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2012**

Regular Meeting: In attendance: Athos Rassias, Michael Mayor (scribe), Ruth Bleyler, Shelly Gilbert, Doug McIlroy, Ed Chamberlain, Jim Kennedy, Alan Saucier, John Trummel, Jonathan Edwards (Staff), Vicki Smith (staff), Jessie Levine (Asst. Town Mgr.)

Current Business

1. Discussion about Conservation Visioning (Jonathan, 15 minutes)
2. Current Business
 - Discussion about new bridge in the Marshall Pressey Brook wetland area (Doug, 10 minutes): Site visit notes distributed.
 - Discussion about new stream crossing on the Bear Hill Conservancy property (Site visit Monday, Jan 9, 2012) (All, 20 minutes): Site Visit report was presented by Doug McIlroy. In the absence of bridge builders to represent the project possibilities, ideas were solicited re materials to be used for Tier 2 stream crossing rules. In the absence of an existing legal structure, the rules are clear (although the abutments and steel beams are adjacent to the trail and available for use.) DES needs to decide about the fit of bridge plan in re the stream rules. Need exists to work with local participants and then involve DES. Input from the snow-mobiling interests seems desirable as plans are pursued to finalize bridge design. Field work is done, and the CC awaits the needed additional information. The Commission is not supportive of a culvert in this location.
 - Discussion of Visioning and Training Ideas (Edwards 20 minutes): Jan. 11, 2012 memo of J. Edwards was distributed. (Also available as e-mail enclosure distributed earlier in the day.) The three part proposal was submitted to solicit responses from commission membership. Town support to further the project including seminar attendance and planning sessions less formal than those for the Board Room is being offered. The memo was reviewed for the Commission by Edwards covering the three parts included in the memo. Jim Kennedy was asked to input the trainings available, including his ILEAD short course and other locally available trainings. The course is planned for mid April to May this spring, as 4 – 5 sessions, PM Wednesday. There may be a possibility to create a second session outside of ILEAD. Extension service courses are also being developed including habitat management and natural resources studies. Cooperative Extension should be sending the CC membership schedules. Edwards suggested joint attendance by several members to allow critique sharing, etc. Alan Saucier requested the membership be accorded notification about courses and content. Edwards suggested a sufficient level of insight to allow CC members to evaluate the recommendations of experts recruited to report in support of CC decision-making. Natural resource inventories have been done and might be of great value to the CC membership in honing each member's ability to put reports and recommendations into

context. This level of understanding would support decisions to seek second opinions in appropriate circumstances. The membership was petitioned by Edwards to provide feed back related to the memo to further enhance the value of the initiative.

- Discussion to develop comments about proposed HB 1512 (Ed, 20 minutes): HB 1515 was not pursued.

Winter Lecture series (Vicki, 2 minutes): “ Reading the Forested Landscape” on 31 January at the Howe Library was promoted as an excellent family activity.

3. Resource Stewardship

- Conservation Easement monitoring report (Vicki, 5 minutes): Monitoring reports are in process. Moon Lane easement at the top of King Road was reviewed with input from the owner (next to Morton Farm) with satisfactory conclusions reached.
- Hunting ban at Hayes Farm Park (Vicki, 5 minutes): The Selectboard letter was cited with three possible scenarios reviewed, with selection of the most restrictive option. Citizens who have hunted there in the past are being asked to participate in an effort to establish a management plan. Deer control re planting damage remains challenging (see Trescott Corp. experience.)

4. Administrative Business

- Subcommittee membership update (Ed, 10 minutes): The e-mail from Chaimberlain is extant. Open Space, Trails are in good shape. Biodiversity needs another (Ruth volunteers with conditions); Jim Kennedy for Biodiversity and for Open Space and Trails was recruited. Meeting times may need some juggling to accommodate. Jessie Levine will advertise to recruit participants on Open Space and possibly others. It might be worth seeking participants who have easements or live abutting to conservation lands.
- Commission meeting time (Ed, 10 minutes): The membership was petitioned about the suitability of the current time scheduled. No objections were voiced, with the caveat that warnings might be issued to bring food if a long meeting is anticipated. Otherwise some meetings are occasionally continued to deal with unusual time demands.
 - Alan Saucier is the February minutes taker
 - John Trummel is the March minutes taker
 - Is the April minutes taker

5. Committee Reports

- Open Space Committee (Ed, 10 minutes): Met last week: Policy guidance reviewed with new members; Storrs fund-raising tabled till next meeting. Constraints acknowledged. Management plans are in need of development as a priority.
- Trails Committee (Doug, 10 minutes) Question for the CC: Tanzi tract steep bank contains a well established walking path that originates at two houses at the top with maintenance issues being pursued by private sources. How should the CC pursue public use of this now private path on town land? There is a similar issue at the Hayes preserve. The owners of the two houses above the steep might be receptive to overtures to allow more established public access. Boundary markers need to be

located and the owners interrogated about access. Policy development should evolve from the case cited.

Trail signs remain under discussion with the signs committee.

It is desirable to gain uniformity in signage without obtrusiveness. The Tracy Hall meeting 15 Feb may provide good precedents to follow. Enforcement issues do arise, and may be amenable to solution.

- Trescott Board (Ed, 5 minutes): Chamberlain reported on the last meeting advisory to the Trescott Board regarding control of invasives. Two foresters are involved in cost/benefit containment efforts. Mechanical remedies and chemical controls were reviewed. The ten year plan may involve considerable manual work. Chemical pollutants are not well managed by Hanover's current water treatment equipment. Setback from public water supplies may be as much as 400 feet. Attendance at future meetings is possible, should the agenda involve items appropriate to that involvement.
 - Biodiversity Committee (Alan, 10 minutes): Planning is actively being pursued, with emphasis on inter-community coordination with significant emphasis on community education including written perspectives in a monthly contribution to local organs of dissemination to guide families in avoidance of invasive introductions. Urgency is an identifiable factor. Recommendation made regarding the book "The Nature of New Hampshire."
6. Approval of minutes- December 14, 2011: Reviewed, with amendments, corrections and additions offered. Approved unanimously as amended with no abstentions.
 7. Other Business: Meeting noticed re adapting to NE changing climate, next Thursday in the VFW lodge, WRJ. Note was made of the Grasse Road arrangement to allow creation of two multi-purpose playing fields from last night's Planning Board meeting.
 8. Adjournment at 6:40 PM

NEXT MEETING: February 8, 2012 5PM, Board Room, Town Hall