

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
April 11, 2012
TOWN HALL, 41 SOUTH MAIN STREET

In Attendance:

Members: Ed Chamberlain (Chair), Doug McIlroy, Alan Saucier, Michael Mayor, Shelley Gilbert

Alternates: Jim Kennedy

Staff: Vicki Smith, Jonathan Edwards

Others: Adair Mulligan, Bill Baschnagel

1. CURRENT BUSINESS

Tanzi Trail Modification- Doug McIlroy reported the findings of John Taylor who suggested the Tanzi Loop be lengthened instead of shortened to go around the swale. Doug recommended adoption of this idea. The Conservation Commission endorses this.

Greensboro Ridge Natural Area new trail- Adair Mulligan of The Hanover Conservancy was present for the discussion of the construction of a new loop trail. The new proposal has been changed to accommodate previous concerns regarding natural habitat areas, wetlands and a boulder field. Doug McIlroy walked the new proposed loop and recommends approval. Adair reports that this will be a 'Stop & Look' trail as opposed to a running trail. The Commission found that the proposed trail was consistent with the terms of the conservation easement. A motion was made and seconded to approve this new trail as presented by The Conservancy.

Hayes Farm Park Workshop- A public meeting was happening this same evening at Trumbull Hall to present different options for the library expansion and Hayes Park to gain input from the community.

2. RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

Multi-town Hydric Soils Workshop- Jonathan Edwards announced that this workshop will be happening on May 11, 2012. He has sent invitations to many local NH conservation commissions to attend. Response has been low. It was recommended that he check to be sure Hartford, VT was invited.

Mt. Tug Conservation Easement- The easement that was granted to the Town on Mt. Tug was never specifically sited on the ground, but rather a description based upon elevation. Through a survey done by the Town it has been discovered that part of the existing house sits inside the easement area. The present owners, Rob & Carol Manegold, wish to find out exactly what can/cannot be done at their property within the specifications of the easement.

The Town attorney has recommended that they can build outside of the now defined easement area, but may not extend into the easement area. Vicki Smith reports that in the future no easements will be accepted by the Town that are not specifically defined on the ground.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- *Michael Mayor will be the minutes taker for the May meeting
- *Jim Kennedy will be the minutes taker for the June meeting

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Open Space- met with Adair Mulligan to discuss the new loop trail at the Greensboro Ridge Natural Area. Findings presented at this meeting.
Discussed Hayes Park & Library expansion project- discussion that existing wells should not be destroyed, both for reasons of water resource and as historic artifacts.
Discussed a trail connector from the recreation (ice rink) parking area to the library parking lot to keep pedestrian traffic off of the road. Due to wetlands issues this trail would have to merge with the upper existing trail.
Discussed a buffer between the library parking lot and the natural areas and location of an information kiosk that was at the entrance to the upper trail rather than at the parking lot.

*Trails Committee- see above regarding Tanzi Trail & Greensboro Ridge

*Biodiversity Committee-

A garlic mustard educational event will be held at the Richmond Middle School in conjunction with a garlic mustard pull at the school.

The Committee is working with the Valley News to run an educational series about invasive plants and how to remove them.

Removal of re-sprouting invasives will take place at the King Bird Sanctuary on April 22. Further work on invasive removal is planned.

Invasive removal at the Rinker Pond is planned.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the March 14, 2012 meeting pending several administrative corrections.

6. OTHER BUSINESS-

Bill Baschnagel attended the meeting to discuss the Dana property co-owned with the Robes Family. Bill was forceful in his opinion that the CC should be taking a more active roll in getting the Town to purchase the land. He was assured by the Chair that the CC is in support of this position, but that the decision is out of our hands and rests with the Selectboard and the Town Manager.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelley Gilbert