

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**September 12, 2012 at 5:00 PM**  
**TOWN HALL, 41 SOUTH MAIN STREET**

In attendance:

**Members:** Ruth Bleyler, Ed Chamberlain (Chair), Doug McIlroy, Athos Rassias (Selectmen's Representative)

**Alternates:** Jim Kennedy, John Trummel

**Staff:** Jonathan Edwards, Vicki Smith

**Others:** See Attendance Sheet

**1. CURRENT BUSINESS Ruddsboro Road Culvert**

- ◇ The culvert on Ruddsboro Road next to Chandler Rd needs work. A site visit was done by J. Kennedy and R. Bleyler. Work was not done in past with other culvert work as funds ran out and the prior permit has now expired. If the existing culvert is slip lined this may create a perched culvert which is not allowed by the State anymore. This is a tier 3 crossing (major crossing) which requires a span structure or an open-bottomed culvert (not a closed bottom culvert or pipe arch). The town can apply for an exemption for alternate designs but upstream and downstream conditions may need to be assessed. Don Ware (PE at DPW who joined the site visit) felt that approval may be straightforward as it had been permitted in past. However, new stream regulations recently approved by the state may come into play. The DPW has already submitted a permit application. NHDES would like any comments about this permit from the CC. E. Chamberlain would like J. Kennedy to discuss concerns raised by the new stream regulations. J. Kennedy has already spoken to Mr. Ware at the site visit and would prefer V. Smith to approach him about the project conforming to the current stream crossing regulations. She will ask him and if he doesn't know, will ask the consulting designers and let them know about the CC concerns that this application meet the new regulations. J. Kennedy made a motion that V. Smith investigate this and let the state know that we have taken this action. R. Bleyler seconded and approval was unanimous.

**2. RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP**

- ◇ A request by town resident Stephen Shadford (see letter to commission) asked the CC to consider management of trees and brush on town property (donated by Maude French) along Weatherby Rd which is impeding the view of Mink brook. A site visit to this area was done on Sept 10 by V. Smith and R. Bleyler. The request was presented by Mr. Shadford at this meeting which basically reiterated the points put forth in letter. E. Chamberlain stated that there is no budget for foliage removal in this area. Mr. Shadford has volunteered to remove some of the smaller shrubbery. There are larger trees (such as a prominent box elder) which would be difficult and somewhat hazardous to remove and it is unclear who would do this. V. Smith feels that this area is a long term problem which will require ongoing management. J. Kennedy suggested leaving sumac—just

cutting it back to help control the steep slope and erosion. It was noted that the box elder, if left, may interfere with utility lines so might best be managed by the electric company (Liberty). The Public Works Department may cut some of the brush closest to the road but that would be up to DPW. D. McIlroy expressed concern about the appearance from the trail by Mink Brook. E. Chamberlain would like to allow neighbors to remove some brush now but the CC should come up with long term mgmt plan. He made a motion to allow limited cutting now by Mr. Shadford and to form a committee of neighbors and someone from the CC to devise a long term mgmt. plan. V. Smith would like a plan from Mr. Shadford detailing the area he proposes for cutting (drawn on a survey map where the cutting will occur). She will also request DPW to cut brush at the top of the road if possible and to plan on yearly cutting at this site. She will discuss with Liberty to see if they will deal with the prominent box elder. The motion was seconded by J. Kennedy and unanimously approved.

- ◇ The 11 River Ridge Rd home improvement has compromised a tree on the border of their property and town property and the owners would like to remove it. William Desch has seen the tree and feels it is a hazard tree. The tree is quite large and has been cabled in the past by a previous owner. R. Bleyler motioned to allow the owners to remove the tree. J. Kennedy seconded. Unanimous approval.
- ◇ The view from Pleasant Street needs to be addressed as it is becoming overgrown. The CC now has \$1220 in a trust fund to pay for yearly maintenance. The CC could consider fund raising to increase trust fund. It was decided to put the work out to bid for a fixed price. V. Smith will put out request for bids.
- ◇ The recent planning board site visit to Pasture Rd and the communication tower was attended by E. Chamberlain and was shown the proposed improvements by the Robes brothers. The selectboard had a meeting about the Robes application on Monday, Sept 10. A. Rassias discussed the meeting which was designed to get public comment on the class VI road improvement. Questions arose about ability of the Robes to apply for this improvement as the town as a co-owner has not signed on to this application but this is likely a formality. Most of the public in attendance was opposed except for the applicant's agents. Also some people raised concerns about having site access permitted prior to an agreement on division of the land. The CC and/or the selectboard should assess the land and determine from a public standpoint what we would find most important from the conservation perspective to keep if land is subdivided. There is a long list of attributes (wetlands, wildlife, adjacent protected property, trails, etc.) which need to be considered. The town only has a 50 percent interest in property and therefore may not necessarily get everything it wants. It was noted that several of the abutters were quite upset with the development plan. E Chamberlain suggested that the Cory Rd improvement approval should be reviewed by the selectboard to see prior precedent on access of property by class VI roads. The town (selectboard) may need to weigh in on location of Pasture Rd as the location is unclear. A management plan is needed for this property as the CC is the steward of this property. A site assessment subcommittee of CC will be formed. The CC plans to try to survey the boundary and will initially start with E. Chamberlain, J. Kennedy and D. McIlroy who will report back at the next meeting. The CC will need to post any site visits or meeting times/dates.

- ◇ The conversion of class VI roads to trails which is allowed by state law was discussed. The trails committee discussed this on Tuesday, Sept 11 and identified a priority list for trail conversion as follows: Wolfeboro, Wardrobe, Cory and Etna Highlands. The state statute allows two types of conversion (class A and B) which allows abutting land owners different levels of vehicular access. Another option to control heavy vehicular use would be to place gates at the beginning of roads. The selectboard can also put limits on class VI roads (such as seasonal limits). The CC would like to get this on next town meeting warrant. This needs to be discussed with all abutters which may take some time. The trails committee will look into identifying abutters who would be affected by this before next meeting.

**3. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:** None

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Biodiversity Committee—did not meet.

Open Space Committee—the main topic was the Hayes property management.

Trails Committee—Primary discussion was about class VI road conversion (see above discussion). In addition, it was discovered that the trail from the Pine Point cemetery to the Connecticut river has been heavily cleared and widened (presumably by DPW). The UV mountain bike association has been working on the Goodwin tract MTB trail.

Trescott Board—Water company land will be open to all hunters this season.

- 5. MINUTES:** The minutes of May 21, June 13, June 20, July 11 and August 8, 2012 were approved.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

- ◇ A local citizen has requested a cleanup day at Mink Brook which would need a volunteer to organize it.
- ◇ Town of Hanover trail maps are being updated.

- 7. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Trummel, alternate commissioner