

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
October 10 at 5:05 PM
TOWN HALL, 41 SOUTH MAIN STREET

In attendance:

Members: Ruth Bleyler, Ed Chamberlain (Chair), Jim Kennedy, Doug McIlroy, John Trummel

Alternates: John Trummel

Staff: Vicki Smith

Others: See Attendance Sheet

1. CURRENT BUSINESS

Dartmouth proposed golf course improvements. Ruth Bleyler, Doug McIlroy, Ed Chamberlain and Vicki Smith met with Tim McNamara, Dartmouth and Russ Rohloff, Pathways Consulting at the site on Monday. (See site minutes for 10/8) A Standard Dredge and Fill Application for fairway grading at holes 1 and 2 has been prepared for the Wetlands Bureau, NH DES. A local wetlands application has also been submitted. The current drainage on the golf course has failed and the fairway near holes 1 and 2 needs grading. Golfers are also losing golf balls. The proposal is to build a retaining wall with fill on one side that will result in an initial decrease in the size of the remaining wetland. Because the water needs a place to go, the wetland will likely increase to encompass a new area. The project is under 10,000sq ft. and essentially is about grading. Currently there is no surface outlet and that would not change.

Ed raised a question about the outlet at the site visit, but it hasn't been looked at yet. A deep pipe from Occum Pond was crushed and none of that water is coming to the wetland. There was also a question about the construction sequence. The goal is to begin work in the late fall. Jim said material is pretty organic and perhaps soil from the excavated area could be placed in the remaining wetland to help continue its function. Asked if local mitigation was required, Vicki said it wasn't used much in Hanover. A suggestion was made not to mow the wet area regularly to allow plants to grow. The wetland would be considered a "lateral hazard" for golfers.

There was concern about the hydrology at the outfall and the State should be aware that there may be a problem with erosion around the outflow in the ravine leading to the Connecticut River. Jim wants a better explanation regarding hydrology. Discussion centered on just diverting the water against the new retaining wall and sending it back into wetland. There would be no underflow drain and no drainage to outflow. The project may need to be reassessed at some point to add an underdrain. A recommendation was made that the water be kept onsite and to allow the wetland to enlarge with enhancement to the existing organic soils and markers to delineate wetland with potential expansion as out-of-bounds.

Motion: Jim moved that:

The Commission supports the reconstruction project with the following comments:

- 1) The Commission recommends that the proposed footing drain behind the wall drain into the wetland and the remaining wetland be allowed to enlarge.
- 2) The Commission recommends that the remaining wetland be augmented with the organic soils removed from the fill area.
- 3) Lateral hazard markers should be used to mark the edge of the remaining wetland and the area into which it expands.
- 4) The area marked as lateral hazard should be mowed annually, if at all.

John seconded this motion and it was unanimously approved.

2. RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

Update on Pasture Road:

The Robes heirs have decided to petition the Probate Court for subdivision of the Dana Pasture property. Elisha Huggins has proposed a division of land and offered to provide a right of way over his property such that the beaver pond will remain intact and retain access to the Ridge Trail. There would also be a condition that the ski trails would be allowed continued use. Elisha was thanked for attempting a good faith solution for the subdivision.

A request for proposal (RFP) has gone out for conducting a resource assessment in time to go to Probate Court. The proposals will be considered by late October. It appears that there are some wetlands that may not have been accounted for in the subdivision request. A citizen group may be formed to provide comment to the Court.

Rinker Steele Eagle Scout Project – Davey Stocken

Davey Stocken reported on his project. Buckthorn and honeysuckle were pulled up and bigger trees were marked for later removal with a chainsaw. Herbicides will be applied to the stumps. The trail was re-blazed and a signpost was added at the intersection of the bike and pedestrian trails. Approximately 700 sq. feet was mitigated with 19 volunteers and 96 man-hours. Davey proposed a new project to remove honeysuckle and buckthorn trees on the slope adjacent to Rte. 10. Jim suggested that tall grass could then be planted on the slope and Jim will work with

Davey. The Town should remove the bigger plants using a chainsaw and herbicide. Vicki will prepare a permit in order to have herbicide applied. Doug estimated that it would require about 3 hrs. of work and will use a chainsaw. Davey has also planted a few wetland plants in flat area next to pond. Jim suggested planting grass along the flat area. The slope project is a followup to the Eagle Scout project. Vicki suggested Davey talk to Barbara McIlroy about where he might do planting on the erosion-prone property. Davey was congratulated and thanked for his efforts.

Parking at Goodwin Town Forest: The Town Forest bike trail may be completed by next spring. Doug will ask that DPW add a parking area on their schedule for next year, probably not more than 6 spaces. Doug will be in touch with Mike at DPW.

Indian Ridge Easement: We need to ensure that the trails around the COW that will be built at the watertower site will not be blocked by anchors for the COW. We have requested that we oversee any trail relocations should they be needed. Vicki is working with Lebanon planners about transferring the easement to Lebanon.

Conversion of Class VI roads to public trails.

Some Class VI roads are suffering from vehicular use, especially in wet areas. RSA 231-A allows conversion to trails with one trail status that allows vehicle access for documented historic uses. Ed recommended that four roads be converted to Class A trails: Wolfeboro, Cory, Etna Highlands, and Wardrobe. Gates could be placed on all but Etna Highlands. We would need to talk to abutters. Vicki suggested trying Cory Rd. first to see how it goes. Ed will make contact with the neighbors. The goal is to bring the recommended change to the next town meeting.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Jim Kennedy is the November minutes taker. Michael Mayor is the December minutes taker.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Biodiversity Committee - There was a discussion about sending a letter of support to Malin Clyde, UNH Extension for a grant proposal "Stewardship Network in New Hampshire" John moved that the proposed letter be sent. 2nd by Doug. Unanimous approval.
- Open Space Committee - didn't meet
- Trails Committee- The Water Dept. was responsible for the widened trail to Mink Brook.
- Trescott Board – no report

5. MINUTES: The minutes of September 12, 2012 were approved. Jim moved, Ed seconded, unanimous approval.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- Ed moved that the minutes of the site visit to the Hanover Golf Course be approved, Ruth seconded, unanimous approval.
- Leaning tree at Mink Brook will not be taken down.
- Letters will be sent to Fletcher and Davey thanking them for the completion of their Eagle Scout Projects.

7. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM. Jim moved, John seconded, unanimous approval.

Respectfully Submitted, Ruth Bleyler, Commissioner