

Approved: 23 October 2013

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Elm Road
SITE VISIT MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

Present: Ed Chamberlain, Vicki Smith, Doug McIlroy, Jim Kennedy, John Taylor, Tom Linell, Scott McGee, Eric Goldwarg, Peter Perkins, Sam Brakeley

Scott McGee led the group along the proposed footpath route on the Perkins property to be deeded to the Town in exchange for discontinuing the present Class VI portion of Elm Road. The proposed path has been roughed in with some small bridges in place. It departed from Elm Road at the southernmost boundary of the Perkins property and hugged that southern and then the western boundary until coming to the stone wall on the south side of Wolfeboro Road. Scott explained that they were willing to work with Lars Richardson, the abutter at the stone wall, to pass onto his property so that the stone wall would not be compromised. The trail will be fully constructed before being turned over to the Town.

The proposed route was designed to be interesting for the hiker- with stream crossings, wetland areas, a stone pile and neighboring meadows either to be walked over or by.

It was pointed out that the Town is interested in minimizing maintenance. The current proposed route makes necessary a number of stream and wetland crossings, steps to access the trail from Elm Road, to pass by the stone pile and to get around or over the magnificent Wolfeboro Road wall. Scott mentioned that a fund could be created for future maintenance. Sam suggested using rock so that the wood structures would not deteriorate.

Ed suggested considering a foot path alignment that follows the Keene easement. Scott was not familiar with that easement and will look into it. Ed also hoped that the trail could accommodate winter users. It was noted that since the trail will be replacing a Class VI road, as many of the uses that might take place on the Class VI road should be able to take place on the replacement path. Mountain bikers might need to be considered as well.

The proximity of the path to the neighbor to the south was mentioned. A vegetative screen may be necessary, but would then eliminate the view across the neighbor's field although it would screen the trail users and house.

Vicki reminded the group that the local regulations (Zoning and Ordinance #4) and NH DES regulations must be complied with prior to trails, bridges, or other improvements or disturbances, are undertaken in or near wetlands.

The Trails Committee will meet again with the landowner and his consultants to develop a recommendation for the full Commission. Ultimately the issue will be taken up by the Selectboard and Town Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Smith, Scribe