

Approved: 23 October 2013

**Hanover Conservation Commission
Howe Library, Mayer Room
Minutes, September 11, 2013**

Members present: Ed Chamberlain (chair), Jim Kennedy, Doug McIlroy (scribe), John Trummel
Select Board representative: Peter Christie
Staff: Vicki Smith

Minutes for May, July, and August were approved with minor corrections.

Town Forest stream crossing. Chamberlain, Smith and McIlroy visited sites for two proposed bridges on the new mountain bike trail. The bridges will span from top of bank to top of bank with no activity in or disturbance of the brook bed or banks. Thus DES approval will not be required. At each site less than 40 square feet will be disturbed for footings, below the threshold required for town wetlands approval. It was moved by McIlroy and seconded by Chamberlain to recommend the application to the zoning administrator. The motion carried unanimously.

Manegold easement. Barry Shuster, attorney for the Manegolds, expressed some concerns about some provisions in a draft of a revised conservation easement. He saw no need to allow agriculture or certain accessory buildings, and thought a call for a management plan was excessive in this case. Smith said that since the topic did not appear on the agenda, discussion of these matters should be referred to staff and the open space committee. Shuster will meet with Smith and Kennedy. Smith pointed out that the easement will need to be permanently marked by the surveyor, Tim Rockwood.

Bylaws. An updated copy of revised bylaws was distributed. At Christie's suggestion, section IV, paragraph 4 was split into separate paragraphs about attendance and conflict of interest. McIlroy questioned the appropriateness of detail in paragraph 5, which mandates reporting on attendance at Commission-related workshops, and whether paragraph 6, which urges attendance at certain events, should also promise financial support as has sometimes been given in the past. There was general agreement that these provisions should be kept as written. The draft will next be forwarded to the town manager for legal advice.

Meeting time. Chamberlain said that the 5 o'clock meeting time interfered with both work and family schedules of some members and prospective members. Kennedy said the hour had been set over a decade ago because after-dinner meetings were running extraordinarily late. Chamberlain believed the specter of late-night meetings has abated lately, as a two-hour time limit has been well respected. Smith said one of the causes for long meetings was wetland applications. She suggested that much of the detailed discussion be delegated to a committee instead of a committee of the whole.

It was agreed that meetings should be moved to 7PM. Next month, however, it appears that a quorum may be hard to muster on the scheduled date, so the Commission will meet October 23.

Open Space Committee. Chamberlain reporting. Candidates for consulting forester are being interviewed. Current agenda items include the Manegold easement, a proposed conservation on South Esker and neighborhood concerns about South Esker.

Trails Committee. McIlroy reporting. Among various activities, a high school Trail Corps sponsored

by the Trails Alliance did light clearing on two town trails. Mockups of the new trail signs were shown. Commissioners expressed agreement with the Trails Committee choice of shape and color. It was urged that the UVTA contract, for which the price has remained constant for six years only by virtue of reducing the quantity of service, be addressed early in this year's budget process.

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM

Respectfully submitted, Doug McIlroy, Scribe