

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**November 13, 2013 at 7:00 PM**  
**TOWN HALL, 41 SOUTH MAIN STREET**

In attendance:

**Members:** Ed Chamberlain (Chair), Doug McIlroy, Jim Kennedy, John Trummel, Peter Christie (Selectmen's Representative).

**Staff:** Vicki Smith

Others: See Attendance Sheet

**1. CURRENT BUSINESS--Sandin Wetlands Special Exception (presented by Carl Sandin):**

The site visit minutes were reviewed. Some minor changes to the minutes were made and incorporated. D McIlroy discussed the fill and suggested the plan should be modified to change the area of fill from temporary impacts to permanent impacts on the plan and this was agreed to by Mr. Sandin. The wetlands appear to the commission to have low/limited functions and values. The commission will send the amended site visit minutes as rewritten to the ZBA in support of the special exception. Two motions were made (one to approve the site visit minutes by J Kennedy and seconded by P Christie and the second to send the minutes to the ZBA in support of the project by J Kennedy and seconded by E Chamberlain) and both were unanimously approved.

**2. RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP—No business this month.**

**3. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS—No business this month.**

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Open space committee**—Vicki met with Jeff Smith to develop a work plan for management of town forests. The Hayes farm park management plan was discussed. At the Dec 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, there will be a discussion of South Esker. There is a concern that zoning regulations may prevent conservation and possible changes to zoning to encourage conservation were discussed. At this time, the primary conservation project is the Storrs/Bent farm but the town may also have an obligation to Robes property depending on the ultimate outcome.

**Trails Committee**—There was a site visit to the Rabinovitz property on Elm Rd. The property owners built a new septic system in the class VI Elm Rd ROW. They have made a proposal to exchange a trail (from the end of the Class V portion of Elm Road to a Class VI portion of the Wolfboro Road) for a portion of the existing Elm Rd ROW (from the Class V portion of Elm Road to Wolfboro Road). There is no firm recommendation on this new proposal as yet but one

will be firmed up the next meeting. The Rabinovitz's would like the proposal to be put on May town meeting agenda. The main problem discussed by the commission was that the trail is probably inadequate to replace a class VI road. Further concerns about present disturbances to wetlands on the property will be discussed with the landowner. P Christie would like to proceed in a stepwise, clear fashion to address all the issues. This will be put on the HCC December meeting agenda after trails committee meeting and V Smith will inform the landowner of this decision.

**Biodiversity Committee**—The Mink Brook west entrance was replenished with native species however there is also a steep bandit trail through this planting from Rt 10 to the parking area. The commission needs to come up with some plan for this area. The whole entrance needs beautification and we may want to propose a small amount of money in town budget for this project.

**5. MINUTES:** The minutes of October 2013 were discussed and amended. Approval motion was made by J Kennedy and seconded by D McIlroy and unanimously approved.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

- There was a discussion about the ability of town zoning regulations to adequately protect wetland setbacks. At a future meeting the commission needs to consider forming a subcommittee to review this topic.
- Please review the tick info sheet—it needs feedback before posted on website. Please send any comments to V Smith.
- Budget—a herbicide applicator is needed for Rinker and Hayes. We will get a proposal from Prescott Towle and \$400 was approved from the year's budget to cover this expense.
- Balch Hill Management Committee is considering trail signage on Balch Hill. D McIlroy noted that the trail sign was stolen from Grasse Rd and felt we should consider removing the Town of Hanover blue sign at the trailhead. However, the commission seemed to feel we should leave it at this time.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Trummel, Commission Member