

**Hanover Conservation Commission
Minutes, December 11, 2013**

Meeting at 7:00 pm, Town Hall, 41 South Main Street, Hanover, NH

Commission present: Ed Chamberlain, Chair, Doug McIlroy, Michael Mayor, John Trummel, Jim Kennedy (scribe), Peter Christie (Selectboard representative), Vicki Smith (staff).

Others present: Anne Marie Lynch, Dennis Lynch, Peter Perkins, Eric Goldwarg, John Richardson.

11 River Ridge Road Project

Mr. and Mrs. Lynch presented a sketch plan showing more information on the removal of trees. The Commission felt that there was more work needed on the plan, to include showing the approximate property line, more details on which trees are to be cut and those to remain, location of invasive plants, and the methods of removal. The Commission suggested that herbicide treatment of invasives may be more effective than pulling the roots of the plants out on the steep slope, and that the Town will be engaging a Certified Applicator for similar work along Mink Brook, and he might be available to assist the Lynches in treatment at their cost.

Elm Road Trail Relocation

Ed Chamberlain began the discussion by suggesting three areas of concern: (1) the adequacy of the trail design (2) the adequacy of the proposed trail for the uses required by the Conservation Commission, and (3) the desire of the Town to give up Elm Road.

Doug McIlroy felt the proposed design may be adequate for hiking and cross-country skiing, but perhaps not for bicycling or other uses. He was concerned about future maintenance of the proposed infrastructure.

Ed Chamberlain was concerned about wetlands and buffer impacts, and said that the Zoning Board will have to rule on avoidance and minimization, and the consideration of less impacting alternatives, in particular the use of Elm Road or other alternatives with less wetland impacts. Later in the meeting, Eric Goldwarg stated that any alternative east of the existing Elm Road was "off the table".

Jim Kennedy mentioned that under state rules, work in wetlands closer than 20 feet to an adjoining property must receive concurrence from the abutting property owner. He was also concerned about existing as-built wetland impacts. He reiterated Ed Chamberlain's concerns about alternatives. He also expressed concern that this may not be an approvable project, given the NH DES 20-foot rule, the lack of a growing-season wetland delineation, and the possibility of a less impacting practicable alternative.

On the matter of the junction with Wolfeboro Road John Richardson said that his son Lars would not give permission to use the Richardson land to avoid crossing the stone

wall. Eric Goldwarg said that the proposal is to remove only 4 feet of the 100 feet of wall, or to use a stile over the wall.

John Richardson said that Wolfeboro Road is seldom used, but the Richardsons have cattle and maple sugaring operations on the road. Vicki Smith reminded the Commission that agricultural uses were considered proper uses of Class VI roads, and these roads serve the public good. She said that the Elm Road/Wolfeboro road forms a loop that serves the neighborhood as well as the Town as a whole. Jim Kennedy mentioned that forestry and agricultural vehicles have used Elm Road, and safe equestrian use should also be considered, as there have been accidents involving horses in the past.

There was a lengthy discussion on the subject of giving up Elm Road. Doug McIlroy said that it is not the Commission's duty to recommend giving up the road, but Vicki Smith reminded the Commission that the Town would be looking to the Commission for advice. Peter Christie asked the Commission for a larger view of the project and its relation to the Class VI road issue. He sensed that the Commission was not ready to recommend giving up Elm Road.

Eric Goldwarg said that he was going to meet with Pathways Consulting to discuss permitting issues. He wanted a clear idea of how to proceed. Vicki cautioned the applicant that given the previous discussion that spending more time and money on the project may not be advisable.

South Esker

Jim Kennedy presented plans for the three South Esker and Mink Brook West parking areas. Doug McIlroy said the proposal for trails was good. Motion by Mike Mayor to have Vicki Smith get cost estimates from Public Works, and to include them in the 2014 budget. Seconded by John Trummel. Approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Due to the lateness of the meeting, committee reports were deferred until the next Commission meeting.

New Business

Vicki Smith briefly reported that the Farr property transfer has moved forward. The Vincellette debris removal from the Tanzi Tract will be addressed by the Town.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Kennedy, scribe