

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
January 8, 2014 at 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL, 41 SOUTH MAIN STREET

In attendance:

Members Ed Chamberlain (Chair), Michael Mayor (Planning Board Liaison), Doug McIlroy, Peter Christie (Selectmen's Representative)

Alternates: Jim Kennedy, John Trummel

Staff: Vicki Smith

Others: See Attendance Sheet

1. CURRENT BUSINESS

-Creation of an *ad hoc* committee to consider zoning amendments for Town Meeting 2015 (Ed, 5 minutes, Action needed)

This activity relates to appropriate handling of easement properties and buffer issues that relate to the wetlands regulations in Section 702. Agriculture and forestry issues also need to be addressed. The committee will be chaired by Chamberlain and served by Kennedy and Trummel. Committee name will be forthcoming after meeting. First meeting time TBD (Possible first Thursday, Feb. 6) McIlroy suggests a need for a broader constituency than just the CC. November 15th deadline pointed out by staff.

2. RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

The Farr property on Greensboro Road has been donated to the Town. The gift is a charitable contribution with significant value. The property provides remarkable and varied recreation opportunities with existing trails that connect with the Hypertherm trail system. Its wetlands, floodplains, Mink Brook frontage and rugged uplands are valuable conservation resources. When the Shed 2 maintenance yard moves, that lot will be developed for recreation. When combined with the Farr property, this is a significant recreation resource.

Barbara Hall wants to give the town the Nathan's Garden property off Maple Street.

Ed Chamberlain's conservation easement was acknowledged with appreciation. Recreational use is already beginning.

Hanover Conservancy's acceptance of land donation on Moose Mountain by Michael Mayor and John Niles (Mayor-Niles Forest) was also acknowledged.

Vicki has completed easement monitoring as required. Modifications in the easement areas continue to happen without prior Commission approval, but the modifications are consistent with the easement terms.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Doug McIlroy is the February minutes taker and Alan Saucier is the March minutes taker.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Biodiversity Committee: The next meeting will be held on January 23rd. No recent activity to be reported.

Open Space Committee: No report

Trails Committee: Elm Road issues have been addressed by the Trails Committee. It is their feeling that an alternate route from Elm Road would be better for both the landowners and trail users.

The Commission agreed that parking signage at the Greensboro end of Old Highway 38 needs to be improved. McIlroy will communicate specifics to staff to include at least two signs and their message.

The Committee has been concerned about the loss of use of trails for recreation on Moose Mountain if the proposed road to the proposed AT&T tower are approved. Julia Griffin has been trying to facilitate co-location on the existing tower.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of - November 7 and 13, December 9 and 11, 2013 were reviewed, changes were suggested and approved for site visit minutes of 7 November, November 13, site visit of December 9, and December 11, 2013. Moved by Christie, seconded by McIlroy. Approved unanimously (all four documents approved together.)

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Letter received by staff and shared with the Chair from P. Scott McGee of Hershenson, Carter, Scott and McGee, P.C, of December 30, 2013.

April 16th Ben Kilham's presentation 7P, location TBA.

Flood Plain application from Larry Morse (Jim Kennedy recuses himself.) Specifics were reviewed by Kennedy with attention to the sequence of events that rendered the original application moot. Corrections to the numbers were entered in the magenta boxes (4) on the plan, in order to qualify the application for action, with specific reference to the barn on the plans. Discussion ensued with the end result of reconsideration by the CC in light of the corrections

submitted to include the square foot details related to the barn. Approval moved by Trummel, seconded by Chamberlain, approved with one abstention (McIlroy)

NEXT MEETING: February 12, 2014 7:00 PM, Board Room, Municipal Building

7. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael B. Mayor (Planning Board Liaison)