

HANOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
February 12, 2014 at 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL, 41 SOUTH MAIN STREET

In attendance:

Members: Ed Chamberlain (Chair), Peter Christie, Michael Mayor

Alternates: James Kennedy, John Trummel

Staff: Vicki Smith

Others: Danielle Goodwin, David Vincellette, Will Dodge, Rod Finley, Peter Shumway, Don Ware

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. AT&T telecommunications tower proposed for Moose Mountain (Map 10, Lot 23, owned by Peter and Kay Shumway). The HCC is reviewing this proposal for wetland impact minimization and trail impacts. Representatives of the project presented the rationale for the proposed site along with possible options. The site visit (attended by J Kennedy and V Smith—see site visit minutes) was discussed and it appeared that the proposed location was the best in terms of wetland and trail impact minimization.

Several questions/concerns were discussed. J Kennedy proposed the use of a wood chip berm which was accepted by the project engineer. It was noted that this is an unusual wetland in Hanover (red spruce swamp) and it would be helpful to indicate the extent of the wetland on a map in relation to the project. Winter maintenance will be minimal (no routine plowing) and after the project is complete there will be no impact on the Moose Mountain ridge trail. Power to the tower will be underground.

There were some audience concerns. David Vincellette brought up the concern about impacts on Mink Brook from trucks on Moose Mountain Road especially as asphalt waste has been applied to this road. Danielle Goodwin wanted to know if the fence surrounding the tower will be electrified (it will not) and what the radio frequency emission strength will be. Per the project engineer, it will be comparable to a kitchen microwave.

The Commission noted that the applicant has satisfactorily addressed the issues of avoidance and minimization. The Commission understands that access to and over the Pure Delight Trail will not be permanently affected by the proposed project. The Commission supports the proposal as presented. A motion was made to recommend to the ZBA that the proposed site was the least impacting on the wetlands by J Kennedy, seconded by M Mayor, with the recommendations:

- 1) that the wood chip berm as suggested in Jim Kennedy's Report be used as an environmentally friendly alternative to silt fence; and

2) that it would be helpful for the ZBA to see the extent of the wetland and its relation to adjoining properties and the proposed road by showing the approximate extent of the wetland on *the Overall Site Plan for Proterra- AT & T Tower* which uses the USGS topographic map as a base.

The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Don Ware from DPW presented a plan to change culverts on Ruddsboro Rd which need to be replaced due to age. Initially, the town wanted to slip line the existing culverts but the state felt this would be a problem and requested a full wetlands application, not an expedited review. The town has now decided that the culverts should be replaced. The rationale for this decision was discussed and the Commission supported the amended application.
3. A map outlining vegetation removal on town conservation land adjacent to 11 River Road was reviewed. This project was presented previously to the commission and a more detailed map was requested outlining exactly what was to be removed. The majority of plants to be removed are invasives. Application of herbicide to the stumps must be arranged by the homeowners. A motion to approve this removal project as mapped was made by J Trummel, seconded by M Mayor and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Open Space Committee: did not meet. V Smith mentioned that a variance for subdivision has been approved for Nathan's garden. As the town is the owner, an easement will need to be held by some other entity.
2. Trails Committee: E Chamberlain said that the main theme of the last trails meeting was establishing priorities. The first priority is to put up trail signs. The second is to protect the Moose Mountain Ridge trail. This will involve the open space committee, landowners and the Enfield Conservation Commission.
3. Biodiversity Committee: see minutes distributed from this meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. The Zoning Amendment Subcommittee met earlier on February 12, 2014. The meeting minutes have been distributed and need to be discussed by the full commission at a later meeting.
2. David Vincellette wanted to discuss the use of asphalt waste on some town roads which he believes is leading to pollution of Mink Brook and is illegal. P Christie pointed out that this concern is known to the Selectboard and the DPW. The town has investigated and feels that there is no merit to this issue. However, E Chamberlain felt that the commission should look into this further. He will discuss with P Kulbacki at DPW and

put this topic on a future HCC agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Trummel, Alternate Commissioner