

**Hanover Conservation Commission
Minutes, April 9, 2014**

Members present: Edwin Chamberlain (chair), Peter Christie, James Kennedy, Douglas McIlroy (scribe), Alan Saucier

Staff present: Vicki Smith

Approval of minutes

Kennedy moved that the minutes of the March 12 meeting and the April 7 site visit at the golf course be approved; Chamberlain seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Current Business

Golf course application

Timothy McNamara (Dartmouth) and Roy Schiff (consulting engineer) appeared in connection with a special exception application for repair of extreme erosion from storm drain outlets in the Girl Brook ravine at golf course fairway #13. Schiff presented plans updated in light of recommendations recorded in the site visit minutes. He said proposed rip-rap armor in the eroded channel had been calculated to handle a 100-year storm. Apprehensive of the prospect for any future erosion, McNamara said he was inclined to add another foot to the channel depth, and asked that such a change in specs be allowable after approval. Schiff added that a greater storm would exceed the drains' capacity and overflow a manhole in the golf course.

Chamberlain asked if there is any side seepage, which might compromise the slope above the rip-rap. McNamara was not aware of any.

The proposed access route begins on town land behind the public safety building. The way is infested with garlic mustard. To minimize the risk of garlic mustard hitching a ride on passing construction equipment, McNamara recommended treating the plant this spring and placing a layer of plastic under temporary gravel on the access drive. He will work out a control strategy with DPW.

Chamberlain questioned the use of hay bales for silt control as shown on the plans. McNamara said that was not intended. Straw is to be used, and plans will be updated to show it. Smith asked that the 10-day window for stabilizing treatment after soil disturbance be reduced to 3. McNamara agreed. In regard to minimizing the potential for sheet flow from the golf course, which could compromise the newly recontoured slopes of the drainage channel, McNamara explained that fabric would be spread on the bank, and a retention area with a berm (probably coir) would be established near the foot of the former ski jump.

Smith asked about assurance that woody plantings on the new slopes would survive. McNamara said an arborist would be hired to attend to them and water them as needed. Smith also suggested a vegetated buffer at the side of the fairway where the erosion now begins. McNamara said they are amenable to that. It would be marked out of bounds. Smith also asked that maintenance protocols be set forth.

Kennedy moved and Christie seconded that the commission make the following recommendation to the ZBA and state authorities.

The Commission is concerned about water quality impacts to Girl Brook and ultimately the Connecticut River, and the stabilization of banks in the Girl Brook valley.

The Commission supports the application with the following plan modifications:

- 1) The plan should address the Garlic Mustard just behind the Police/Fire Station so that Garlic

Mustard will not be spread through the golf course to the remediation site and the Girl Brook valley.

- 2) The Commission and applicant have agreed on an alternate location for a portion of the access path with the result that less trees need to be cut.
- 3) The type of catch basin and their locations should be selected so that the catch basins can be easily inspected and cleaned out.
- 4) The plan should include an operations and maintenance plan for the repair area including the catch basins.
- 5) An additional plan showing the cross section of the ravine was submitted. The Commission supports the addition of more stone to be placed higher up the ravine if recommended by the design engineer.
- 6) An un-mowed vegetative buffer should be installed and maintained at the head of the ravine. The maintenance of this vegetative buffer should be included in the operations and maintenance plan.
- 7) The erosion control notes should be modified so that disturbed areas are stabilized within 72 hours, or sooner in the event of a storm.
- 8) A note should be added to the plan to divert and drain water away from the work area until it is fully stabilized. The re-routed drainage way should be shown on the plan.

Recycled asphalt

David Vincelle addressed the commission, expressing deep concern over the town's practice of spreading ground asphalt on gravel roads, from which, he said, it washes into streams, and in particular Mink Brook, thereby degrading water quality. He said that 6500 tons had been spread contrary to state law and asserted that DES has observed recycled asphalt in the water and notified the town. He also criticized the storage of snow removed from town streets; it is piled where it will run off into Mink Brook with contaminants it may have picked up on the street; his particular concern was salt. He deplored the lack of attention his complaints have received and departed before the commission completed its discussion.

Christie asked what data we have on water quality. Smith and McIlroy referred to fairly recent sampling by the environmental studies program at the college and by the Hanover Conservancy. Saucier said a quick check via Google turned up research that says leaching from ground asphalt is not a serious hazard; Chamberlain said that leaching from the many miles of paved roads being abraded by tires probably dwarfs that from the recycled asphalt. McIlroy said that, regardless of its effect on water quality, ground asphalt sediment likely harms the streambed habitat. There was a consensus that a further look at the data is in order.

Resource stewardship

Smith said that town forester Jeff Smith is updating the Marshall Brook management plan. It may be time for a timber cut there.

Committee reports

Open space

Chamberlain reported. Peter Robes has represented to Julia Griffin that his brothers are interested in negotiating a sale of their half interest in the upper Dana Preserve. Document discovery in the pending court case about division of the property is on hold.

The zoning board granted the wetland special exception that AT&T had sought for a cellphone tower on Moose Mountain, but denied the accompanying variance without prejudice while negotiations to mount the station on a successor to the existing TV tower continue.

A public information-gathering session about potential on-shore improvements at Wilson's landing is scheduled for June 9.

Trails committee

McIlroy reported. Representatives of Hypertherm and Jeanie McIntyre of the Upper Valley Land Trust attended a trails committee meeting to discuss potential trail connections in the neighborhood of Rix Ledges, Mount Support and Cuttings Corner. Hypertherm already has an internal trail network. Several public trails are nearby, and hypertherm employees have participated in maintaining them. The Land Trust is in the process of acquiring a major holding there. As the Land Trust is studying the substantial habitat and wetland resources of their property, it is not now prepared to designate trails. It is quite possible that some existing or previously proposed trails there may be found unsuitable. It was agreed to set up a small working group of interested parties to develop a general vision for connectivity, but not a specific trail plan. McIntyre will convene the group.

Biodiversity committee

Saucier reported. Many plants in the town holding bed are getting quite large. In anticipation of moving them a potting party is planned, perhaps for May 3. Kennedy suggested May 2. Committee member Barbara McIlroy said that likely permanent homes for the plants are Hayes Park, Mink Brook and the Rinker Tract, to replace recently removed invasive plants.

Informative notices about garlic mustard, intended for distribution in neighborhoods where it has been spotted, were exhibited. Chamberlain moved that the Commission approve the notices; Kennedy seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Other business

Smith described several upcoming activities:

A get-families-out-on-trails initiative that originated with the Hanover Conservancy and the Board of Recreation. This would encourage visits to several near-town areas, including Mink Brook, Tanzi Tract, Balch Hill and Rinker/Steele.

Public presentations with Commission sponsorship or participation: Ben Kilham on bears, April 16; information meeting about the threat of the emerald ash borer, April 21; "garlic mustard muster", April 24.

Budget deadline June 30: the UVMBA needs to spend money for bridges in the Goodwin Forest; UVTA needs to bill us for dues; biodiversity committee needs to arrange herbicide application.