

Approved: June 11, 2014

**Hanover Conservation Commission
Town Hall, 41 South Main Street
May 14, 2014 at 7:05 PM**

Members present: Ed Chamberlain, Michael Mayor, Peter Christie, Selectmen's Representative, Jim Kennedy, minutes taker.

Staff: Vicki Smith

1. Girl Brook Bridge application: There was a site visit on May 12, 2014. Commission members included Ed Chamberlain, Michael Mayor, Doug McIlroy, Peter Christie, and Jim Kennedy. Don Ware represented Pine Park Association and Hanover DPW. Ed and Michael were unable to walk down to the site.

Peter Kulbacki and Don Ware presented the project. The Town and Dartmouth College maintain this section of Girl Brook for the Pine Park Association. The bridge is needed for the many recreational users, and for maintenance vehicles. The proposal is for a clear-span bridge over Girl Brook, with stone rip-rap used for streambank stabilization. Kulbacki explained that, although DPW preferred a more "natural" approach using logs and vegetation, previous natural treatments of the brook have not been as successful as stone rip-rap. Also, there are no suitable logs available near the site. The stone to be used will be Class "C" stone fill, from 4 to 12" in size. Kennedy suggested chocking the stone with native soil, transplanting some native vegetation, and seeding with a fescue similar to that used on the golf course. DPW will also attempt to remove the pieces of concrete and asphalt in the brook.

Doug McIlroy was concerned about the use of rip rap in the area and was interested in knowing how the Pine Park Association felt about the use of rip rap prior to the Commission taking action. Doug suggested that the Commission wait until we can have discussions about management with the Pine Park Association. Kennedy made a motion to approve the project, seconded by Mayor. Motion approved 4-1, with McIlroy voting nay.

2. Kennedy Pond Application

Kennedy recused himself and took his place on the floor as applicant. McIlroy took over as scribe for this matter.

Kennedy sought the Commission's consent on an expedited minimum state wetlands application for construction of a pond on his property at Rennie Road. Chamberlain, Mayor and McIlroy had visited the site with Kennedy on May 12. Kennedy is applicant, landscape designer, and wetland scientist in the case.

McIlroy said that the case would have to come back to the Commission later, as it involved activities in the wetland buffer that the town regulates but the state does not. An inconclusive discussion about whether this is in fact required under sections 702.4, 702.5 and 702.6 of the zoning ordinance ensued. Chamberlain said that Judy Brotman will determine whether the matter must come before the Commission again.

Chamberlain asked where the excavated material would be disposed of. Kennedy pointed out a

delineated upland area where the material would be used as fill for intended buildings and septic system. Smith questioned construction of a septic field in fill. Kennedy agreed to redraw the disposal area to exclude the septic-system area.

McIlroy asked about significant differences between wetland delineations on a map dated September 2012, which Kennedy had prepared for a special exception application on behalf of Morse, and the current map. Kennedy said that the previous map reflected delineation he had done in 2009; and conditions on the ground had evolved by the time he rechecked in December 2013.

Smith expressed concern about the proposed placement of a silt fence at some distance from the proposed pond. As much of a large knotweed patch lies inside it, activities there could spread this invasive plant. A fence closer to the pond would preclude movement of machinery in the area. Kennedy said the fence location was intended to keep cuttings from knotweed removal (not part of the application) from getting into Hewes Brook beyond the fence and that no digging would happen in the knotweed.

Smith said reference to "mulch" in the proposed construction sequence should read "straw mulch". Kennedy agreed.

McIlroy moved and Christie seconded that the Commission authorize Chamberlain to sign off on the expedited minimum application. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Wilson's Landing Public Meetings: Vicki and Jim Kennedy are working on the format and logistics. The first meeting will be a listening session at the site. It will be stressed that the Commission has no plans formulated yet, but wants to improve the experience for all users. Parking for the meeting may be an issue, so we will be asking to carpool and possibly use the Organic Farm for parking.

4. Resource Stewardship

Herbicide Policy: Vicki Smith recommended that the Commission should adopt a policy for the use of herbicides on town lands. Barbara McIlroy will be proposing a policy through the Biodiversity Committee. The Commission has \$370 budgeted for invasive plant control at Hayes Farm Park. The Commission felt that those funds should be used for mechanical control, with no herbicides. Jim Kennedy will get a bid from Tracy Burns, and Vicki will contact Henderson Tree Service.

Goodwin Forest Bridges: UVTA has started work on the bridges. The Commission may be able to assist in funding. Vicki will investigate and report to the Commission at the next meeting.

Open Space: Ed Chamberlain reviewed some of the open space projects - Pasture Road, Storrs Meadows, and the Moose Mountain Ridge side of Ruddsboro Road. Also, the Commission should establish a relationship with the Pine Park Association. Ed will be attending their meeting on May 15.

5. Other Business

Minutes: The minutes of April 9, 2014 were approved.

Pleasant Street Clearing: Vicki reported everything looks great, and Henderson's did a good job.

Lynch Tree Removal: Vicki and Doug McIlroy will be monitoring the clearing. The Lynches may hire Prescott Towle to apply herbicide in the fall.

Mink Brook West: Vicki reported that the new conduit installation on South Main Street will require changes in the trail parking area. Vicki and Jim Kennedy will meet with Liberty and DPW to resolve the issues.

Town Meeting: Peter Christie reported that Town Meeting went well, and the Commission received praise for the Tug Hill Easement negotiations. Peter Christie said there might be more money available for improvement of public spaces in Hanover.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Kennedy, minutes taker