

**Approved: 10 September 2014**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**August 13, 2014 at 7:00 pm**

**Town Hall, 41 South Main Street**

In attendance:

Members: Ed Chamberlain (chair), Peter Christie (Selectman's representative), Doug McIlroy

Alternates: John Trummel

Staff: Vicki Smith

Others: Rod Finley, Lawrence Jenkyn, Laurie Greenberg, James Barry

**1. Current Business**

- a. 7 Fern Lane—the homeowners must replace a failed leach field. There was a site visit on 8/11. One of the landowners, Laurie Greenberg, was present. The proposal was briefly presented by the consultant indicating the only rational fix for the existing system. Site visit briefly discussed and those at the visit felt that the plan was the least impactful. A motion by P. Christie to recommend that the ZBA approve the plan was made and seconded by E. Chamberlain. It was unanimously approved.
- b. 115 Ruddsboro Rd—the owner wishes to sell the house and it needs a new septic system as the present one failed inspection. There was a site visit on 8/11. D. McIlroy recused himself due to a business relationship with the petitioner. The new system was presented by the owner James Barry. The design appears to be the least impactful but the plan needs a construction sequence from the designer. Mr. Barry has informed the designer and this will be done. A motion by P. Christie to recommend plan approval to the ZBA and DES contingent on a construction sequence was made and seconded by E. Chamberlain. It was unanimously approved.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- a. A motion to accept the minutes of June 11, 2014 commission meeting as amended was made by P. Christie, seconded by E. Chamberlain and unanimously approved.
- b. A motion to accept the minutes of July 9, 2014 (Wilson's Landing) commission meeting as amended was made by P. Christie, seconded by E. Chamberlain and unanimously approved.
- c. A motion to accept the minutes of the August 11, 2014 site visits without change was made by E. Chamberlain, seconded by D. McIlroy and unanimously approved.

**3. Current Business (cont.)**

- a. Upcoming Forest Health and Deer Management Workshop (September 8, 2014)—a flyer for the workshop was distributed by D. McIlroy and the lineup is basically set. Please see the

flyer for details. There are two sessions planned: the first is for forest landowners, stewards and foresters and the second is for Upper Valley residents. At this time a moderator for the second session is still needed. An honorarium for Todd Bittner was discussed. In addition, he will be staying in motels for 2 nights which was initially going to be paid by a Hanover resident. As we are sponsoring this workshop, P. Christie felt that the commission should pay the motel fees. A motion to recommend a \$250 honorarium plus expenses to come out of biodiversity committee funds (\$2037 at this time) was made by P. Christie, seconded by J. Trummel and unanimously approved.

#### 4. Resource Stewardship

- a. Guidelines for Vegetation Management on Town Conservation Lands—the document was reviewed and several changes were discussed primarily to clarify when a definitive plan for proposed work was needed. The changes will be incorporated and will be reviewed at the next meeting. At some point it might be useful to discuss expanding this document to all town lands but this would primarily be under the purview of the selectboard.
- b. Seeding areas at Hayes Farm Park—Jerry Hawks has done extensive and dramatic work removing invasive species on the property. This work was reviewed by V. Smith. Jim Kennedy has recommended seeding with clover seed conservation mix. If this is done by public works, the seed cost would be \$180 (\$90 of this would be covered by Hanover Conservancy). D. McIlroy feels we should wait and see what grows back before seeding. There is a small area of steep bare slope which at a minimum should be seeded. E. Chamberlain feels this should be addressed at the next open space meeting however this may take too long and the window for seeding may be passed so D. McIlroy, E. Chamberlain and J. Kennedy will try to meet prior to Labor Day to hash out a plan for seeding. A decision should be made about seeding at that meeting. A motion to authorize E. Chamberlain to make a decision on seeding after this meeting was put forth by P. Christie, seconded by J. Trummel and unanimously approved.

#### 5. Administrative Business

- a. The budget was discussed and reviewed by V. Smith. We gave back \$120 to town as unencumbered funds on June 30. For next year's budget, most of cost is professional services. After committed funds are taken out, we have \$1672 in unencumbered funds for the coming fiscal year. To raise further money, we could consider a timber sale at Marshall Brook which may generate \$20,000 for our conservation fund. Our consulting forester will go out and mark the land for harvest but will not mark boundaries (unless paid additionally for that service). As it would be a good idea to have the boundaries marked, we will get a written estimate for boundary marking and consider paying for that from the general conservation fund. At next trails meeting we need to discuss potential trails expenses for coming year.
- b. There is \$66,033.40 available in the conservation fund.

#### 6. Committee Reports

- a. Open Space
  - i. Worked on organizing the deer management workshop.
  - ii. Discussed the potential timber harvest at Marshall Brook.
  - iii. J. Kennedy is creating a master plan for Wilson's Landing.
  
- b. Trails—there are no official meetings this summer, however:
  - i. John Taylor ran a trail maintenance summer camp for teenagers(Outdoor Odyssey)—one job was building log bridges on the highway 38 trail in Hanover (\$138 was approved to fund this).
  - ii. Emily Oseid(Hanover HS student) blazed the ridge trail.
  - iii. Downed timber on Mink brook loop off of Moose Mountain road was cleared.
  
- c. Biodiversity—nothing further

## 7. Other Business

- a. Pine Park Assc (E. Chamberlain)—the bridge has been designed and DPW will apply for permits and build it. The PP Assc will pay for materials (apprx 25k).
- b. V. Smith brought up an event request for the Dartmouth Organic Farm (a wedding) and wanted the commission to determine whether this is appropriate in this easement. The commissioners felt it is a close call but we will allow it. We should let the college know that this is on the edge of what we consider appropriate under the easement. Parking at the farm is only allowed for one event/year (up to seven days) and has already been used in a spring event. Therefore, parking for this event must occur across the street.
- c. V. Smith encouraged the commissioners to read a report by Trust for Public Land on the return on investment for conservation which will be emailed out.

Adjourned 8:56pm

Respectfully Submitted,

John Trummel, Alternate Commissioner