

Hanover Conservation Commission
Town Hall, 41 South Main Street
October 8, 2014 at 7:07 PM

Approved: November 12, 2014

Members present: Doug McIlroy as Vice Chair, Michael Mayor, John Trummel, Peter Christie, Selectmen's Representative, Jim Kennedy as minutes taker.

Staff: Vicki Smith

Public: Jonathan Brush, Dresden School District

1. Minutes of September 10, 2014 meeting: Minutes were not available for approval.

2. Ray School Wetlands application: D. McIlroy suggested that the Commission delay voting on the application, due to incomplete parts of the application. J. Kennedy said that although parts of the application were not presented, the overall concept and storm drainage management techniques appear to meet town and state requirements. Kennedy suggested a conditional approval. J. Brush stated that the plans and drainage calculations will need NHDES Alteration of Terrain approval, and the storm drain system at the cul-de-sac will be modified to reflect the comments at the site visit. M. Mayor commented that the proposal appears to be in the right direction with favorable hydrology, and would support a conditional approval.

Motion by P. Christie to approve the application, subject to submittal of all required documentation. Seconded by J. Trummel. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Resource Management:

Hayes Farm Park - J. Kennedy reported that the areas disturbed by invasive plant removal has been seeded with conservation mix. D. McIlroy reported that there is a stand of Canada lily in the field above the play area. V. Smith thought it would be OK to mow this stand, since it seems to have found a home there despite repeated mowings over the years. Ed Chamberlain will be convening the management committee upon his return.

Wilson's Landing - J. Kennedy reported on meetings with Hanover DPW and NHDES Wetlands Bureau, who were both in support of the concept of placing a culvert in the causeway and removing the timber pier as mitigation for an expanded parking and grass area. The next step will be to convene another neighborhood meeting before the regular Commission meeting on November 12. Kennedy will prepare preliminary recommendations and a sketch plan for the meeting.

P. Christie suggested continuing the use of calcium chloride for dust control along the driveway. V. Smith proposed long-term parking solutions, perhaps including the Dartmouth College properties to the south. She also suggested that NHDOT be contacted regarding signage and traffic lanes. There may be grant money for a kiosk and signs, since the trail was originally funded by LWCF.

Mink Brook West/South Esker: The Hanover DPW and Liberty Utilities work has been completed. D. McIlroy commented that the parking area is too large, and that there is a need for screening of the substation. V. Smith said that landscaping would be used to define the Town and Liberty areas. She will be getting the replacement signs installed as soon as practicable.

Rinker/Steele: A sign is needed at the entry and parking areas. Mountain bikes are creating mud at several wet crossings V. Smith has signs and will contact the UVMBA. Possibly the Trail Committee can install the signs.

McKinley Forest: The boundary is well-marked with blazes. V. Smith will put up some HCC easement markers. There is a cellar hole on the property, with a stone table. The property is in excellent condition, and should get more use.

Elm Road: The Town Attorney and Town manager are contacting the owners regarding trails, signs and trespass issues. P. Christie said that we should wait for the legal process to be completed.

Deer Management: The deer herd management at Balch Hill by the Hanover Conservancy, with individual hunter permits and designated tree stands, could be used as a model for other properties. DPW is still controlling the hunting on the Trescott lands.

4. Committee Reports:

Open Space: No report due to Ed Chamberlain absence.

Trails: will meet next week. Signs are a priority.

Biodiversity: will meet next week.

5. Other Business

Marshall Brook: Jim Kennedy met on the property with Jeff Smith, the Forester, and reviewed the proposed forest management options. The timber sale has been advertised, and there will be a pre-bid site visit on October 24.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Kennedy, minutes taker