

**Approved: 14 January 2015**

**Hanover Conservation Commission  
Minutes, November 12, 2014**

Board: Edwin Chamberlain (Chair), Peter Christie (Select Board representative), James Kennedy, Douglas McIlroy (scribe), John Trummel  
Staff: Vicki Smith

**Approval of minutes.** Christie moved to approve minutes of the October 8 meeting. Trummel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Wilson's landing.** Kennedy presented a preliminary plan for improvement of Wilson's Landing, which, Chamberlain said, had previously been discussed by the Open Space Committee. After describing objectives, existing conditions and natural resources, as previously discussed in two public forums at the site, Kennedy provided particulars.

The causeway would be narrowed to discipline traffic, protected with guardrails, and fitted with a culvert to allow flow between and through the existing backwaters on either side. The creosoted bulkhead shoring up the riverbank at the Town dock would be removed and replaced with a sloped bank. These mitigation measures would offset the impact of fill proposed for a picnic area at the south end of the landing. Informal reactions from NHDES and DPW have been favorable. Other amenities would include an information kiosk and possibly a gazebo.

The parking area would be contained by wooden rails that could double as seating. Trailers would be parked on one side of the lot, cars on the other. Kennedy suggested that Dartmouth be asked to allow overflow parking in the gravel pit across Route 10. Hugh Mellert's asked, would there be handicap parking? Kennedy answered yes.

The sanctuary area north of the landing would not be altered except for removal of invasive plants. A dry hydrant might be provided to help fire tankers to fill up from the river.

John Creagh asked about mitigating erosion on the Fullington Farm trail. McIlroy said the trail is not on town property, and that Friends of Hanover Crew have allowed the trail to come through the field rather than the thicket where the easement lies. For the foreseeable future the eroded thicket section of the trail will not be maintained. Smith said that there is also some riverbank erosion near the trail due to storm drains.

The next steps, Kennedy said, are to construct a timeline and obtain permits. Chamberlain recommended creating a management committee from the neighborhood; the suggestion was well received by the audience.

Creagh urged traffic calming near Route 10. Judith Reeve said public safety should be among the stated objectives of the project. Mellert asked what would replace the bulkhead. Kennedy said two feet of stone toe protection at the foot of the slope. The pedestrian ramp to the dock may have to be lengthened. Alice Creagh was concerned that the narrow causeway might hinder children who sometimes fish in the backwaters; Kennedy believed there would still be room for that activity. It was asked whether use by large groups such as a kayak flotilla would be regulated. Smith said that Wilson's Landing is a public boat launch and does not allow camping. LWCF funds were used to purchase the property so if the town were to charge for use of Wilson's Landing, fees must not discriminate between Hanover residents and other users.

**Ray School wetlands application.** Chamberlain asked if there were any further comments on materials submitted in support of the application that was provisionally approved at the previous meeting.

McIlroy moved to recommend maintaining the strip between driveway and the Girl Brook ravine as seldom-mowed meadow to mitigate sheet erosion on the bank, and to note that approval was recommended despite the absence of perc test data on the understanding that such data would be vetted by the state. Kennedy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Campion Farm timber cut.** Smith explained that this private harvest would occur in a conservation easement supervised by the Commission. Christie moved to delegate the Open Space Committee to decide and grant approval after a site visit. Trummel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Elm Road.** Scott McGee, Eric Goldwarg and Rod Finley (Pathways Consultants) presented the Rabinovitz family's proposal to replace the Class VI section of Elm Road with a differently aligned trail. Family member Dody Perkins was present. McGee said this proposal responded to concerns that the commission had expressed about the practicality of a previously proposed trail along the western boundary of the property. He had shown the new eastern alignment to town officials: Smith, Julia Griffin, and Walter Mitchell. It involves extinguishing the town highway, in which a septic field for the Perkins house has been built, and deeding a 10-foot trail easement instead.

Christie asked why the town the easement is proposed to be reduced from 40 feet to 10 feet. Christie pointed out that the septic field had been built despite the discovery that the approved plans impinged on a Class VI highway. McGee responded that the owners had been advised by another lawyer to go ahead anyway—advice with which McGee disagrees. He said that besides avoiding the septic field, the proposed alignment would benefit both residents and trail users by placing the path farther from the house.

McIlroy said the Trails Committee favors moving the right of way still farther to the east along the boundary between the two Rabinovitz lots. McGee said that, though the lots are formally in common ownership, one is effectively and eventually will be legally the Perkins's. The Rabinovitz family will not agree to a route that touches their easternmost lot.

McIlroy suggested that the route be designated as a Class A trail, rather than a trail easement. That would prohibit vehicular traffic by the public, but still allow it for the owner. It should be easier to pass at town meeting. McGee pointed out that the possibility had been mentioned in a letter to the town, though the owners would prefer an easement. It was suggested that the connecting segment of Wolfeboro Road could be designated Class A at the same time.

No formal application has been filed in the matter, so no Commission action was required.

**Marshall Brook Timber cut.** Smith said Town forester Jeff Smith is arranging a logging contract. Chamberlain said it is expected to gross about \$50,000 and net about \$30,000 for the conservation fund.

**Bach Hill hunting.** Chamberlain said 27 or 28 hunters have signed up. Only bow hunting from tree stands will be allowed; and hunters are encouraged to take doe.

**Trescott Company.** Chamberlain described a tour of buckthorn-removal efforts. Areas cleared by Gerry Hawkes's machine look free of invasives now, but it is not clear how to go about replacing the vegetation to avoid problems of uniform cohorts of monoculture timber, deer predation, and resurgence from buckthorn seed. Smith said they are treating randomized test plots and the possible best treatment options will be determine from the results. Christie added that clearing alone is a 10-year project.

**Biodiversity Committee.** Chamberlain said the biodiversity committee is suspending regular meetings for lack of a chair from within the Commission. It is proposed to rename the Open Space Committee to Stewardship Committee. Smith said the bylaws should be changed accordingly. McIlroy said the Biodiversity Committee should remain on the books for now in hopes that a chairperson can be recruited, as personnel still exist in the wings. Smith, Barbara McIlroy, and Gail McPeck attended the

last meeting. Barbara is to be thanked for the excellent deer meetings attended by over 150 people from 20 towns.