

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**January 14, 2015 at 7:00 PM**  
**TOWN HALL, 41 SOUTH MAIN STREET**

In attendance:

**Members:** Edwin Chaimberlain (Chair), Peter Christie, (Selectmen's Representative), Jim Kennedy, John Trummel, Hugh Mellert, Whit Spaulding, Michael Mayor(Seribe)

**Staff:** Vicki Smith

**Others:** William Mlacak

1. **MINUTES:** The minutes of September 10, November 12, December 10 and 30, 2014 were approved as modified.

2. **CURRENT BUSINESS**

-Commission's Committees

Bylaws were circulated in current mailing, reviewed by the full Commission and discussed. They were reviewed and amended in October, 2013. Staff suggested perspectives on structure that might need to be addressed including open space, wildlife and wetland protections. A smaller committee to be formed to recommend to the full Commission was considered and approved. Stewardship committee for open space strategizing was emphasized. Hayes farm and Wilson's Landing mentioned specifically. Stewardship committee suggested as a title. It was suggested absorbing Biodiversity and Open Space into the newly created Stewardship group. Wetlands protection needs to recognize state-wide regulatory language. Membership of the new group is coalescing. Functioning of the Balch Hill Committee also referenced. To do list for the group needs to include a focus on Trescott lands.

-Deer Management Website Materials

Informational sheets were distributed in the mailing, with six parts related to deer management and forest health. Sheets represent a preliminary body of work in that direction. Sheets represent a seed effort to initiate the process.

3. **RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP**

-Review Balch Hill Management Plan

Copies distributed to Commission. [Draft 12, December 22, 2014.] Draft included input from the Balch Hill Committee. Viewshed and erosion may need more emphasis. Kennedy raised concerns regarding the lack of action items and specific plans to proceed with work. Eg: Section 2 would benefit from such additional efforts. Ann Morris' editorial work was complimented from the chair. Budgetary issues were raised to be sure adequate advanced notice is communicated to the town management. Wilson's Landing, Hayes Farm and Balch Hill fall under this umbrella.

-Balch Hill Deer Hunt (all, 5 minutes)

Latest news about hunt result: 238 observations comprising 16 individual deer sighted, none taken. No baiting, deer stands were used. Rumors of three deer taken proved unsubstantiated.

#### 4. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- Michael Mayor is the January Minutes Taker
- John Trummel is the February Minutes Taker
- Jim Kennedy is the March Minutes Taker

#### 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Open Space Committee

Meeting last week. No substantial news shared.

- Trails Committee

William presented summary of their proceedings. Maple Trail proposed relocation to avoid we area with new route detailed. Draft agreement with Dartmouth included in distribution. Information shared with CC via e-mail pre-meeting. No cutting required, so re-routing needs minimal disturbance. Work to be done by the Balch Hill Committee. Meeting also touched on Wolfboro Road and wheeled vehicular activity as undesirable. Possible conversion from Class VI to Class A trail designation. Change may start with re-designation of Wolfboro off Dogford Road as an initial exploration. Feelings about vehicular exclusions are conflicted. Unlocked gates may be effective without offending the rules. Trail committee encouraged to pursue efforts to establish a location for the gate(s) and dimensions. The chair will send a full description of the early use of Wolfboro Road for the New Hampshire Governor's trip to Dartmouth's second graduation ceremonies (plans to use it for the first graduation ceremonies failed due to timing.) Details will be shared with the Trails Committee membership. Also, need for long term trail projects which connect with Lebanon, and Harris Trail and Upper Mink Brook with crossings that may need to be commented on by the CC. It may behoove us to focus on Shumway and Huggins established trails as a priority, avoiding any controversy that may attach to Vincellet's property issues. Trails Committee may need to digest these perspectives and prioritize their approach.

- Biodiversity Committee

Now defunct

#### 6. Other Business:

Chair was directed to proceed with making budgetary recommendations to be forwarded to town management.

Marshall Brook is underway. Approval is sought for grasslands and meadows symposium April 1 at Howe Library presentation and panel discussion with the Conservancy, a hay farmer and others. Lead by Jim Kennedy, with workshops on fields and grasslands. Vicki will pursue publicizing the events. Announcements of a talk by Ed Chaimberlain about the Brothers Foster. Notice is given about the January Moister Meadow ceremony, announced by Hugh Mellert.

#### 7. Adjournment at 9:10 PM

**NEXT MEETING: Feb 11, 2014 7:00 PM, Board Room, Municipal Building**