

**Hanover Conservation Commission
Town Hall, 41 South Main Street
February 11, 2015 at 7:05 PM**

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

Staff: Vicki Smith

Public: Scott McGee, John Richardson

1. Rabinovitz Family, Elm Road Special Exception: Scott McGee appeared for the applicants. The Commission reviewed the Report of Site Visit, dated February 9. There was a brief discussion of the future procedure - the Selectmen lay out a new Road, Town Meeting accepts the Road, and Town Meeting may then vote to change the Road to a Class A Trail.

The Commission voted to forward the proposal to the Zoning Board, with the recommendations contained in the Report of Site Visit.

2. Deer Management: The NH Fish & Game Department will be holding a series of hearings on their ten-year Game Management Plan. The Commission, through the Selectmen and the Trescott Company, intends to submit testimony. There was a discussion of existing deer management problems and potential solutions. Barbara McIlroy has prepared a six-page memorandum on deer management. The Commission reviewed the memorandum, and felt that, although it is very thorough and informative, it would be too long to present as Commission testimony. The Commission directed Doug McIlroy and Jim Kennedy to prepare a short letter to the NH Fish & Game Commission describing our problems, what has been done in the past, and requesting that more intensive deer management be utilized for the suburban areas of Hanover.

3. By-Laws: Vicki Smith presented a draft of the revised by-laws. The duties section of the Biodiversity Committee are proposed to be moved into the Open Space Committee, which will be re-named the Stewardship Committee. A Water Resources Committee will be added. There will be a new provision that at least two Commission members or alternates shall be appointed to each committee, one of which shall be chair. Vicki Smith will make the necessary changes in the draft, and prepare a final version for the full Commission vote at the regular March meeting.

4. Balch Hill Fire Trail: Doug McIlroy reported that the Balch Hill Stewardship Committee suggested that the Fire Trail be improved and provided with a 12-foot gate. There is currently a chain across the Baker driveway, and the fire trail is used as a convenience for events. The Commission felt that the trail can be improved during future forest and invasive plant management or mowing operations, that improvements to the trail may not be needed for safety, and that any work would not be a priority for 2015. Mike Mayor will check with the Baker family about the trail, and Vicki Smith will review the safety issues with the Fire Department.

5. SB 83: The Commission received a request from NHACC to oppose the provisions of SB 83, currently in the NH legislative process, which proposes changes to Conservation Commissions role as agents of the Town in inspecting public lands. Vicki Smith will send a letter saying that the Hanover Commission is not an agent, but has come comments. See attached letter.

6. Resource Stewardship:

Hayes Farm Park: The neighborhood meeting was postponed due to weather. There is no funding in the 2015-2016 budget for weekly mowing of the trails.

Wilson's Landing: Jim Kennedy reported that he has not heard back from NHDES on the proposed improvements. Vicki Smith reported that there will be no funding for Wilson's Landing in the 2015-2016 budget. Jim Kennedy will formulate a list of low-cost improvements which can be made this year using existing funds, and which will not require permitting.

Wolfeboro Road: The gates have been approved in the 2015-2016 budget.

Connecticut River Trails: There was a general discussion of trails along the river. There could be several potential connections: Pine Park and Ledyard Canoe Club; South Esker and Lebanon's Chambers Park; Rivercrest and Kendall; and Kendall and the former Chieftan Motel.

Harris Trail: Doug McIlroy reported that the old Harris Trail could connect the Mayor-Niles parcel and the DOC cabin with minimum work.

7. Minutes: The minutes of September 10, 2014 and January 14, 2015 were approved with minor corrections.

8. Other Business: None.

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Kennedy, minutes taker