

Approved: April 8, 2015

HANOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
March 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL, 41 SOUTH MAIN STREET

In attendance:

Members: Ed Chamberlain (Chair), Michael Mayor, Hugh Mellert, Doug McIlroy, Whit Spaulding

Alternates: James Kennedy, John Trummel, Bill Mlacak

Staff: None

Others: Barbara McIlroy

Minutes approved: December 8, 2014 (site visit), February 9 (site visit) and February 11 (regular meeting), 2015 all approved. Several suggested changes for February 11 meeting will be forwarded to Vicki by EC.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Pete's Brook crossing proposal on Goodfellow Road has been temporarily withdrawn by applicant after site visit on Monday, February 9.
2. Discussion of the Conservation Commission structure and revised bylaws
 - a) Changes in red which were discussed at the last meeting were reviewed without comment.
 - b) BM had two questions about the bylaws. The first was the meaning of "the consent of Town Manager" (Part III Officers, section C). This was felt to be generally implied when town staff carried out any secretarial duties and the consensus was to leave the wording alone. The second was the clarity of the following statement: "the committee shall not issue opinions or act on behalf of the Commission without a specific vote of the Commission to do so" (Part V Committees, section B). It was decided to add public to the statement so it will read: "the committee shall not issue **public** opinions or act on behalf of the Commission without a specific vote of the Commission to do so".
 - c) A motion to accept the amended bylaws was made by JK, seconded by WS and unanimously approved.

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP:

1. State Deer Management Plan (discussed by DM)—a letter drafted by the CC and submitted through the selectboard was sent to NH Fish and Game. Barbara McIlroy suggested that a town representative should go to a public meeting in Claremont on Thursday, March 19 to summarize the letter and answer any questions. EC will check with Vicki Smith to see if anyone representing the town plans to attend the meeting.
2. Balch Hill Fire Trail (discussed by DM)—the deeded ROW has been blocked by owner of the property at the terminus of Hemlock Rd with a large boulder. An alternate trail has been proposed to avoid this but work to create the trail should be funded by the land owner. DM also noted the blazed property line does not run to corner pin on the property. The Commission

decided that this should be reviewed when a building permit is filed. It was felt that any proposed revision to ROW should be approved by the fire chief. DM will work on sorting this out.

3. Additional Work for FY15—this was to be covered by VS (who was absent) but DM brought up a proposal to buy 20 trail signs from the Voss Sign Co for the \$359. The signs are brown with yellow writing. It was unanimously approved to spend up to \$400 on these signs. (DM proposed/EC seconded).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Open Space Committee: There was no meeting to discuss. Several other matters were discussed:
 - a) EC discussed the recent Trescott Company meeting on opening trails to public access which was attended by EC and JK. The Trescott Company is generally supportive of this proposal. Julia Griffin ran the meeting. Parking for trail access was addressed. Dartmouth College discussed possibly linking to Oak Hill but had some hesitancy to allow skiing access to Oak Hill as these trails require payment to use. At this time, trails in the reservoir would be limited to logging roads. Use of bikes will probably be allowed.
 - b) EC discussed the recent ZBA meeting on the Rabinovitz property. The ZBA deferred a decision on the application for several reasons. They wanted the NHDES to weigh in on the bridge construction. Julia Griffin sent a letter to ZBA stating that Town has not decided to give up ROW at this point. The ZBA is also concerned about the town being included as co-applicant to road work as the location of turn around has not been determined. Julia Griffin's letter read to the Commission by EC.
 - c) JK discussed Wilson's Landing funding has been approved but state permitting not yet complete. Some work may be able to start without permit.
 - d) Barbara McIlroy presented information about the deer management website and requested comments from the commissioners. The website can be found on Town of Hanover website under under biodiversity committee.
2. Trails Committee (presented by DM): John Taylor proposed that a partnership including the commission attempt to get a grant for Moose Mountain Ridge planning work from the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership to be led by the UVTA and would like CC support. Quabbin reservoir is in MA. JK concerned about inability to get easements but finding this out would be part of the grant. The CC was generally supportive of this proposal.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. BM pointed out that the CC agenda is available on the website but not packet and would like the packet material to the website. He feels we should try to limit paper use. EC will ask VS about the feasibility to doing this.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Trummel, Alternate Commissioner