

Approved: May 13, 2015

Conservation Commission

Minutes, 8 April, 2015

In attendance: Smith, McIlroy, Mellert, Mayor (scribe), Chamberlain, Spaulding, Kennedy, Christie, Trummel. Absent: Saucier, Mlacak

Guests: Jeff Carney (Liberty Utilities), Heather Green (Liberty Utilities), Russell Rohloff (Pathways Consultants), Ted Dawson and Mike Daily (Hypertherm)

Minutes as amended were approved for 3/9/15 and 3/11/15.

Current Business:

Liberty Utilities has proposed a maintenance cut along their utility lines along Route 10. The easement area on Fullington Field and the west side of the Rinker Steele Natural Area will be impacted by the proposed cutting and trim. Courtney Dragiff (Hanover Conservancy, easement holder for Rinker Steele Natural Area), Jim Kennedy and Vicki Smith attended the site visit. Trees identified for cutting or trimming were reviewed by Heather Green the Liberty Utilities arborist. The letter from the Hanover Conservancy addressed the proposed work and recommended against cutting 4 apple trees just north of the trail head near Rinker Pond. The apple trees have been cut many times in the course of line maintenance and sport a thicket of sprouts which reach up into the utility lines. The Commission decided to support the proposed line maintenance on both the Rinker Steele Natural Area and the northwest corner of the Hanover Improvement Society land, giving permission to cut the apple trees rather than just trimming them.

Russell Rohloff (Pathways Consultant), Ted Dawson (Hypertherm), Mike Daily, (Hypertherm Director of Operations) presented a conceptual plan of Hypertherm's project at 21 Great Hollow Road. Plans were distributed (Marked A, existing and proposed) showing the loading dock area with surrounding wetlands. The plan's benefit to the adjacent wetland is not clear. Mitigation/remediation is being skirted. The applicant was urged to take a more broad-based view of the wetland system considering water movements, snow storage, loading dock activities, pavement icing problems, siltation processes, pavement fragmentation, freeze/thaw movements, etc. The company has options that might address the problems of the site more effectively. The discussion concluded on a positive note with agreement that there could be a solution beneficial to both the wetlands and the pavement maintenance situation. No definitive plan has been devised. Hypertherm representatives were encouraged to continue to explore the nature of the problems and return with a plan that more thoroughly addressed the issues.

Elm Road Turnaround: Only buffer impact remains. There was no applicant representation at the meeting. Landowners involved have eased back to mollify neighbors. Wetlands Special exception

turnaround remains in active mode. Motion to support by Kennedy, second by McIlroy, letter to ZBA so saying. Vote was Unanimous in favor.

Grant proposals: Quabbin/Cardigan partnership as source for:

- 1) Moose Mountain planning grant in concert Enfield directed toward South Peak issues including Dana property. Needs are ridge trail maintenance and signage, protection, consolidation with landowners, Enfield abutments, corridor delineation to AT/Smarts/Cardigan linkages. The routing needs planning, possibly to include paid consultants to preserve Hanover's best trail. Upper Valley Trails Alliance, Conservancy, and others are engaged. The application will be submitted in the Fall.
- 2) Trescott Company Public Use . The Company is pursuing details of opening the Water Company land to public use. Monetary support can be sought from Q/C funding . The focus is on signage moneys and payment for signs to clarify the issues attendant to public access of reservoir lands. CC response regarding support for such a process is sought. Efforts will include "in kind" inputs from Town of Hanover. CC to be a party to the stewardship of the lands involved and participate in kind, with letter of support to be presented to Q/C. Monetary support from Q/C seems free of down-sides. Moved by Kennedy, seconded by Chamberlain, approved unanimously .

Resource Stewardship

Deer management: NH Fish and Game received some criticism but the management plan will likely acknowledge the input from Hanover residents that deer are a threat to property(eating landscape plants), human health(Lyme Disease) and forest health(decline in biodiversity and native species).

Marshall Pressey timber harvest grossed \$52,000, netted \$40,000. Site visit to view the cut solicited. Site visit set for Monday May 4, 3PM.

Wilson's Landing: Kennedy provided 4/8/2015 Draft for implementation. Public Works is on board for the project. The kiosk is in CC's bailiwick. Tables and benches unassigned. Jim will be available for Town Meeting presentation and questions.

Hayes Farm Park: Meeting date impending (early May) to delineate plans for a neighborhood management committee and a narrative of the management plan for local people to react to.

Stewardship Committee: Met last Thursday with Jim Kennedy, Ed Chamberlain, Barbara McIlroy. Biodiversity and other matters discussed. Request was submitted to appoint Barbara to the Committee. Ed Chamberlain appointed Barbara to the Committee.

Trails: Moose Mountain grant. Ridge trail walk proposed for June 6 in conjunction with National Trails Day.

Other Business: Storrs Pond proposal was included in current meeting's mailing, describing splash pad as community draw for non-swimmers. There are DES shoreline regulations to be met. An application is

awaited. The Grasslands Program at Howe Library was acknowledged as a great program with credit due to Jim Kennedy. A mid-June field trip is planned. The upcoming Woodcock trip was noted.

Adjourned at 9:05P