

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES, 13 MAY 2015**

Abbreviation Key: CC=Conservation Commission, TOH=Town of Hanover, SOP=standard operating procedure, DPW=Department of Public Works, CCTC=Conservation Commission Trails Committee

In attendance: Chamberlain, Mellert, Christie, Trummel, Mayor ,McIlroy, Mlacak, Spaulding, Smith

Guests: None

Minutes as amended were approved for 4/8/15

Current Business:

Status of Hypertherm ZBA Special Exceptions Permit:

Hypertherm decided to withdraw permit for now.

- CC has encouraged Hypertherm to be creative to solve their site challenges
 - Consider management of the wetlands complex over all 3 properties vs the 1 site represented in the permitting process
 - CC needs to see more thought, planning & detail on mitigation plans.

Status of Wilson's Landing Permit by Notification:

Permit By Notification describes Phase 1 work (no structures):

- Removing invasives
- Reclaiming compacted gravel
 - Gravel removal could potentially be done for free by DPW as part of spring cleanup.

Phase 2 work at a future date may include the following:

- Reconnecting backwaters
- Narrowing of access road
- Constructing a gazebo

During the discussion it was suggested that TOH develop an SOP whereby TOH places funds into a "capital upgrade" account to be utilized to upgrade/maintain existing intensive use open spaces. (akin to the DPW paving schedule, but instead of maintaining a different section of road each year, TOH would be maintaining a different high-intensity-use open space).

Marshall Pressey Brook Timber Cut and Management Plan:

- Vicky to contact TOH forester Jeff Smith before the end of May to include the following in his logging operation close-out procedures:
 - Place gravel at log landing where it opens on to Goose Pond Road.
 - Move boulders to restrict the width of access to the TOH property
 - Install a gate between the boulders to limit vehicle access to the TOH property

- CC authorized Vicky to spend funds to purchase the gate & gravel (not to exceed \$2k).
- Class 6 Road at log landing entrance is called Miller Road
- Near term Management Plan objectives:
- Create new spur to existing hiking trail which will take hikers by the banks of the stream to enjoy two newly opened view sheds:
 - 1) Marshall Pressey confluence with Moose Mt in the background
 - 2) Marshall Pressey confluence with Holts Ledge /Smarts Mt in the background
- Maintain & mark existing trails after close-out of logging operations
- Eliminate small patch of glossy bucktorn on stream bank. First patch Jeff Smith has seen in the area. Need to eradicate it before it gets going in northeast Hanover.

Hayes Farm Park

- There are eight people including two from the Commission currently on the Hayes Farm Management Team
- Gail McPeck to orchestrate the team
- Discussed parcel ownership and process of developing a management plan for multiuse properties
- June 18 Walkabout & cook out scheduled to reach out to neighbors & discuss the mgt. plan
- Etna Fire Dept to staff the cookout. Various stake-holders to provide food.
 - CC to purchase hotdog buns & watermelon
- 4 Trails identified by Jim Kennedy. CC Trails Committee to assist in their development

Discussion followed of Management Plans in general and the need to recruit and train volunteers/ neighbors to manage/execute the prescriptions listed in the management plans.

General discussion of the four CC \$ accounts and their inter-relationship.

General discussion of Ordnance 20 and its efficacy.

Deer Management:

Julia meeting with NH Fish & Game, including two Commission members and staff, Vicki Smith, to discuss the conditions under which people will be enabled to eradicate deer. Once the parameters are established it will be up to each landowner to choose eradication methods from the approved list (bows, bait, doe tags etc.). Likely that landowners will consolidate based on geography akin to state deer management units.

Discussion followed of current account balance in Operating Fund and end of year expenditures.

\$350 allocated for trail signs (based on \$400 estimate approved in Feb '15)

\$736 allocated for gate at Marshall-Pressey Brook

Stewardship Committee:

- Discussion of Garlic Mustard eradication initiative
- CC Trails Committee to assist w/ Balch Hill trails management
- Funding secured to mow Hayes Park (this year)

Trails Committee:

- Bill Mlacek to meet w/ Bob Russell of the Occom Ridge Neighbor Association re: River Ridge Trail
- CCTC applying for a grant to rebuild bridge over Slade Brook
- CCTC applying for a Quabbin to Cardigan grant for trail planning on Moose Mt Trail
- Ridge walk scheduled for June 6 in conjunction with National Trails Day

Adjourned at 9:00 PM