

Hanover Conservation Commission Minutes

Hanover Town Hall, June 10, 2015

In attendance: Ed Chamberlain, Bill Mlacak, Jim Kennedy, Peter Christie, Whit Spaulding, Michael Mayor, Vicki Smith

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

1. Approval of Minutes

- April 6 (site visit)
- May 11 (site visit):
 - Add: "We suggested using a controlled drainage at end of pavement rather than down in the swale."
 - Add: "The Commission recommended that they look at big picture in terms of mitigation across all 3 properties."
 - Correction: after egg mass: (wood frog, spotted salamander)
 - Add: egg masses also in upper retention pond
- May 13 (meeting)
 - Correction, page 2: change "6 women" to "8 people, 2 from the Commission"
 - Add: for deer management, Vicki, Ed and Jim were also at the meeting.
- Minutes were approved as amended above

2. Current Business

- none

3. Resource Stewardship

a. Wilson's Landing Improvements (Jim)

- grass is taking well
- parking rules are working ok
- DES is ok to receive application for phase 2 (phase 1 was approved)
- Money may be available for picnic tables, like the one at the Etna Store

b. Marshall Pressey Brook Improvements (Vicki)

- Gravel has been purchased
- Waiting on Jeff Smith, then gravel will be delivered with 2-day notice
- Ken Milkie volunteered to put up a 14-foot donated gate, so the Town won't need to purchase one
- Awaiting boulder placement to site gate

c. Hayes Farm Park (Ed)

- "Walk about" event is scheduled at 5:30 on Thursday June 18
- Meeting is at Fire Station, followed by walk led by Jim
- Fire department staff will cook hot dogs from 6:15 to 7 pm
- 60 invitations have been sent out

- Etna Library will be used in case of rain (and barbecue will be cancelled)
 - The map should be updated to indicate that Brannen easement includes access
 - Trail Improvement maps were distributed
 - Members should advise Vicki about attendance
 - Vicki will check on mowing by DPW
 - Next step will be to finalize management plan, develop conservation easement to be held by Hanover Conservancy
 - Gail McPeck led pruning work at King Sanctuary on May 31
- d. Deer management (Ed)
- On May 18, NH Fish & Game met with Julia, Vicki, Jim, Ed for discussion about Hanover can do about deer problem
 - State probably can't do anything this year, but may allow extra permits this season.
 - Hanover hasn't exhausted all options, and so can still use available rules
 - Balch Hill could open earlier for hunting, or perhaps close Balch Hill to hiking for the opening day of hunting season (Tuesday Sept. 15)
 - Balch Hill Management group would need to lead this
 - To set up baiting stations, it is necessary to apply for permits now
 - Possibly set up permanent stands provided by town – this has been done in other places
 - Possibly special winter season
 - Opening up Trescott lands has helped
 - Maybe do permits for baiting on both Balch and Trescott
 - Hunters on Balch Management committee or DPW can help with siting
 - For Trescott land, this needs to be done by outside and volunteer groups, as the Trescott Company won't taking any action on this
4. Administrative Business
- a. End of year expenditures (Vicki)
- \$60 has been committed for Rinker Tract materials, UVMBA will be making bridge
 - Gate will be done by volunteers
 - Ron Bailey won't be billing for trail work this year
 - This leaves \$783 in budget, which could be for gravel or picnic tables
 - Home Depot has 6' wood tables for \$100 and 6' plastic tables for \$150
 - There is room for 2 picnic tables at Wilsons Landing, 2 benches by dock
 - Peter and Whit will look at options
 - Need tables that will last and that are sanded
 - Motion by Ed, second Whit: to spend no more than \$780 for 2 tables, 2 benches and security chains; motion passed
- b. Minutes
- Hugh will do July minutes
 - August meeting is on August 12 – John will be minutes taker
 - Jim will do minutes for September meeting
5. Committee Reports

a. Stewardship Committee (Ed)

- Barbara McIlroy has initiated a successful garlic mustard collection program, including such places as the Rail Trail
- For Hayes Farm Park, they are looking at possibility of flowering plants such as lilies
- Barbara has been protecting trillium from deer in Tanzi tract with metal cages

b. Trails Committee (Bill)

- Looking at changing meeting time to allow participation by more Conservation Commission members
- Report on Occom Ridge Association meeting for Cliffside Trail work
- Bill showed loop trail concept map that was used at the presentation
- No trail easement on deeds – Doug had done research
- Michael said that foot traffic was allowed between houses
- There is currently no formal agreement for trails
- Deeds do have language to prevent cutting without permission
- Bill showed pictures from June 6 Ridge Trail hike sponsored by Commission and Conservancy
- Discussion about Quabbin to Cardigan grant – looking at approval for grant application process by UVTA
- Commission would need to see grant application before sending letter
- Motion by Peter, second by Michael: to show support for grant application, letter to be provided after review of grant application; motion passed (Whit abstaining)
- Review of trail sign order – Jim suggested corrections Hayes Farm instead of just Hayes and Woodcock Lane
- Bill will make sure that Vicki has most recent version of sign order

6. Other Business

- Improvements have been made to Harris Cabin Trail
- Dartmouth will be making wetlands application
- Vegetative management request will be coming for cutting along edge of Tanzi tract
- Hypertherm application will be coming back this fall
- Dartmouth is creating a driveway to cabin – has been putting in a lot of gravel
- Ruddsboro road culvert at Dana Road will be a special expedited project
- Bridge is red listed and work needs to be done during school vacation period so that buses can resume in fall

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Mlacak, Commission Alternate