

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**September 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM**  
**TOWN HALL, 41 SOUTH MAIN STREET**

In attendance:

**Members:** Ed Chamberlain (Chair), Michael Mayor (Planning Board Liaison), Doug McIlroy, Peter Christie (Selectmen's Representative), Hugh Mellert

**Alternates:** Bill Mlacak, Jim Kennedy, John Trummel

**Staff:** Vicki Smith

Others: See Attendance Sheet

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** August 12, 2015—No comments, moved PC, second MM. Unanimously approved.

**2. CURRENT BUSINESS:**

**a)** Marty McMillan (Hanover fire chief) here for discussion of emergency access on town Class VI roads and trails. He discussed recent experience with trail access issues and need for rescues on trails in Hanover. One major priority is access to the Appalachian Trail. One possible access is to the saddle between North and South Moose Mtn via Wolfeboro Rd (class VI) but it is now in bad shape. Options to improve the trail mentioned include declaration of need for an emergency lane access or turning the road into a Class A trail. Both options would allow emergency vehicle access but Class A trail would limit other vehicular traffic to abutters. The emergency lane would allow the town to appropriate money to maintain the road. An additional potential access to the AT mentioned by Chief McMillan would be from the Shumway property off of the radio tower maintenance road which would have two potential access points to the South peak from the southern AT approach. Discussion ensued about options to protect Wolfeboro Rd from damage by 4-wheel drive vehicles (gating the road, changing it to a Class A trail or closing the road entirely) but no consensus concerning the best option was concluded. The last time this road was maintained was by John LaHaye hired by the Commission to grade the road and install water bars. John worked as a consultant, not a Town employee. The funds were donated, not appropriated. One option to protect any maintenance from damage would be gating part of the road, however if it remains a Class VI road, the gate may not be locked. A motion was made to support the fire department request for emergency access on Wolfeboro Rd to the selectboard by D. McIlroy and seconded by M. Mayor and was unanimously approved. The final determination of how to do this will be left up to the Selectboard.

**3. RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP:**

- a)** Hayes Farm Park: The trails will be mowed by D. Cioffi and area bushhogged by J.Kennedy. This work has been mentioned to the Hayes Farm stewardship committee.
- b)** Marshall Pressey: Logging restoration work is under way but not completed. Only half the trail has been seeded and more work on the trail needs to be done (such as removal of

bumper trees and creation of water bars). The forester will be contacted by V. Smith to discuss progress.

c) Wilson's Landing: The landing is being heavily used and the crew dock is used by swimmers. Boat trailers are being parked along the access road. (M. Mayor left at 8 PM). There was debate on what to do about overflow parking but no concrete decision was made about any solution.

d) Balch Hill: Will be open to hunters only from September 15-19 and after that will be open to bow hunting as well as other uses. Two sites have been permitted for baiting. Some invasive spraying has also occurred.

e) Edgerton Land Vegetation: There was a complaint by a resident on River Ridge because they were not allowed to cut trees for viewing. Apparently, another resident cut trees without permission. One party has permission to clear an area for wildlife. Another resident has cut invasives by permission. A letter to all abutters will be sent to remind them not to infringe on town land without permission.

f) Pleasant Street slope maintenance: was cut last year. Neighbor wants more cutting done on the slope. There is a undercapitalized trust fund to do this maintenance. There was a debate on whether the HCC should be responsible for this work. Site visit will be set up to see the area.

- 4. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:** M. Mayor is the October minutes taker. It was noted that D. McIlroy is stepping down from the HCC at the end of his term after many years of service.

## **5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) Trails Committee: D. McIlroy is giving up the chairmanship but plans to stay involved. E. Chamberlain requested B. Mlacak accept the chair and he accepted. Some trail signs have been installed and plans to install the rest are under way. J. Kennedy observed that the South Esker parking plan was not completed. V. Smith will follow up with public works concerning this.

- 6. OTHER BUSINESS:** D. McIlroy brought up for discussion the need for a deer management committee. V. Smith thinks this is out of the purview of the HCC and further discussion was tabled. H. Mellert noticed a road cut just south of Piper's Lane—apparently this is a trail created by the landowner who is permitted to do this. The town requested the court to enforce the removal of junk owned by D. Vincellette on town land in the Tanzi tract and this request is pending. E. Chamberlain mentioned he has seen severe erosion on Girl Brook in Pine Park. E. Chamberlain brought up the Conti refuge and questioned if we should be more involved with this plan. P. Christie pointed out ZBA approved Hypertherm parking and thanked the committee for its work on this topic.

- 7. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Trummel, Alternate Commissioner