

Approved: November 10, 2015

Conservation Commission

Minutes, 14 October, 2015

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

Guests:

Meeting opened at 7:03 PM.

1. Minutes as amended were approved for September 19, 2015. Moved by M Mayor, seconded by P Christie.

2. Current Business:

Site visit reviewed re brush cutting on Pleasant Street, attended by Chamberlain, Spaulding, Mayor and Smith.

See visit notes by V. Smith. Visit group concluded that funding needed to be raised by neighborhood contributions to supplement existing funds in CC budget. Otherwise cutting should be deferred till next spring. Dr. Michael Tsapakos has requested permission to cut brush and leave it in place on the slope below Pleasant Street. (See his note of 14 October e-mail to V. Smith.) Discussion of the Commission concluded that, as funds being generated by trust funds are insufficient to cover the professional cutting, no expenditure from CC operating funds should occur until next year. The sense of the meeting is to allow volunteer cutting to proceed and to use the available funds from the Trust Fund if the neighbors want to donate the balance of the cost. Signs protecting the site from dumping of cut brush from other sites are planned, as the land is a natural area in town conservation.

Recommendation to NH DES re Hypertherm's 21 Great Hollow Road infrastructure rehabilitation: Following a site visit and presentation to the Planning Board, CC made a recommendation to the ZBA with concerns about the stream crossing with a box culvert that does not comply with state guidelines. The stream's sand and mud bottom needs to be respected and plunge pools and vernal pools and stream's course require protection or remediation. Current plans do not seem to be responsive to expressed concerns coming from the CC. A letter to the applicant pointing out the non-compliance with State's guidelines for stream crossings and stream course as designed was called for by motion, made by J Kennedy, seconded by P Christie. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Resource Stewardship

Hayes Farm Park: Two birdhouses are going up, mowing has been done. Management plan is being drafted by the Hayes Farm Park Management Committee. Goldenrod was noted to be prolific.

Marshall Pressey Natural Area: Consulting forester finished boundary painting. A neighbor has installed a gate with a key available to open the chain once snowfall occurs. Buckthorn has been addressed. The area was noted to be particularly attractive.

Wilson's Landing: No new observations now into late fall. Parking for the boat launch trailers is less than ideal as organized. DPW needs mowing delineations to help manage the open space. DPW probably won't be proceeding this year. Benches and tables planned will be managed by DPW per routines established. The items are near completion, bought from Farm Way.

Balch Hill Hunting and Invasive Plant Management: Greater Balch Hill Area plans include two sites for baiting and sixteen sites for tree stands for deer management. Invasives management including spraying was inexpensive, but a large stand of buckthorn remains and needs to be handled to prevent resprout. VS hopes this can be done parsimoniously.

4. Administrative Business

Bill Mlacack is the November minutes taker

Whit Spaulding is the December minutes taker

John Trummel is the January minutes taker

5. Committee Reports

Trails Committee: Bill Mlacack reported on efforts to determine the membership list. E-mails are being collected to build the list. Site and timing of meetings are in process. John Sherman, new recreations director, is being invited to attend/participate as appropriate. His purview has been parks for recreation and he has an interest in best management of trails for recreation. Trail map reprinting may permit wider distribution without charge for copies. Arrangements are being pursued. Discussion ensued about maps on the web site of the town and its utility. The Hanover Trails challenge of Gail McPeck was mentioned by H Mellert, as a pertinent program to be recognized. Conservation Council is continuing to pursue the development of the program with Hanover Recreation. Upper Valley Trails Alliance is also being approached to participate. Dartmouth College is also being approached to explore a role for the College in the program. Web site improvements toward more interactive function and currency are being explored. Concerns were shared about some of the dynamics of correspondence and correspondents on social media. Decision-making will be deferred to Town Management. Grant request is being generated and will need to be reviewed before attaching CC support to the application. Responses will be funneled through V. Smith. The group is looking to fund the planning of a corridor trail along Moose Mountain. Paul Gagnon is steward for the project.

Stewardship Committee: Edwin Chamberlain reported on B. McIlroy's efforts to discipline invasives. Comments are being solicited regarding the Sylvio O. Conte Refuge project. Objections have been raised by NH Timberland Owners Assoc. Adair Mulligan is applying for grant money for invasive control on the Mink Brook Conservancy area. Clean up is beginning on property owned by David Vincelle. Town council is helping manage some of the legal issues that have arisen or may arise. New

fill has been added on 14 Sands O' Time Road without permit. The Town's Zoning Administrator is helping resolve the compliance issues.

Other Business: Peter Christie reported on the Trescott Board meeting describing efforts of a management committee that has moved toward a December 15th opening for access to the land. Potential uses are being considered, with commitment to a low profile approach to the opening. The Board discussed the issues surrounding Vincellette's land and its management. And the Select Board has signed off on creating an emergency lane on Wolfeboro access on Moose Mountain, as requested by Fire and Police Services. Jim Kennedy's pollinator workshop was announced for Nov 6, 1 – 4 PM, to include seeding of grasses as well.

7. Adjourned at 9:05 PM

Next Meeting is Tuesday, 10 November, 2015, at 7 PM. Board Room, Municipal Building.