

Approved: 14 September 2016

**Hanover Conservation Commission**  
**Town Hall, 41 South Main Street**  
**August 10, 2015 at 6:31 PM**

**Members present:** Ed Chamberlain, Chair, Bill Mlacak, Hugh Mellert, Peter Christie, Selectmen's Representative, Jim Kennedy as minutes taker.

**Staff:** Vicki Smith

**1. Replacement Septic System, 11 Mulherrin Farm Road:** Roger & Kimberly Lohr were present as owners. The Commission reviewed the site visit notes prepared by Vicki Smith. The septic system is failing, and the only replacement area available is between two wetlands. There will be no impact to the 75-foot wetland buffer, but there will be some impacts in the 125-foot setback. Motion to recommend approval to the ZBA by Jim Kennedy. Seconded by Peter Christie. Motion passed unanimously.

**2. Hanover Golf Course:** Tim McNamara (Dartmouth College), Rod Finley (Pathways Consulting, and Matt Gardner (Milone & McBroom) presented the project. The primary purpose of the project is to address erosion at Hole #6. Catch basins and detention areas are proposed to catch sediment and de-energize stormwater as it cascades down the valley hillsides to Girl Brook. In both cases, the ponds will need to have material removed and each will need a maintenance plan for continued efficacy at detaining water and retaining sediment. The maintenance path will be paved, with drainage controls. The Commission suggested additional stormwater detention areas at the golf course level, and the maintenance of a permanent vegetated buffer at the top of the slope. The use of native plant material, ferns, and deep-rooted grasses was also suggested. The applicant agreed to the above suggestions.

The second part of the project involved a new, low bridge over Girl Brook. The trail and bridge improvements are designed to accommodate golf course maintenance vehicles that would otherwise use town roads to get from one side of the golf course to the other side. A decision to be made in the future is whether golf carts will use the trails and the proposed bridge in lieu of the high bridge, which will be removed in the future.

Jim Kennedy questioned whether the proposed low bridge would qualify as a NHDES Minimum Impact project, since Girl Brook is a Tier 3 stream with channel width is greater than 8 feet, and the proposed use would not conform to the non-commercial recreational trails provisions of NHDES rules. After discussion the applicant agreed to re-visit the bridge and the state permitting requirements.

Motion by Jim Kennedy to recommend approval of the erosion portion of the project to the ZBA, and to reserve decision on the bridge until the NHDES permit status is clarified. Seconded by Peter Christie. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Pleasant Street View Cutting:** Tom & Margaret Greene and Dan Collison presented their proposal to keep open the view over Town property, as outlined in the Maude French deed and funding. The Commission is in favor of the cutting. There was discussion of using herbicide on cut stumps, to prevent the regrowth of invasive plants. David Vincelette questioned the use of "poisons" on Town land. There is \$1200 available in the fund. The Commission recommended that \$800 be authorized for Section 1A within 30 feet of the road, with the remainder to be used

for removal of trees further than 30 feet, in Section 1B. Those trees would be marked by the contractor and approved by the Commission prior to cutting. Motion to approve by Peter Christie. Seconded by Hugh Mellert. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Public Hearing on Town Highway 38:**

Convened at 7:30 pm

**Public attendees:** Ron Bailey, Peter Aptakin, Michael Tsapakos, Sarah Finley, David Vincelette, Mike Nolen, John Taylor, J.T. Horn (TPL), Matt Stevens (ATC)Hawk Metheny (ATC), Barbara Fowler, Vicki & Reid Drucker, Jim Wooster, Wayne Chin, Wendy Conquest, Nancy Collier, Bill & Mary Ann Lewis, Tom Linnel, Imogene & Roger Ulrich, Robert Hargreaves, Susan Renaud, Ross Smith, and Dudley & Julie Smith.

The following is a condensed account of the hearing (full testimony has been recorded and can be made available by request):

Peter Christie recused himself. Ed Chamberlain reviewed the history of the Highway, and the recent proposal by the Trails Committee of the Conservation Commission to allow bicycles on the Hudson Farm portion of the trail. He also described the Hudson's 1963 deed restriction on wheeled vehicles.

Bill Mlacak explained how the deed language would be structured, how trails would interconnect, and the how a management plan for trail use and maintenance would be adopted.

J. T. Horn of the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) made a presentation on the acquisition process, local funding and gifts to date, and how federal funds would be used and which agencies would be responsible for management in conjunction with the Appalachian Trail Corridor. He explained the complicated legal process by which easements between the Town and the ATC would be created and enforced. He said that TPL is looking at an October closing on the Hudson Farm, so that any changes in the easement language must be done soon.

There followed long and detailed public comment from neighbors and members of the community associations of Berrill Farms and Cuttings Corner. There was a unanimous feeling that bikes should not be allowed on Highway 38, for legal, safety, privacy, and conservation reasons. They also questioned how the various trails and uses would be marked and enforced.

Nancy Collier, President of the Hanover Conservancy, asked that the Commission be open minded and cautioned that permanently denying multiple uses of the Highway in the future may be short sighted. She mentioned the need for a connection between Mink Brook and the Trescott Lands.

John Taylor, Director of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance, also stressed multiple uses, connectivity, and future planning. He said that mountain bike trails are usually of high quality, and he hasn't seen many conflicts with pedestrian use.

Motion by Bill Mlacak that the Hanover Conservation Commission recommends that the Selectboard remove the ban on bicycles from the Highway 38 Trail Easement on the Hudson Farm parcel. Seconded by Hugh Mellert. Aye – Michael Mayor, Bill Mlacak, Hugh Mellert. Nay – Ed Chamberlain, Jim Kennedy. Motion Carried 3-2.

**5. Other Business:** David Vincelette questioned the Town's right to maintain highways with recycled asphalt. The matter was unresolved.

The Commission discussed a letter from the Hanover Conservancy requesting support of NH Aquatic Resource Mitigation funding for acquiring the Shumway property on Moose Mountain, and approved the request. Jim Kennedy recused himself from the discussion and the vote.

**6. Administrative Business:**

- Michael Mayor is the September minutes taker
- Hugh Mellert is the October minutes taker

**7. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Kennedy, minutes taker