

Hanover Conservtaion Commission Trails Committee Minutes, January 8, 2013

Present: Ron Bailey, Ed Chamberlain, Tom Linell, Doug McIlroy, Bill Mlacak, Tedd Osgood, Peter Shumway, John Taylor
Visitor: Mary Sloat

Short items

Ridge Trail. Linell has worked several days on the trail, doing what he could with a handsaw. He said there is bigger timber down near South Peak, a large blowdown north of the first ledge, a 30" oak leaner, and several blowdowns on the way up to Mascoma Peak. He suggests a reroute around some of that. A "mad lopper" has been through cutting off saplings a couple of feet off the ground like punji stakes. He hasn't checked the southern portion of the trail.

Clearly a substantial work party is needed to restore the trail. Shumway said Alv Elvestad should be invited. McIlroy recalled that a group John Taylor had recruited from the Tuck School did a major job there a couple of years ago. Planning for a work day will be an agenda topic in March.

Tanzi Tract. McIlroy removed one threatening snag and cleaned up some unsightly tangled logs that loomed from two to eight feet high beside the trail.

Taylor report. John cut one big uprooted pine that had fallen across the River Trail. It then righted itself to make a good habitat snag. On South Esker, he cleared a jumble of downed trees that thoroughly blocked the trail.

Goodwin Parking. McIlroy said that Vicki Smith is submitting an application for a recreational trails grant to obtain materials for a parking lot at the Goose Pond Road trailhead of the new bike trail in the Goodwin Forest. The requested amount, about \$9000, would be matched by construction work done by DPW. The Trails Alliance and the Mountain Bike Association will submit letters of support.

Other trail reports. Bailey said a tree downed by Hurricane Sandy on the Maple Trail has not been removed. McIlroy said the Balch Hill Stewardship Committee is aware of it.

Taylor said that Kathy Redpath and he had completed the initial clearing of the Goodwin Bike Trail. McIlroy was impressed; he had not expected that to be done until spring.

Bailey said there's a broken, but vertical, tree on the River Trail near the north end of the island.

Bailey has noticed flagging near the north end of the Indian Ridge Trail. No one knows who put it there or why.

Dana parcel

Taylor visited the site with the Robeses' attorney Atwood and surveyor Rollins, who showed him three prospective locations for the Dana's desired seasonal dwelling, all in the long clearing above Moose Mountain Lodge. He said it was asserted that besides the view potential, this area had the best soils for septic systems. Taylor gave them feedback about potential impacts on public values. Conscious of proceedings in progress, he was careful to expose issues, not to make recommendations. Chamberlain said Watershed to Wildlife consultants, hired to make a resource inventory for the town, will present their results later in the month.

Linell recommended photo documentation of the parcel. Chamberlain said the natural resource consultants are doing that.

Following up on an item from the previous meeting, Taylor said that the upper connector between the Baum Conservation Area and the Ridge Trail was not laid out by him as had been asserted. Except for the very lower end, which would be topographically difficult to relocate, he's not aware of any wet sections of the connector.

Trails map

McIlroy said that there should be only about two days' work left to have the new trail map ready for printing. However he hasn't been able to overcome some unexplained behavior of the mapping software. He will turn to an expert in the Dartmouth geography department for help.

Other business

Bailey said the Pine Park bridge is on hold. It appears that stabilizing the trail is taking precedence over both the bridge and stream restoration. Other remediation issues are posed by the closeness of the golf course and the increased incidence of storms.