

**Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee  
Agenda, Tuesday May 14, 9:00 AM, Moose Mountain**

Meet at the top of Moose Mountain Road.

(A few volunteers will meet at Elvestad's place in Enfield.)

Business

Adjourn to Ridge Trail

Next meeting June 11

Attachment

April minutes

**Ridge Trail**

Enjoy the fresh air and long views from Moose Mountain instead of mere talking around a table. Be ready to clear downed timber and brush. Bring work gloves, pruning gear, water, and lunch.

## Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee Minutes, April 9, 2013

Present: Tom Linnell, Ted Osgood, Mary Sloat, Ed Chamberlain, John Taylor, Peter Shumway, Ron Bailey, Bill Mlacak

### 1. Short Items

*River Trail Project.* Taylor reported on the River Trail project. This is planned for Earth Day, April 26 from 9:30 to 2:30. There will be 15 Hanover High students with teacher Kornfeld. They will work on timbers to shore up various parts of the trail. There are 15 areas in all, listed on John's document (attached). There is a need for about \$200 for materials, including rebar and timbers. He could reduce the cost somewhat if necessary, and simplify the shoring. Some salvage may be possible, based on a site visit by Taylor and Litten.

The will not affect adjacent properties, but the 2 abutters should be notified prior to work. It should be a letter from the Conservation Commission.

Chamberlain pointed out that the Commission has requested an additional \$1000 for the next fiscal year.

The committee approved the expense. Chamberlain confirmed that the Commission would write a letter as a courtesy to the 2 abutters.

*Dana Pasture Status.* Mlacak reported that 3 letters had been received by the Selectboard: Hanover Conservancy, Conservation Commission, and NRI. All advocated essentially the same position, that no division was possible. The email that had been prepared subsequent to the last trails meeting went to the Conservation Commission as input to their letter. Selectman Christie has indicated the possibility of another option, with a meeting to be arranged with other groups and neighbors. The date for this meeting has not been set.

Chamberlain provided additional details. There was no support for division at the Selectboard hearing on April 1. Lawyer Atwood expressed willingness for conservation easement on property outside of building envelope.

The Commission plans to maintain its position. Baschnagel has petitioned for party status. The town seems to be seeking to minimize legal cost. The Commission letter wanted no division, but if there was a division, the town should keep the pond and the land to the south and west of Pasture Road. Litigation seems likely. The next meeting between the parties will be organized by the Robes lawyer and will be before May 15. The Commission would like the Robes brothers to attend a meeting. The town has 3 other properties received from Ernest Robes.

Shumway talked to John Robes. He is unlikely to attend given his schedule.

*UVLT ADA info.* Taylor reported briefly on the gathering of conservation commissions. A point that was discussed involved ADA issues for different vehicles on trails. Groups should consider different uses. Does "no wheeled vehicles" = no wheelchairs?

*Trail Conditions.* River Trail is dry. Chamberlain provided explanation of long-term degradation of steep trails due to direction of frost heaves with downward thaw. Linnell

reported a small "fort" had been built on trail near Gile Tract. Why is this not shown on map as conservation area or trail? Chamberlain explained that there had been many land swaps in that area. There had been some Native American use for camping in the past, so no trails indicated out of respect for that. Taylor reported that there are some leaves on Tanzi tract making some areas difficult to follow but trails are dry.

## **2. Ridge Trail Work Day**

There will be 2 teams: Alv Elvestad and John Taylor each with chainsaws. Shumway, Bailey and Mlacak can attend. People should meet near Moose Mountain Lodge at 9 am on May 14. Taylor will contact Allen Strickland from Enfield Conservation Commission to join Elvestad's team. Taylor will also contact Cathie Redpath. Linnell suggested that trail be moved around downed tree to south of Pitte pasture near first steep pitch. McIlroy should check with Elvestad about direction, possibly meeting at halfway point with picnic near Elvestad's. There was some discussion about trail width. It was agreed that there should be no major widening except to make trail passable.

## **3. Trails Day**

Review of McIlroy's "Potential Trail Jobs" (attached). Taylor presented email from Kevin O'Leary with sketches and budget for bridge in Goodwin tract (attached). Cost may be reduced if a discount can be obtained from Home Depot. There was general support from the Trails Committee to contribute to the cost of this project. At same site, some raking on side loop would be helpful. This would be a good Trails Day project. Other projects involving signposts, blazing, gates, water bars were too technical for short "family" projects. For Cliffside Trail, there is still a permission issue. Goodwin project left as the only Trails Day project.

## **4. Other Business**

Chamberlain presented plan by Commission to ask for a conservation easement on the Balch Hill parcel owned by Dartmouth College. It has frontage on Ledge Road with a corridor to MacDonald Drive. This might help improve the trails in that section by giving them more room. The Commission and Selectboard are working on the Vincelette lands near Mink Brook there are 2 or 3 properties in Tanzi Tract where there are unpaid taxes.

## **5. Next Meeting**

There will be a short meeting on May 14 at 9 am at Moose Mountain Lodge Road before the trail work. If it turns out that no meeting is necessary, then it can be cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Mlacak