

## **Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee Minutes, February. 11, 2014**

Present: Tom Linnell, Ed Chamberlin, Peter Shumway, Ron Bailey, John Taylor, Bill Mlacak

The meeting came to order at 8:40 AM, with Bill chairing.

### **Short items**

*Moose Mountain cell tower.* No one at the meeting went to the site visit on Monday, February 10.

*Elm Road status.* Ed said that the applicants wanted to wait until springtime which would be a better time to traverse wetlands. He indicated that the Conservation Commission is generally reluctant to give up land rights, and would prefer to resolve the septic issue on the Class 6 road first. Bill relayed the information provided by Doug, that the applicants would not be filing for this year's town meeting. In particular, they were unable to obtain permission to cross the abutter's land, and this was necessary in order to avoid cutting the stone fence. This project is on hold for now.

*John Taylor report.* John cleared some blowdowns in December from the Tanzi and South Esker parcels. Ron asked about a tree down on the Hunter trail at Balch Hill: has it been removed by someone else? John will check.

On highway 38, from Trescott Road, there is a wet area that lasts even in August. It needs attention before getting worse—maybe puncheons or bog bridges. This is part of a Dartmouth access so it may need another solution—possible a reroute? The trail has to be within a 50 foot right of way.

For the South Esker, the Conservation Commission has approved 2 parking areas, one at the main entrance, and one at the cemetery. Spence road was monitored by police this summer. There was no speeding, and very little activity, probably because the rope swing is gone. The town will construct the parking areas and collect trash. A new access was cut this past fall, more obvious than looking for the blue blaze up the driveway.

*Trail conditions.* On Highway 38 (trail 38A) approaching the AT at a right angle turn, a large amount of buckthorn blocked the trail. Ron did some clearing there. It would be nice to have a connector here to the Berrill Farms trails. 30 years ago, they did not want any trails too close, but it may be worth exploring again. Tom reported that someone was using a chainsaw to clear along the Ridge Trail on near Moose Mountain in December. The trail has been widened considerably. He did not see the people.

### **Trail jobs**

Bill relayed an email message from Vicki Smith asking that the placement of signs be given a high priority, and suggesting 3 more locations, and everyone agreed. He also relayed an email from Adair Mulligan of the Hanover Conservancy. They are looking at

a possible trail connecting to the Harris Trail through the new Mayor-Niles parcel.

With regard to trash removal from the north end of the Quinn Trail, the town can remove the trash, but they will want the legal paperwork and police escort due to perceived danger. Meanwhile job is on hold.

John asked about the Moose Mountain ridge corridor. There may be grant money from the outer loop Quabbin to Cardigan project. He suggested that we should have clear information on easements, ownership and any restrictions on all properties along the ridge, with a focus on the Moose Mountain Trail. Ed said he would have the Conservation Commission Open Space Committee to take this.

Bill presented the trail-jobs spreadsheet. It was agreed to apply a high priority to all the signpost projects. There was some discussion about the best way to do this—perhaps several weekends of 2-person teams starting in the spring.

John said that UVTA gets lots of queries about the Cliffside trail, so the job of resolving the access permission should be a high priority.

UVMBA will continue with the Goodwin area through the summer. John asked if there would be one particular job to focus on this year. Due to lack of time, further work on the list was tabled until the next meeting in March. Bill will share the Google doc with the committee.

### **Other business**

John said that the UVTA will do another Upper Valley Youth Trail Corps this summer. He is looking for potential trail jobs for them. There was some discussion about the Loop bike trail and resistance from DHMC about providing access on their property.

Meeting adjourned at 10 am

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Mlacak