

## Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee Minutes, September 14, 2014

Present: Ron Bailey, Tom Linell, Doug McIlroy, Bill Mlacak, Pete Shumway, John Taylor

### Short items

*Downed-tree clearing.* Taylor cleared downed trees on Highway 38 and will clear one at South Esker. Linell cleared some from the Ridge Trail with a hand saw; McIlroy will chainsaw a big one.

*Wilson's Landing.* McIlroy described proposed improvements. Although these do not directly impact the Fullington Trail in its present location, they may attract more non-boat use of the landing, which could in turn raise awareness of the trail.

*Pine Park.* Bailey said bridge is being installed by DPW at the deteriorating stream crossing on the Girl Brook Trail. The materials for this 40-foot steel-supported structure are being supplied by the Pine Park Association at a cost of \$25,000 from various sources, including what is probably the first fund-raising effort in the century-plus lifetime of the Association. At the same time Dartmouth is improving the outflow of a large drain that has eroded a deep cleft in the ravine bank all the way back into the edge of fairway #13.

*Ledyard Link.* Mlacak found the blazes on this connector from Grasse Road to the AT hard to follow. He will work on the problem.

*Youth activities.* Taylor said participants in UVTA's Outdoor Odyssey program brushed out, blazed, and adjusted the alignment of the Pasture Road trail on the east side of Moose Mountain.

*Hypertherm.* Taylor said Hypertherm is looking for more volunteer projects. Bailey said one possibility is to attack glossy buckthorn that is encroaching on the 38A connector to the AT. McIlroy said he could collect several weed wrenches for the job.

McIlroy suggested resurrection of the Harris Trail from Iby Road to the extant trail a short way south of Ferson Road. This may be on DOC's plate; and landowners need to be contacted.

### Riverside trails

*Cliffside Trail.* Mlacak contacted owners of three lots that the trail crosses. Some believe there is an easement. McIlroy believes he saw such wording in one deed, but doesn't remember which, and hasn't found it in any of several deeds checked on line since. It would be well to check some original 1913 deeds at the county register. There is concern about misuse of the docks and stairs, which have been built on the bank relatively recently. Misuse might be discouraged by appropriate trailhead signage. Signs that call attention to the trail should not be erected, though, unless and until approval is obtained for restoration.

Another problem, litter, appears to be related to the misuse; there is little or no litter along the Pine Park segment of the trail. Linell suggested a trail steward might help suppress litter. McIlroy recalled the almost total elimination of litter when a barrel was put at the

South Esker trailhead.

Despite the problems there is considerable interest in restoring the trail so the owners can use it. Mlacak has some further contacts he can make.

*Kendal.* It is expected that connectivity of riverside trails will be raised at a neighborhood meeting called by Kendal to discuss the future of the Chieftain property.

### **Signage**

*Great Hollow Trail.* Taylor has made some routed signs. McIlroy will get some posts to him;

*Materials.* It was suggested that costs for sign materials might be reduced by participating in a group purchase through NHACC.

McIlroy will check the capabilities of two more vendors besides the state prison sign shop.

### **Other business**

Taylor said the UVTA Trailfinder website is switching partners and using software from Maine Trailfinder.