

Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee Minutes, September 9, 2014

Present: Ron Bailey, Tom Linell, Doug McIlroy, Bill Mlacak, Tedd Osgood, John Taylor, John Trummel, Peter Shumway

Short items

Outdoor Odyssey. Taylor said 36 students from 6 high schools participated in this 3-week UVTA summer program. Among other trail-related activities they built a portable bridge and bog bridges on Highway 38 and worked on the AT just north of Hanover. Volunteers from King Arthur Flour did follow-up work including rerouting a poorly drained stretch of trail.

Trails challenge. 97 people participated in this summer long program, organized by the Hanover Conservancy and managed by Parks and Recreation, designed to encourage people to explore the near-town trails network. Participants will be recognized at the Storrs Pond Fallfest in early October.

Elm Road. After several months on hold, the Rabinovitz proposal has been revived, with the intent to provide a path around the west side of the Perkins house in lieu of the Class VI Wolfeboro and Elm Roads that pass through the property in full view of the house. Taylor said that an easterly route would be preferable from the standpoint of construction and maintenance, as the western route involves a considerable extent of wetland. Though the eastern route is more exposed to the house, it also offers a view of fields and wooded hillsides.

It was suggested that the path could be provided informally, rather than by permanent easement, with Class VI rights remaining for potential use if, for example, the property changes hands.

UVTA contract. This trail-work contract has been renewed. A budget increase from \$2000 to \$2400 allows for an increase in budgeted hours, which had eroded due to inflation over the last seven years.

Moose Mountain. Emily Oseide, a Hanover High student, and her brother completed blazing of the Ridge Trail between Pasture Road and the TV tower road. The brook crossing at the Pasture Road junction should be improved.

Linell said a large widow-maker oak near the Ridge Trail switchback had fallen. Though it does not seriously obstruct traffic, it should be cut aside. He cut another tree near the first ledge, leaving a tall stump to be cut down further. McIlroy will work on these things.

Pine Park. Bailey said the Pine Park Association is committed to installing a footbridge at the ever-widening Girl Brook ford. They are collecting funds, including a grant from the Parkhill Foundation. Honoring a hundred-year-old maintenance agreement, DPW will build the bridge and armor adjacent stream banks. At the same time Dartmouth will mitigate severe erosion from a nearby drainage outfall at the golf course. The golf-course high bridge further upstream is also in need of replacement.

Rinker Tract. McIlroy pulled poison ivy that had grown back across the steps that had were installed at the trailhead this spring. A permanent fix would be to persuade someone,

be it DOT or a Hanover entity, to eradicate a large stand of poison ivy on the berm of Route 10. State law forbids volunteers to apply herbicide on public land.

Goodwin Forest. A person who lives nearby has taken on stewardship of the new bike trail. UVMBA has blazed or flagged the whole trail and posted a map at the trailhead parking lot.

Other trail reports. Bailey said there's a pine down in South Esker. He also saw some small trees down on Highway 38 and noted that ferns are beginning to inhibit the spread of buckthorn there.

Osgood said there is a pine down on the Indian Ridge Trail near Gile Hill.

Signage

Mlacak asked whether other suppliers are able to make heavy plastic signs, which are not available from the prison workshops. Taylor mentioned Voss as a potential source. In the interest of deploying the long-delayed plastic posts, it may be possible to install some with directional information, leaving space to add identifying information later.

Osgood asked whether trail signs should include trail numbers. McIlroy thought the numbers are too random and ephemeral (several have changed with trail-map editions) to warrant enshrining them so.

Osgood noticed that Trout Brook Trail on the town map is called Indian Ridge Trail on the Conservancy's map of the Mink Brook Nature Preserve. McIlroy will discuss the discrepancy with Adair Mulligan.

Linell said that Highway 38 deviates so much from the lost road that it may deserve a different name, such as Owens or Cutting.

Discussion was curtailed for lack of time.

Other business

Taylor asked about the status of Cliffside Trail. Mlacak plans to talk to landowners there.

Shumway said it now appears that the proposed cell tower on Moose Mountain will be accommodated by UNH. This would avoid an access road being extended another 1/3 mile along the ridge.