

Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee Minutes, November 11, 2014

Present: Tom Linell, Doug McIlroy, Bill Mlacak, John Taylor
[Discovered after meeting: limited attendance may be due to incorrectly addressed email reminders. Public notice was correctly posted.]

Short items

Wind event. Linell worked several hours to clear the aftermath of strong winds at the end of October from the Ridge Trail north of Pasture Road. Less damage happened at lower altitudes; Taylor said he did minor clearing at South Esker.

Downed trees. McIlroy cut once through a large oak across the Ridge Trail near the Baum connector. Rain intervened, so the job still needs to be completed. Linell said a leaner nearby should also be cut, though it does not threaten the trail.

Wolfeboro Road. McIlroy said the condition of Wolfeboro Road over Moose Mountain should be checked. Linell will do so.

Moose Mountain. A new map of the Baum Conservation Area and connecting trails was examined. Linell noted that beavers had rebuilt ponds below the main dam in the Dana Preserve within the few weeks since the map was finalized without them. New beaver stumps—a possible skiing hazard—and logs are scattered nearby, including Pasture Road.

A letter has been drafted to Anthony Pytte in New Zealand, who now owns the Pytte property. The letter, accompanied by a map, thanks the Pytte family for welcoming public trails on their property and asks permission to continue maintenance, including some rerouting to keep the trails out of water.

Rinker brook crossing. In monitoring the Rinker Tract conservation easement, the Hanover Conservancy noted extended bank erosion where bicycles cross the brook. Vicki Smith has reminded the Mountain Bike Association that they had agreed to mitigate the problem.

Other business

Trailfinder. Taylor said UVTA is converting their website to the excellent Maine Trailfinder platform. McIlroy heartily endorsed its look and feel.

Riverside trail. Mlacak will follow up with Bob Russell about further Occom Ridge contacts in regard to the potential rejuvenation of the Cliffside trail that crosses many private properties.

Mlacak reported on a community information meeting about Kendal's expansion plans. Various attendees encouraged Kendal to allow the public to cross their property, which is a major link in a potential path from Mink Brook to Wilson's Landing.

South Esker. Taylor said the town has completed work on the parking lot at the south entrance. It is well delineated by a large woodchip berm.

Volunteers. Taylor said King Arthur Flour may adopt Highway 38. As an immediate project, removal of buckthorn that is encroaching on Trail #38A was suggested. Further in the future Tom Tom (the mapping company) also seeks volunteer opportunities.

Signage

To nail down the style and content of new trail signs, Mlacak, McIlroy and Taylor explored many layouts and sizes for some representative cases. Using computer mockups created by Mlacak for immediate comparison, the group converged on a satisfactory solution.