

Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee
Minutes, January 13, 2015 - Approved

Present: Ron Bailey, Tom Linell, John Trummel, Bill Mlačak

Meeting came to order at 8:40 am. In the absence of chair Doug McIlroy, Mlačak led the meeting.

Minutes of the November 11, 2014 meeting were approved.

Short Items

Wolfeboro Road: Checked by Linell. There has been off-road truck vehicle traffic on eastern side. Linell suggests giving it trail status and then gating it. Some water bars could be done. There are currently deep ruts from vehicles and erosion, and damage to stone walls as stones have been used to fill in ruts. There is some use on a side trail on private land on north edge of western side, perhaps due to owner's logging.

This is currently a Class 6 road, but should be a class A trail. This requires a request at town meeting. Abutting land owners can still use road for vehicles. The trail would require a fair amount of maintenance. Some thought needed for gate placement due to existing cabin.

Recommendation: that this road be converted to class A trail

Ridge Road: There was a big oak blowdown up near Dana Pasture. Doug cut through, but ground was too soft to move sections. Linell reported some ice storm damage. He cleared from Goss Road extension (tower road) south to Pasture road.

There is a leaner on Shumway's new trail on loop by new entrance to pasture road. It is not on the Dana property. It should be cut down after permission obtained from Shumways. Handsaw would be adequate.

Maple Trail: Originally built by Ron Bailey to be on town land, not necessarily ideal trail route. Mlačak reported on proposed trail route walked on Jan. 11. New section would go between Dot Strong Trail and sharp turn in Maple Trail, avoiding wet, slippery area at bottom. New section would go across Dartmouth College land. No clearing or construction would be necessary as underbrush is clear. Some wood chips might be helpful in one area to protect exposed roots. Mlačak also provided draft license language with permission from Dartmouth College given to Hanover Conservancy for trail.

The new route was approved by the committee. Recommendation: that John Taylor provide recommendation to Commission and Conservancy for details of trail location.

Indian Ridge: Bailey reported that blowdowns have been cleaned up on Indian Ridge Trail. He is unsure who did the work. There is a huge hophornbeam tree (ironwood) near intersection of Indian Ridge trail and water tower trail that has fallen across Indian Ridge trail – needs chainsaw for removal.

On Indian Ridge parking lot near Gile Hill end, the area is overgrown with buckthorn on tread way. There are also some wet areas that need work.

Harris Trail: Mlačak reported from McIlroy that trail is totally overgrown near the Ferson Road end, and obliterated by logging near Goose Pond Road. DOC may be interested in restoring it. Committee would need to get owner permissions.

Cliffside Trail: Mlačak reported on meeting with Bob Russell, president of Occom Ridge Association. Bob suggested speaking at the upcoming annual meeting.

South Esker Trail: In the context of a riverside trail, we discussed continuing south to Wilder Dam, with a connection from the South Esker trail to the north end of the Chambers property across the town line. As a first step, it was suggested that the Hanover Conservation Commission contact the Lebanon Conservation Commission, or perhaps Mark Goodwin, to get the ball rolling.

2015 Activities

The committee reviewed the "Trail Jobs" list. It needs to be updated as some tasks have been completed, and time line is all in 2014. Top 5 tasks for 2015 were identified as:

- sign posts
- Ridge Trail
- Harris Trail
- Wolfeboro Trail
- Indian Ridge Trail

Other Business

For the upper Mink Brook trail, there has been discussion about moving the trail to reduce the number of stream crossings. The Commission should be asked about the status of the Vincelette property there to see if there are any issues that might affect trail work.

Next meeting will be on February 10.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Mlačak