

## **Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee Minutes, February 10, 2015, 8:30AM Black Center - Approved**

Present: Edwin Chamberlain, Thomas Linell, William Mlacak, Douglas McIlroy, Peter Shumway, John Taylor

### **Short items**

*Balch Hill.* McIlroy said that a planning document from the Balch Hill Stewardship Committee suggests grading the “new” Fire Trail trailhead to be usable by emergency and maintenance vehicles as well as pedestrians. A neighbor cut this route some years ago to divert foot traffic away from the house—potentially good for both the owner and trail users. Because the route was informal, not related to an easement across the neighbor property, the Trails Committee has not maintained it.

The current owner, apparently taking Jonathan Edwards’s sympathetic discussions with the previous owner as official abandonment of the old route, recently blocked the old Fire Trail trailhead. Linell said the old right of way is deeded. The grading suggestion arose because vehicular access is now seriously impaired, if not infeasible. Further discussion led to recommendations for McIlroy to carry to the Commission:

- The new route should not be improved unless there is a legal basis for using it.
- Any costs of a change made for the convenience of the landowner should be borne by him, not by the Commission’s limited budget.

The Stewardship Committee also recommends that some sidehill slumping on the Maple Trail be repaired. Taylor will check it. He will also check the proposed reroute of the Maple Trail across College land. On a contour map, the route appears to descend the fall line and thus may be prone to erosion.

The Stewardship Committee is considering a spur or loop from the Hunter East Trail to a knoll with an eastern view. Linell expressed concern that clearing for the view could expose, and thereby intrude on, a house on Greensboro Road.

McIlroy will communicate the foregoing discussions to the Stewardship Committee.

*Riverside trails.* Mlacak said he expects an invitation to the next meeting of the Occom Ridge neighborhood association (not yet scheduled) to discuss the potential restoration of the Cliffside Trail.

Following up on a proposal for a trail from South Esker to Chambers Park in Lebanon, McIlroy will contact Mark Goodwin in their planning office. A trail would require permission from some landowners in both towns. Taylor said the steep bank would need retained benching as on the River Trail.

### **2015 work plans**

*Wolfeboro Road on Moose Mountain.* Linell suggested that this be converted to a class A trail. McIlroy thought it would be wise to wait until the public attitude towards trail conversion has been tested at this year’s town meeting, at which the conversion of Elm Road is expected to be on the warrant. Mlacak said the Conservation Commission would like to gate this section of Wolfeboro. Linell worried that the gate at Oak Hill has been

vandalized. McIlroy noted that gate is locked, while a gate at Moose Mountain probably would not be.

Linell had identified problems on the east side. Chamberlain said that may be affected by some current activity on an abutting property.

As time was getting late, McIlroy and Taylor took the assignment to sketch specific work plans.