

Hanover Conservation Commission Minutes, April 14, 2015

Present: Ron Bailey, Ed Chamberlain, Tom Linell, Doug McIlroy, John Taylor

Short items

Trails Day. The Hanover Conservancy is pleased to be a cosponsor for a walk on the Ridge Trail, June 6. Potential leaders were identified. McIlroy will contact them.

Indian Ridge. The possibility of transferring this extraterritorial easement to Lebanon is again under discussion.

South Esker. Taylor said th town has cleared buckthorn in the cemetery at the South Esker trailhead. There are a couple of small wet spots in the lower trail. He suggested the possibility of a branch trail on the southern part of the high plateau overlooking the river.

Pine Point. Taylor said debris has been piled across the official trailhead, so users must proceed through the storage yard to the maintenance road instead. McIlroy said DPW may not be conscious of the less visible foot trail; he will bring it to their attention. A lower-level plateau extends from the trail towards the river; Taylor said a short side trail there might offer a good viewpoint—perhaps a place for a bench.

Grant opportunities

Ridge Trail. It is expected that the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Partnership will invite a new round of grant proposals in the fall, possibly as early as August, Taylor said. To secure the future of the Ridge Trail, the Trails Alliance could coordinate a grant proposal involving at least Hanover, Enfield and the Hanover Conservancy for a grant to plan and negotiate a route viable in the long term, and perhaps to identify potential onward connections to the south. Chamberlain suggested that the Commission's conservation fund might be tapped in support of activities in Hanover. McIlroy added that it might be used to obtain easements over unprotected property.

Slade Brook bridge. The Commission supports the committee's proposal to apply for a NH Recreational Trails Program grant to replace the long-gone bridge in the Huntington Hill preserve, assuming owner Steve Lubrano is still faavorable to the idea and the grant program is renewed for 2016. The brook runs in a fairly deep ravine there and is difficult or impossible to cross in high water. It was recalled that only a foot bridge is needed. Taylor said hemlock stringers may be at hand. Chamberlain noted that steel girders had been used for the Spencer Road footbridge further down the brook.

Other business

Linell suggested a trail from the lower parking lot on Moose Mountain Road to the Ridge Trail south of Moose Moutain Lodge. This would be another topic to raise in a letter seeking consent to immprove existing trails on Pytte's land.