

Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee Minutes, May 19, 2015

Continued from May 12. Present: Tom Linell, Doug McIlroy, Bill Mlacak,

Short items

Trails day hike. McIlroy said Hugh Mellert will lead the public hike on Moose Mountain, June 6. Mlacak said the hanover Conservancy will circulate notices. McIlroy will file a calendar item with the Valley News, listing Mlacak as the contact phone number.

Ridge trail. Paul Gagnon of the Forest Society is locating property boundaries on the ridge and has graciously offered to supply extensive documentation: maps, deeds and GPS coordinates in support of

Linell spent ten hours clearing the trail from Pasture Road to the Mascoma Lake outlook. There is still need for a workday this fall beyond that limit and to remove blowdowns too big for his hand saw. He also recommended some pole-saw work.

Linell said that the wet section of trail, probably in Canaan, needs to be rerouted, preferably west of the stone wall.

Cliffside trail. Mlacak will attend a meeting of the Occom Ridge neighborhood association today to discuss potential restoration of this trail and address residents' concerns about potential liability and misuse.

Storrs-Rinker Trail. McIlroy said that the Mountain Bike Association plans to construct a small bridge to avoid further erosion at the brook crossing.

Trail projects

Maple trail. Mlacak walked the proposed reroute with Anne Evans and Laurie Rosenthal. There appears to be no way around the wet swale along the Dot Strong Trail. John Taylor recommended hardening. McIlroy asked where the fill would come from, noting that proposed benching further up the trail is a long and hard wheelbarrow trip away. He thought bog bridges might would be easier to install. Mlacak said there's hope that DPW can supply fill.

Linell asked whether the existing route would remain open. Mlacak said it would not be maintained, but would not be eradicated either. McIlroy said that one benefit of the reroute is to increase the separation between the trail and houses on McDonald Drive.

Sign order. McIlroy is finalizing the order for Voss signs.

Other business

Linell wondered whether a 3-acre lot on the corner of Goss and Nathan Merrill Roads is part of the Faulkner easement, though it does not show as such on the the master-plan map of conserved lands.

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting is scheduled for June 9. Mlacak will serve as chair.

The current meeting schedule is inconvenient for some Commission members who would like to serve on the Trails Committee. Mlacak will circulate an email questionnaire to see if a more generally convenient schedule can be found, most likely at 4:30 PM on a day of the month to be determined.