

Hanover Conservation Committee Minutes – Approved

June 9, 2015

Black Community Center

Members Present: Ed Chamberlain, Tom Linnell, Bill Mlacak, John Taylor

The meeting came to order at 8:40 am

1. Meeting times

Bill had sent out a survey to members to get feedback for a new meeting time, in an effort to include those who could not come on Tuesday mornings. He distributed a table of results, with yellow highlights to indicate a priority for Conservation Commission members. Ed felt that the meeting time should give priority to those not on the commission. Ed and John can do any time, but would rather not do evenings. Tom can do any time. For other times, when the Black Center parking is likely to be full, the town hall meeting rooms are available, and parking passes can be provided. The top choices were Tuesday at 9, 4:30 and Wednesday at 9. Bill will check with Ted and Peter to double check their availability. Bill will send out another survey with the 3 top choices.

2. Cliffside Trail

On May 19, Bill attended the Occom Ridge Association Annual Meeting. The association includes residents of Occom Ridge and Rope Ferry Road. Bill presented a trail loop concept map showing how the trail could be part of a riverside trail going from Mink Brook up to Wilsons Landing, with connections to Oak Hill, Hanover Reservoir lands, and the Appalachian Trail. Bill provided Hanover trail maps, Hanover Conservancy maps and Upper Valley Trails Association information. Questions were asked about use: walking and biking? Who would do the work? Who would pay? The general concept was well received.

Discussion followed about the appropriate next step: perhaps approach the association with a memorandum of understanding. It would be useful to know if the association is voluntary or required. It would be more efficient to work with the association rather than individual land owners.

John Taylor reported that a packed trail connects from Ledyard Bridge south to Mink Brook trail – the deed may have a public trail access. Ed will look at deeds regarding public trail. There may also be public access along sewer easement next to Nathan Garden, not through.

3. Trescott Company Lands

Ed reported that the Trescott Company is starting to think about trails and public access. Also the Hanover Conservancy received a Quabbin to Cardigan grant for projects in this area.

4. Trails Day

Bill reported on the June 6 Ridge Trail hike, sponsored by the Hanover Conservancy and the Conservation Commission. Only two people came on the hike – perhaps because of the poor morning weather. Bill handed out a print out of some aerial photos taken by drone camera.

5. Moose Mountain Project

Ed relayed the progress made by Paul Gagnon with property boundaries and trail location along the ridge. The other end of the Ridge trail should be determined – this would involve work with Enfield. A possible routing could connect down to the Rail Trail.

John Taylor met recently with the Enfield Conservation Commission. They will provide a letter of support for the Quabbin to Cardigan grant. They prefer a slower more methodical approach. Should the UVTA or the Town of Hanover take the lead on the grant? It was agreed that it would be better for the UVTA, especially with Enfield involved. The Hanover Conservancy will provide letter of support. Applications are due Sept. 15 to Oct. 1. Only \$25,000 is available in total, so the UVTA would like apply for \$3000 to \$5000. The project would be for fact-finding, landowner outreach, planning for a clear well-marked trail. Additional grants could possibly be leveraged from this first one. Bill will solicit a show of support from the Conservation Commission for the grant application.

6. Taylor report

John will be working with Hanover Conservancy to help rework Grasse Trail, moving it away from the rock wall. For the Maple Trail, he hasn't gone back to check on the flagging, but Ed reported that work has started and the flagging is better. At one point, there is a choice between going up slope or down through wet area. A bog bridge may be needed at connection with Dot Strong. Bill asked John to provide assistance with the Maple Trail reroute – John will get a group of volunteers – perhaps King Arthur.

He did some work on the River trail that goes from Maple Street north to Ledyard Bridge. He needs permission from the property owner before proceeding with work. Vicki or Doug should contact the land owner.

Other clearing work was done on South Esker trail and the Tanzi tract.

7. Other Trail conditions

Tom Linnell report that there are quite a few blowdowns on the trail from Goss Road to Pasture Road. This will need attention before ski season.

Bill reported that Hugh has a draft application for the Slade Brook bridge. It is nearly done, and the application may be ready for approval at the Conservation Commission meeting.

8. Hayes Farm Park

Ed provided a map by Jim Kennedy showing four proposed trails that would allow access to the trail system from nearby roads, primarily for use by neighbors. He would like the committee to review and provide advice. Trail 3 goes over a wetland, and may need a bridge. The Marshalls have offered to have a trail through their property. Bill will check with John regarding his time to see if he can fit this in.

9. Next Meeting

It was felt that there might be a need to have a July meeting, but that there was no need for an August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10am

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Mlacak