

## **Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee**

Minutes – October 13, 2015

Present: Hugh Mellert, Tom Linell, Doug McIlroy, Ted Osgood, Ron Bailey, John Taylor, Ed Chamberlain, Bill Mlacak, John Sherman

The meeting started at 8:30 am at the Black Community Center.

### **1. Sept. 8 minutes**

The September 8 minutes were approved with an amendment to item 2 where "Dana Pasture" should be changed to "Dana South property abutting Whit Spaulding's property".

### **2. John Sherman intro**

John Sherman was introduced. He is the new Hanover Recreation director. He has been involved with the construction of many new trails in Saco, Maine. He has also been part of the Eastern Trail Management District, which included lots of trails. For Saco, the funding was annual, with trail building in sections. It included a bridge over Route 1, and a bridge over the Maine Turnpike, connecting 2 trail systems. He is also a licensed arborist.

Doug presented the committee. It has a budget of about \$6000 to manage about 1000 acres. There are 100 miles of trails in Hanover, with the Trails Committee responsible for 30 miles. The remainder is managed by Dartmouth College and the Hanover Conservancy.

### **3. Committee members**

Bill reviewed the committee membership, and confirmed the interest of those present. Ted indicated that he would be an observer. He felt that Mary would want the same status. Peter Shumway will continue. Bill will have the town website updated to reflect current membership.

Bill indicated that he would reach out to Dartmouth, and he was encouraged to solicit more participation from Rory Gawler.

### **4. New meeting time**

The meeting time is still being reviewed. Bill will do another poll of members. If in the afternoon, the library and town office are possible venues.

### **5. Trail reports**

- For the Dana Pasture Road, an easement is in negotiation.
- Ted reported that large trees are across the lower end of Cory Road – Doug and team will take care of it
- 4 recently downed trees across Ridge Trail – will be addressed on work day
- Indian Ridge huge hornbeam near junction of trail to water tower and south of summit of ridge – needs chainsaw
- North end of Indian Ridge near trout brook close to transformer – tree has step cut out – but needs removal

- Ed reported that the continuation of the Ridge Trail into Enfield could continue on to the Elvestad/Jones property. The Enfield Conservation Commission prefers access on the County Road. A link to the Rail Trail is possible from there. Lebanon is changing the Class 6 road county road to a Class A Trail

## **6. Taylor Trail Report**

- River Trail had work done over the summer. A 3-foot corridor was cut in a big white pine up from over the sewer line. The Roads Department has been contacted for the rest.
- Further along closer to Maple Street, John improved the steps from 5 years ago. Further improvements are needed, including rebar to reposition the steps.
- John asked about appropriate contact with landowner. Ed will discuss with Vicki.
- Property to the north of the trail has been terraced with a silt fence.

### **Trescott Company Lands**

- For the Trescott Company lands, there should be some public access by December 15. Public Works will check on parking at 2 locations: Trescott and Dogford Roads, with parking for at least 4 cars at each location.
- 2 kiosks have been purchased with funds from the Quabbin grant. They are ready to be installed. They will include history, state RSA's and rules for use.
- Some mountain bikes trails will connect in from Oak Hill. Forestry trails will be started on first.
- There will be no access within 250 feet of reservoir. Fencing is planned in the area where the road is close to the water.
- The perimeter barbed wire may be removed.
- There is an issue of fees for Dartmouth Cross-Country. There will be signs for this.
- Recreation is not the highest priority. First is water quality, second is forest management, third is hunting (deer population), fourth is recreation.

### **Quabbin Grant**

- Next round of grant applications are due October 30 for up to \$15,000.
- John will be writing a proposal for planning for the Moose Mountain Ridge. Costs would include surveying, mapping.
- Enfield is suggesting UVLT for their easements.
- Bill will ask the Conservation Commission for a letter of support.

## **7. Trail Work Day**

- Was planned for Ridge Trail on October 17.
- Need to change the date until it can be confirmed with Alv Elvestad.
- Ed and Hugh can offer a pole saw.

Meeting was adjourned at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Mlačak, Chair