

## **Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee**

Approved Minutes – November 10, 2015

Present: Ed Chamberlain, John Taylor, Hugh Mellert, John Trummel, Rory Gawler, Tom Linell, Doug McIlroy, Bill Mlačak, Ron Bailey

The meeting started at 4 pm at the Howe Library.

### **1. October 13 Minutes**

The October 13 minutes were approved as submitted.

### **2. Committee Membership**

Bill confirmed the Committee membership as: Ron Bailey, Ed Chamberlain, Tom Linell, Doug McIlroy, Hugh Mellert, Bill Mlačak, Peter Shumway, John Taylor, John Trummel. The town website will be updated to reflect this.

### **3. Meeting Time and Place**

The new meeting time of 4 pm will be in place through June 2016. This is to better accommodate Conservation Commission members and Dartmouth participation. Parking was a challenge due to the Clinton event, but Hovey Lane has readily available parking near the library if the library parking and parking garage are full (as was the case).

### **4. Taylor Report**

#### **Pine Point**

John reported on an issue at Pine Point (between cemetery and Mink Brook). There is landscaping debris that may be on the trail – probably put there by the town. William Desch should be contacted on this. A site visit might be useful to check on the trail location and access.

#### **Quabbin to Cardigan**

The Quabbin to Cardigan grant application was submitted. There are about 10 other applications, but this one included a letter of support from the Conservation Commission, which makes it stronger. We should know in about 2 or 3 weeks. The grant involves some deed research, which will include the volunteer time by Paul Gagnon, and perhaps some paid time if necessary. There are some double ridges which will require investigation as it is unclear which ridge is referenced in the deed. The grant includes a plan for long term maintenance, development of a trail corridor template, and possible mapping by Emily Bryant. The actual activities will be determined by the grant amount. Bill requested a copy of the application.

#### **Maple Trail**

For the Maple Trail request, John has arranged a site visit on Thursday Nov. 12 at 9 am with Anne Evans and Laura Rosenthal. They will meet at the McDonald Road cul-de-sac. They will look at fill involved on the new rerouted section, and benching on the higher section.

## Trail Finder

Bill asked John to do a Trail Finder presentation at a future meeting. John indicated that UVTA is seeking additional grant money and will be using it to add more trails to the app.

## **5. Dartmouth Report**

Rory Gawler talked about Dartmouth's trail projects. They had received an RTP grant for Moosilauke, and a grant to fund a work group for Moose Mountain. This report was part of the Committee packet. The work went well, and the trails should be set for another 7 or 8 years. They will be repairing the bridge to Harris Cabin. There aren't many other trail activities right now.

Rory mentioned that there are work programs for students, so they can be hired for trail work for minimum wage. It is challenging to get students to participate. He sees student interest in trails as decreasing. We would be more successful at getting participation with shorter projects, such as a couple of hours rather than all day. Fraternities have a community service component.

Ed mentioned the River Trail project. Through deed research, he found 9 trail easements held by Dartmouth College for the Occom Ridge properties. Doug contacted Ellen Arnold in Dartmouth Real Estate, but they didn't have any information on this. Rory thought there might be other avenues of investigation. He felt that such a trail would be popular with students, but expressed concern about cost and dealing with the property owners.

## **6. Ridge Trail Work Day**

Doug reported on the work day on the Ridge Trail that took place on Saturday, Nov. 7. There were 3 groups. One group went north to the AT – that section of trail was in good shape. A second group went south on the Ridge Trail. A third group started at Alv Elvestad's driveway and worked north. Alv is ok with a sign for the trail, with parking at the nearby roller rink lot, although the lot is gated and locked at certain times. The trail could connect to the Rail Trail, going near or through the cemetery across route 4.

The group to the north worked mostly with loppers. A 2-person team worked well for this. Doug found large signs with directions. They had been made by Jim Baum. They will be left in place for now.

## **7. Tanzi Tract Report**

Hugh reported that the courts have approved the removal of materials that are on town property. The town has authority for arrest if there is any interference. On Friday, there were police cars and equipment there, so work may be proceeding.

## **8. Other Trail Reports**

Indian Ridge

Doug had been doing some clearing. The hornbeam has been cut. He removed a leaner. The trail is in good shape.

#### Trescott Spur Trail

The trail is to the east of Grasse/Trescott intersection. There are a lot of trees down. The Fire Chief has asked Dartmouth to improve access in case of emergency.

### **9. Slade Brook Bridge Project**

Hugh will arrange a committee site visit with Steve Lubrano and his forester Jeff Smith.

### **10. Dana Parking Lot Sign**

Bill passed around a draft sign submitted by Adair Mulligan from the Hanover Conservancy. She had requested feedback from the Committee. It was pointed out that the sign was larger and wordier than the signs that are currently being used. The gifts phrase should include "the". The negotiations for the easements should be concluded very soon.

### **11. Golf Course High Bridge at Pine Park**

Ron reported that it was thought that the bridge was to be replaced this fall, but it looks like work will start with examination of the abutments. Full replacement might not be for another 2 or 3 years. There will also be some erosion control and an improved crossing below. Ron recommends a box culvert in the stream below, instead of a bridge, for the same cost and with more functionality. There will still be a December site visit for this.

### **12. Online Resources**

Bill used the overhead projector to illustrate the existing Google docs available on the [HanoverTrails@gmail.com](mailto:HanoverTrails@gmail.com) account. There is an ongoing list of trail jobs, which is updated as things get done and new issues arise. He also showed how the Picasa tool can link a smart phone photo to a map position. It was felt that the projector was a handy feature, so all future meetings should take place in the Murray Room rather than the smaller Rotary Room.

### **13. Other Business**

Hugh mentioned that there would be a talk by Jim Levitt on Land Conservation on Thursday in the Life Science Building.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Mlačak