

Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee
Minutes – January 12, 2016 – Approved on February 9, 2016

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

The meeting opened at 4:05 pm at the Howe Library.

1. Trescott Lands report

Adair Mulligan from the Hanover Conservancy reported on the Trescott Lands. The Conservancy obtained a Quabbin to Cardigan grant, and used it to fund 2 kiosks, mapping, and a trail guide. The UVTA is developing a recreation plan. There are plans for interpretive signs which will include historic information. The Conservancy is planning a snowshoe (or perhaps spike) trip on January 24. A draft brochure is ready.

All trails are open for now. There are 2 parking areas with space for 4 to 6 cars. Logging has been done recently. We will need to work trails into future logging plans.

Recently, a group of 7 or 8 volunteers blazed a 250' boundary from water. There is a need to protect a buffer around the water supply. Public access could be blocked if this is abused.

There was some discussion of the future management structure. In the original Trescott meeting, it was suggested that a committee be formed with various stakeholders, including representation from the Trails Committee, and possibly Upper Valley Mountain Bike Association. A possible management model is the Balch Hill Stewardship Committee, overseeing land of 3 owners: Hanover, Dartmouth and Conservancy. Another model would be to have the Trails Committee assume management. It was agreed that the Balch Hill model would be the preferred choice.

For funding, there is still money in the grant budget for signs. Rory indicated that Dartmouth has a very limited trails maintenance budget. Trescott Company has some money from logging. The neighbors may be willing to contribute. There are also grant opportunities.

2. Trails Budget for 2016/2017

Bill reviewed the draft document that had been sent out.

1. Trescott Lands - \$1500
 - Change to UVTA oversight
 - There is a need for 1 bridge
 - Increase amount from \$500 to \$1500
2. Trail Maps - \$1000
 - Leave at \$1000
 - Will determine number of copies later
 - Will want to include Trescott – but indicate exclusion of water supply area
3. Slade Brook Bridge - \$1000

- Possible issue with town construction on private land
- Bill does not want to do private fundraising
- 4. Maple Trail - \$300
 - This should be in this fiscal year budget so omit from next year budget
- 5. Moose Mountain Ridge - \$3,000
 - John indicated that original grant request had been reduced to allow for in-kind time donation
 - Amount is appropriate as the difference would be needed to go an adequate job
- 6. Wolfboro Road
 - Defer – already have enough projects
- 7. Harris Trail
 - Defer – already have enough projects
- 8. Signs - \$500
 - Add to cover purchases of additional signs
 - Bill suggested waiting a bit to see how now plastic poles hold up

This gave a total of about \$7500.

Bill next reviewed the Stewardship Trail Improvements request for the 2016/2017 budget. This included an option to provide improved accessibility to the Rinker Steele property. John did a rough estimate of \$1125 per 100-foot length (assuming 6" gravel depth, 5-foot width). It was felt that these items should be discussed at the Commission level as the request didn't come from the Trails Committee.

Due to lack of time, other agenda items were tabled.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Mlačak, Chair