

**Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee**  
Minutes – February 9, 2016 – Approved March 8, 2016

Present: Hugh Mellert, Tom Linell, Rory Gawler, Doug McIlroy, John Taylor, Bill Mlačak

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

**1. Dec. 8 and Jan. 12 Minutes**

Doug McIlroy was added to the list of attendees in both minutes. Motion was made to approve minutes as submitted with those corrections. Motion passed.

**2. Mission Statement**

Bill presented mission statement as sent out to committee, and included suggested amendments provided by emails from Ed and Doug.

After discussion, a motion was made to approve the mission statement below. Motion passed.

The Trails Committee of the Hanover Conservation Commission manages trails in Hanover and easements held by Hanover. Trail management may include mapping, monitoring, oversight, routine maintenance, improvement of treadways, construction of new or relocated trails, maintaining contact with landowners, trail planning, and trail advocacy. The Committee cooperates with other trail managers including the Hanover Conservancy, Dartmouth College, White Mountain National Forest, Upper Valley Trails Alliance, Upper Valley Mountain Bike Association, Pine Park Association, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. In addition, the Trails Committee provides recommendations to the Hanover Conservation Commission for funding and new trail projects.

Bill will submit this to the Conservation Commission for approval.

**3. UVTA Report – Trescott Lands**

John reported that people are going out on the Trescott Lands. Feedback is positive. The recreation plan draft is still in progress, but should be completed next week. This is covered by the Quabbin to Cardigan grant. UVTA and the Hanover Conservancy envision a leadership committee with members representing different interests: town, bike, trails, equestrian, rec dept, public works, Dartmouth, UVMBA, etc. Possible quarterly meetings with reporting to the Trescott Company. Further trails work would be pending until this committee was formed.

Bill mentioned that Trescott Company directors had given an informal green light to proceed. After some discussion about committee name and structure, it was agreed that an initial group of John Taylor (UVTA), Hugh Mellert (Trails and Conservation Commission), Tom Jack (Hanover Conservancy), and representative from Dartmouth (probably Rory) would be the initial committee. They would in turn solicit additional members and decide on name. Bill will take this proposal to Conservation Commission for its approval.

Bill mentioned a potential safety problem with 2 grates near Trescott Road entrance. John will investigate, and if possible hammer in a bar and attach either a cedar post or a fiberglass driveway marker.

Tom proposed straightening the Appalachian Trail on the east side of Trescott Road to the side of Adams cellar hole. This change seemed reasonable and worth exploring. Rory felt that it should not be pursued so that the AT has a diversity of terrain experience.

#### **4. UVTA – Other Trails**

John mentioned that a volunteer has done some clearing on Highway 38 with removal of some small blow downs. There is a high fallen tree caught in 2 other trees that he will check on.

UVTA has a new staff person Laura Romig. She is managing the Passport to Winter Fun, and will be taking over the volunteer program.

A volunteer has approached UVTA and John will ask him to walk various trails and identify any trail issues.

#### **5. Tanzi Tract**

Bill referred the committee to the email report that he sent out just prior to the meeting. Status is that the town is still waiting.

#### **6. Other Trails**

Doug has investigated a possible bike route along Mink Brook from Buck Road. There are some areas that are too steep to make this feasible.

Hugh reported from the Bike-Ped Committee about sidewalks planned from Gile to Greensboro. The neighbors along route 120 have asked for a sidewalk on the south side of 120, as there are a number of kids there now.

#### **7. Slade Brook**

Hugh suggested making the planned bridge project a trail bridge workshop. There was general support for this idea.

#### **8. FY 2016 Trail Budget**

Bill asked for approval of Maple Trail work. John had indicated 5 hours of time, rental of hauler for \$75, and 2 yards of gravel. If gravel can't be provided by town, then cost would be about \$100. Bill will put in request at Conservation Commission.

John would like 6 to 8 timbers for some Hanover trail work by UVTA. Bill will request up to \$100 for this.

Bill relayed Vicki's request for signs. Although quantity and location are unclear, it was felt that \$500 would be adequate. Bill will make this request so funds are available, and details will be determined later. Need to decide about type of post, and plastic versus wooden routed sign. Bill asked each committee member to take a look at the new plastic signs (Trescott Road, Verona Ave, Hemlock, Etna Library) and report back next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Mlačak, Chair