

**Hanover Conservation Commission Trails Committee**  
**Highway 38 Site Visit**

Minutes – May 3, 2016 – Approved 5/10/16

Present: Hugh Mellert, Bill Mlačak, Doug McIlroy, Rory Gawler, Tom Linell, John Taylor, Matt Stevens, Shane Selmer, Jeremy Beliveau, Ming Liu

The meeting opened at 3:40 pm at the Greensboro Road trailhead for the Highway 38 trail.

Bill described the purpose of the meeting. The Hudson Farm property is being acquired to be part of the Appalachian Trail. There is an existing easement that has various constraints, including a prohibition of bikes on the trail. There are some trail maintenance issues, in particular the mowing of the field at the other end of the trail.

Shane Selmer from Hypertherm expressed interest in having the bike prohibition removed from the easement. The trail is a good connector between the public trails at Hypertherm and the new Trescott Land trails. Bike travel along Etna Road is quite dangerous, and there has been at least one accident, and several near misses.

The group walked along the trail, until it split with a trail connecting to Berrill Farms, posted with a No Trespassing sign. The trail is obviously well travelled. It would make sense to explore making these connectors public for more connections, as well as a possible loop. Given that some time has passed, there might be new interest at Berrill Farms. Shortly past this point, there is a side trail to Trumbull House Inn marked by a small wooden sign.

There are various maintenance issues to address: downed tree, wet areas, stream crossings, shown in the picture album of the visit. There is also a lot of barberry coming in. These issues would continue to be addressed by the Trails Committee and UVTA.

Where the trail approaches the open field, John suggested a possible side trail that could go over or on the edge of the field. For bikes, it would be an easier route, and discourage access to the trail 38A connector to the AT. No bikes are allowed on the AT, and they should be discouraged from any AT connectors.

For the field, Dartmouth is currently mowing twice a year. The Trust for Public Lands is working to set an endowment to cover mowing, which would likely be only once a year of the full field. Part of the agreement will include keeping the fields open as they are now. There is quite a good view looking southeast from the field. Bill will investigate more frequent trail corridor mowing as part of regular maintenance by the Town.

There was also some discussion about moving the trail to the western side of the parcel, both to avoid wet spots, and to reduce the travel along Trescott Road. This would involve discussions with the current landowner on that adjacent parcel.

The group returned through the field and then a portion of the Old Highway 38 Trail.

The site visit was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Mlačak,