

Hanover Conservation Commission - Trails Committee
Minutes - May 10, 2016 – Approved 6/14/2016

Present: Ron Bailey, Hugh Mellert, Tom Linell, John Taylor, Bill Mlacak, Joe Danna Jr., Doug McIlroy

The meeting opened at 4 pm at the Howe Library.

1. April 5 Minutes

The minutes from the April 5 meeting were approved as submitted.

2. April 20 Site Visit – Steele Property

Amend "team of ten" to "team of five". The minutes were approved with this change.

3. May 3 Site Visit – Highway 38

On page 3, change "The Shane" to "Shane Selmer". On page 3, last paragraph, change to "The group returned through the field and then a portion of the old Highway 38 Trail." The minutes were approved with these 2 changes.

4. UVTA Report

On April 21 Tuck volunteers cleared in the Tanzi tract and installed 2 bog bridges. John cleaned up a 6" tree across the River trail.

About half way along near the Esker trail, there is some pine tree debris that was supposed to be cleaned up by DPW. John cut up some smaller stuff. The trail can go around. Bill will follow up.

The plan is to do the timbers along the River Trail in the next 2 weeks. It should take about 2 hours.

Maple Trail work is scheduled for Thursday May 12 from 11 am to 2 pm. Bill will call DPW to request 2 cubic yards crushed bank run gravel. Bill will check by Wed May 11 with Peter Kulbaki.

5. Trescott Lands

The next committee meeting is Thursday, May 12 at 8 am at the new Hanover Conservancy office at 71 Lyme Road.

A bridge is needed near Oak Hill: about 18' over a stream. It would need a permit from the town as it is within the wetland buffer.

Some trails are former loops, but have been cut by logging so the trail is not clear. Some trails are too steep for sustainability but most are fine. Bruce Lingelbach has flagged some reroutes. The process is to be reviewed next meeting. Improvements should be done before people open new trails. Oversight and site visits are necessary for trail changes.

Doug would like to restore Wolfeboro Road. This needs to go to the Selectboard to lay out a new route around the pond. It needs to be away from the reservoir. Also it needs to be downgraded to a Class A Trail. Bill will follow up. The Committee endorsed the idea.

Bill relayed Tom Linnell's list of trail improvements.

The Recreation Plan hasn't been approved by the Trescott Company yet.

The Hanover Conservancy had a bird trip last week and found 41 different species. Planned trips include a Mother's Day flower walk, and geocaching on May 22. It will be important to teach the rules to various interest groups. There may be a biking event possibly with Hypertherm and the DOC, but preferably after a bridge is approved.

6. Other Trail Reports

Doug provided a report on Corey Road – see stored report. One side of the road belongs to the National Park Service and the other is ATC. Doug to flag the proposed reroute around the wet area, then have site visit, but both corridors should be maintained: avoid wet area for hikers, but keeping original route for skiing. There may be an issue of wheeled vehicles being allowed on ATC property if we do this. Doug will check with Hawk and Matt at ATC, then flag then site visit.

Ron reported on the Ridge Trail from Enfield to Canaan town line. He cleared some small trees. The trail is well used. Alv likely will clear a flagged downed tree.

A 4x4 when through Sachem Village to Boston Lot, with some chewing up of the trail. The Sachem Village Trail is ok.

Ridge Trail: Joe reported that the trail is in good shape. Reroutes (with blue flagging) to be done later. John went up there with Tom on April 25. Tom reported that near the Baum property about 100 yards south of Dana parcel, it looked like part of a scavenger hunt. The new tenants at Huggins property are interested in trails, and might make good stewards.

Berrill Farms: Jim Wooster is the chair of the board, and does not know why there are "No Trespassing" signs. The trail easement has a 50' right of way, and the trail had to be within that bound.

Steele Property: Doug will talk to CRREL person who does trails about this.

Camp Brook: Tom reported that old deadwood has been thrown across causing some erosion, about 100 feet upstream to left at the bridge over crossing – up west bank. Bill will investigate.

Conti hearing: refuge has a 700-acre parcel in Canaan. A number of people came to argue against hunting and fishing. There was little coverage of the event.

Velvet Rocks: Hugh found an extensive dump site in a rock crevice below the ridge. Perhaps homeless people? AT hikers? Bill will add this to the job list.

7. Trails Day

Bill would like to do a project in Trescott Lands for National Trails Day (June 4). It isn't clear if there will be enough time for paperwork for the bridge project. He will check.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Mlačak, Chair