

## **Hanover Conservation Commission - Trails Committee**

Minutes – June 14, 2016 – Approved July 12, 2016

Present: Ed Chamberlain, Ron Bailey, Tom Linell, Hugh Mellert, Rory Gawler, Joe Danna Jr., Doug McIlroy, Bill Mlacak, John Taylor, Russ Hirschler

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

### **1. May 10 Minutes**

The minutes for May 10 were approved with the following change: removed Rory Gawler from the list of those present.

### **2. Steele Trail**

Doug reported on the Steele Trail. He and John have flagged the proposed trail. The trail was moved a bit further from the road. There is poison ivy in the field. The trail was moved a bit to the left further along to avoid potential puddling. They found a reasonable way to join the Storrs Pond trail to the south. Doug provided a map of the new route. Lots of clearing will be necessary. There will need to be some construction for the woods road, with a short benched section. Next step is to get approval from Hanover Improvement Society. Vicki has scheduled this for Wednesday afternoon.

For ADA, it would be necessary to do some excavating and build the trail with a 5' width. It will also be desirable to keep the grade below 5%. Bill suggested postponing such discussion until next year.

The field is currently mowed, probably by the Hanover Improvement Society. We need to see about mowing a trail corridor.

A tentative work day was planned for July 16.

### **3. Trails Day**

Bill reported on the work done on the Trescott Lands for National Trails Day. There were 4 volunteers, and they did trail clearing, some rerouting, and flagging with red tape.

### **4. Quabbin to Cardigan Grant**

John reported that a meeting had been held last week with Doug and Adair. They reviewed public and private information, and reviewed the various organizations involved for planning public outreach. The Ridge Trail is a major connectivity piece, so it involves a number of groups. The grant ends in December 2016.

The trail was built in 1968 or 1969. Additional deed research may be necessary. They may need help with landowners, if any committee members know them. The goal is to plan for future agreements.

There was some discussion about side trails, such as access from Ruddsboro road.

The plan will have landowner information, so that should stay in the UVTA domain.

No major trail work should be done until outreach has been done. Minor trail clearing and lopping is ok.

## **5. Bridge Permits**

Bill needs sketches of the bridges for Trescott Lands from John and Slade Brook from Hugh. With these, he will meet with Vicki Smith and Judy Brotman to review the specific permits required for these projects. The sketch should show the bridge, and specifically how it sits on the ground. The permits are to address the wetland disturbance that would be caused by the bridge.

## **6. UVTA Report**

Debris has been removed from the Rinker tract. Some roots are exposed in some steep areas. There are lots of bikes going through. There are some trees that need removing.

There is a lot of poison ivy, particularly by the road. Perhaps the town can help with removal? Bill will follow up with William Desch.

Should the Quarry Trail stay open? We should do a site visit at some point, and make a decision.

At Fullington Farm, a volunteer has been mowing to Wilson Landing. This is on a path in the field that is next to the official path, currently overgrown by sumac. Should we just use the mowed path?

Doug reported on some slumps in the bike trail in the Rinker Tract. He had installed the Wardrobe Road sign. Logging has been done so the trail is hard to follow, but the connection has been reestablished.

Ed discussed the Piane Trail. There are some problems with steepness, that could be addressed with a reroute, but that would be on Dartmouth property. The Maple Trail work is scheduled for Monday morning.

## **7. Trescott Lands**

For the Trescott Lands, he walked the trails with forester Jeff Smith. The goal was to look at the trails so as to avoid logging issues. Jeff prefers to log less frequently, but more intensively.

Trails should be planned accordingly. There will likely be more impacts on skiing. The next committee meeting is on Thursday at 8 am at the Black Center.

## **8. Other Trail Reports**

Joe reported on his work on the Harris Trail. We reviewed the maps showing the proposed bypass on Bear Hill Reservation, now owned by David Roby. There are a lot of wet areas, and the bypass would avoid several of them. There are also problems with road damage due to ATV's on Plummer Road.

Tom counted 60 pink lady slippers on the Ridge Trail.

Meeting was adjourned at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Mlačak, Chair