

**Hanover Conservation Commission - Trails Committee**  
Minutes – July 12, 2016 – Approved on August 9, 2016

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

The meeting opened at 4:00 pm at the Howe Library.

**1. June 14 Minutes**

The minutes for June 14 were approved with the following change: in the last paragraph of section 6 changed "John discussed the Piave trail" to "Ed discussed the Piave trail".

**2. Steele Trail**

Bill reported on his morning meeting with Jeff Graham, Executive Director of the Hanover Improvement Society. Bill made a sample sign on an existing post to show Jeff, and sited it where it would likely be placed beside Route 10 opposite the Kendal entrance. The trails is marked with stakes in the field, and tape in the woods. Jeff gave a preliminary approval, but would like to run it by the HIS Board. Bill offered to write up a summary including a picture of the sign for that purpose. The HIS currently mows the field, and agreed to mow the trail corridor, as is currently done with the trail through the field down to the gate at the bottom.

There was some discussion about permission for the sign. If within the right-of-way, does the state get involved? Bill will check. The proposed location is in the field about 15' in from the side of the road.

A work day will be scheduled once written permission has been received from Jeff. Hopefully this will be late July or early August.

**3. Wolfeboro Road**

Bill relayed Doug McIlroy's notes on this. The Selectboard approved making Wolfeboro Road an emergency lane. This allows the town to maintain it, with the goal of facilitating ATV-type emergency rescue to that area. This was the only change requested by the Fire Department.

The Trails Committee should review the work done on the road.

**4. Harris Trail**

Bill distributed copies of the new Mayor-Niles Forest map just produced by the Hanover Conservancy.

Joe reported on his work on the Harris Trail and area. The bypass trail on David Roby's land is in good shape, and Roby will likely make improvements to the bypassed Harris Trail this

summer. Joe has found old woods roads that connect to the Harris Trail. With landowner permission is clearing them so that a "figure 8" loop is possible on the Harris Trail.

Where the Harris trail gets to Goose Pond, there isn't a place to park. Joe will check with Roby if it might be possible to use the area near the cleared field by the small pond.

In talking about landowner permission, it seemed that isn't any system of recording permissions. Bill checked the Google docs, and one has the list of owners and abutters for each trail, and the other has the list of easements. He will investigate how to keep track of permissions in the future, such as keeping a copy of the email that Joe had received.

## **5. Quabbin to Cardigan Grant**

John report that outreach has started, and continues. There is another round of grant money available, with applications due on August 15. It should be for trail work or trail improvements. It could be for the River Trail, or Trescott Lands work.

## **6. Highway 38**

Bill reported on a meeting that he had with owners at Cuttings Corners and Berrill Farms. They had objections to bike travel on the trail due to minor damage caused by bikes, and interference when walking their dogs. Berrill Farms is unlikely to open their trails to the public.

The Hanover Conservancy has advocated that the prohibition on biking be removed from the Hudson Farm easement. This would not allow bikes on the entire Highway 38 trail, but would allow for it in the future if the other easement parties would agree to it.

The ATC does not want bikes on the AT or any AT connectors. Is this an issue if the easement is removed? The question remains at Trescott Lands where biking is allowed, and trails may connect to the AT. Prohibitions could be part of a management plan, instead of in the easement.

A motion was made to support removal of the prohibition of bikes from the easement of the Hudson Farm parcel. The motion passed with 5 in favor, 1 against, and 1 abstaining.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Mlačak, Chair