

Hooksett Conservation Commission

Clay Pond Conservation Area Public Meeting

Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 5:00 PM

Hooksett Public Library

Meeting Summary

Attendance: Steve Couture, Chair; Cindy Robertson, Vice Chair; JoCarol Woodburn, member  
(Not a quorum)

Consultants: Jeff Littleton and Corwin Swift, Moosewood Ecological, LLC

Staff: Carolyn Cronin

5:00pm – 6:00pm Presentations:

Introduction by Steve Couture

Draft Stewardship Plan Overview by Jeff Littleton and Corwin Swift

6:00pm – 6:30pm Public Input Session:

1. Is there any interest in making this a **Town Forest**?

Response: We haven't really considered it, but it is not entirely necessary because the Conservation Easement protects it. Also Town Forests have more conditions (i.e. must establish a Commission)

2. **Parking** on Chester Turnpike is a concern (there are parties there at night). This may provide more parking for them and for dumping and shooting range. Have the parking in Candia.

Response: Creating an official, known trail head may deter these activities. Head's Pond was a similar situation, but since creating the trails out there, it has cleaned up and those activities have ceased. We will discuss with Police and Fire.

3. **Mountain Biking** – connect to Bear Brook trails. Want single track trails (18 inches wide). Surrounding towns have these trails; Hooksett is the only one without mountain bike trails. Want to connect to other trails through Clay Pond.

Response: The current thought is just to enhance existing trails, but it is something to consider.

4. **Parking** – Won't more parking attract more ATVs and snowmobiles?

Response: The proposed access points will not provide easier access for snowmobiles than the parking on RTE 27 across from Dube's Pond. ATVs are restricted from the conservation area.

5. Chester Turnpike is a legal **ATV** trail in Hooksett. Parking will encourage more ATV use.

Response: We need to research the legal status of Chester Turnpike further.

6. What changes will be made to **hunting**?

Response: None, hunting will still be an allowed, permanent use.

7. What types of **trails** will they be?

Response: Single track, wood trails. Not like Head's Pond.

8. I want to leave the **wildlife** alone. Recreation will endanger them and attract them out to residential areas.

Response: The proposed recreational activity is low impact Passive Recreation. This should not push wildlife to residential areas.

9. **Forestry** will negatively impact wildlife.

Response: The forestry activities in the draft plan are designed to enhance wildlife habitats.

10. **Signage** saying "Hike at your own risk" because of wildlife (bears, bobcats, foxes)

Response: We plan on posting the area similar to other passive recreation areas (e.g. Pinnacle Park)

11. **Peninsula** is pristine and should stay that way. Don't want any trail access to it.

12. Want more **abutters' notices** for any additional meetings.

Response: We will do that

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm