

1 **Sandown Conservation Commission**

2 **Minutes**

3 **December 4, 2014**

4
5 **Date:** December 4, 2014

6 **Place:** Sandown Town Hall

7 **Members Present:** Paul Carey – Chair, Mark Traeger, Pam Gaudreau, Brian Butler, Kevin
8 Major

9 **Selectmen’s Liaison:** Mr. Jim Devine: Present

10 **Environmental Consultant:** Bruce Gilday: Present

11 **Also Present:** Andrea Cairns – Recording Secretary

12
13 **Opening:** Mr. Carey opened the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

14
15 **Review of the 11/20/14 Minutes**

16 **MOTION:** Mr. Traeger made a motion to accept the 11/20/14 minutes as written. Mr. Devine
17 seconded the motion. Members voted in favor. Mr. Butler and Mr. Major abstained. The motion
18 passed.

19
20 **Correspondence**

- 21 • Letter from the USDA giving an update on the restoration efforts that Trout Unlimited is
22 doing on the Exeter River.
23 • Draft of the regional master plan from Rockingham Planning Commission.
24

25 **Recap of NRCS Walk on Hersey Property**

26 Mr. Major noted he, Ms. Gaudreau and Mr. Gilday met with Ms. Susan Knight from NRCS on
27 November 14th to walk the Hersey Road property. The walk only included property that was
28 owned by the town. They went to the sites that were flagged two years ago when NRCS did their
29 last survey. They were able to find the newly blazed lines.
30

31 Mr. Major noted that Ms. Knight recommended blocking off any entrances to the property. There
32 were some visible trails that could allow someone to drive a vehicle through. At some point
33 NRCS will come back and conduct an audit of the property and if they find ATVs have been
34 there or trash has been dumped, it would have to be cleaned up at the town’s expense. Ms.
35 Gaudreau noted that there were at least three trails off Hersey Road that could be driven on. Mr.
36 Major added that the trail from Snow Lane would also have to be blocked—a total of five trails.
37 He also added that there was a section along Hersey Road that was too large and boulders would
38 need to be placed since the section was too wide for a gate.
39

40 Mr. Traeger questioned if trail building would be easy and straightforward. Mr. Major noted it
41 would be. If the town-owned parcel were to be used, that would require blazing a new trail since
42 there isn’t an existing trail there.
43

44 Mr. Butler asked if Ms. Knight was hoping for a proposal that included all the projects they
45 wanted. Mr. Major noted she was looking for one proposal that included everything. Ms. Knight
46 will come back to the town with a proposal for a parking area based on what was discussed that
47 day. Mr. Gilday noted they typically find a consultant to do the projects and will want to give that
48 consultant a full proposal to estimate on.
49

50 Mr. Butler questioned if Ms. Knight gave them a timeframe as to when she needed a complete
51 list. Mr. Major felt the ball was in her court to come back to them with a design of the parking
52 area, and give us time to comment on that.

53

54 Mr. Butler felt gates would be ideal to block off access. Mr. Major noted things became a lot
55 more apparent once he could see the property lines. There are really large trails that need to be
56 blocked. Mr. Carey questioned if there should be signs posted. Mr. Major felt it might be good to
57 have signage. Mr. Butler noted NH Fish and Game has standard signs that they've been using—
58 we should stay consistent.

59

60 Mr. Major noted that in terms of the parking lot Ms. Knight was very supportive. Mr. Gilday
61 noted that they discussed a 40 x 60 area which would allow for six vehicles. There is excellent
62 site distance on Odell Road. Mr. Major noted that footprint wouldn't be a lot of work--it's a
63 perfect spot. Mr. Gilday noted that only a few trees needed to be cut, but they could be used as
64 bumpers along the edge of the parking area.

65

66 Mr. Traeger would email Artie Genualdo to make sure he doesn't have any issues with the site.
67 He also noted that Mr. Meisner had some gates that he would be willing to give to them to use.

68

69 Mr. Butler asked Mr. Gilday what he thought of the property. Mr. Gilday feels it's a beautiful
70 piece of property. The trails will need very little maintenance. There are a lot of interesting
71 species and points of history on the property that could be identified. He also noted a high area
72 that could have an observation post for wildlife.

73

74 Mr. Gilday also noted that the corduroy bridges created by the loggers were very slippery and
75 should be cleaned out and replaced with stepping stones. He added that there is a wetlands
76 minimum impact notifications permit that would need to be done. For \$25 you can have the entire
77 area covered and the application is good for two years.

78

79 Mr. Major noted they do periodically do aerial photos and they don't want to see any changes that
80 weren't approved. He suggested they go back out and identify every area that they would like to
81 do something. Mr. Carey suggested that he map some coordinates.

82

83 Mr. Gilday suggested pinpointing the exact locations where you want gates, all wetland crossings,
84 signs, and a kiosk and give that proposal to NRCS and see what they will cover.

85

86 Mr. Major, Mr. Gilday and Ms. Gaudreau all volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

87

88 Mr. Traeger noted he was going to meet with Cathy Thompson from Thompson Title to have the
89 deed for the Hersey property corrected. Ms. Thompson didn't feel the deed needed to be
90 separated, but Mr. Traeger felt it would make a better paper trail for the future and the lot should
91 be separated.

92

93 **MOTION:** Mr. Traeger made a motion to appropriate from the conservation fund, not to exceed
94 \$500 for drafting and recording of the new deed for M11 L13 located on Hersey Road. Mr. Major
95 seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

96

97 Mr. Major noted he would like to explore the possibility of putting in a trail across M7 L17-18.
98 Mr. Carey noted he would need to go to the Selectmen to get approval and the process would be
99 similar to what Jimmy Beucler needed to do for Morrison Lane—get approval from the
100 neighbors, address signage and parking. Mr. Traeger noted that if the town does lease the land for

101 the cel tower that company may need to build a road. The town could require a four car parking
102 lot as part of the agreement.

103

104 **Outreach Projects**

105 Ms. Cairns presented the poster for the conservation properties. Mr. Traeger suggested removing
106 the map and lot numbers and just use road names.

107

108 Mr. Traeger suggested putting a picture of the green conservation sign on there and indicate they
109 should look for those signs on all the properties.

110

111 Members felt Snow Lane should be taken off since residents can't access the property from there
112 yet.

113

114 Mr. Butler suggested making the map a little bigger.

115

116 **Old Business**

117 Mr. Gilday noted that he had gone through all of Mr. Miller's paperwork that he gave him. He
118 asked about the status of the fire pond on Meghan Drive. The board gave Mr. Gilday a brief
119 history of the project.

120

121 **Community Garden**

122 Mr. Butler removed the pump and will put it back on in the spring. He noted that Scott Bassett
123 tilled the field for them. Mr. Bassett requested that they have a set closing date in the future. He
124 also suggested moving the boundaries of the garden a bit to avoid some large boulders. Mr. Butler
125 thanked him for his efforts.

126

127 Ms. Gaudreau was looking into a more year-round option for gardening and presented some
128 information for an underground greenhouse. Mr. Traeger suggested that she do some research and
129 determine what it would involve to put in.

130

131 Mr. Gilday noted that there are going to be some changes to the wetland permitting process.
132 NHDES is going to try and streamline the process by allowing more permits by notifications. He
133 will keep the board updated as much as possible.

134

135 **MOTION:** Mr. Traeger made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Butler seconded the motion. Members
136 voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

137

138 Respectfully Submitted,



139

140 Andrea Cairns