

**Hanover Conservation Commission  
Minutes 03.10.10**

**Members present:** Ed Chamberlain (Acting Chair), Ray Hogue, Anne Morris, Athos Rassias (Selectboard representative), Vicki Smith (Town staff), Sandy White (recorder)

**Members of Public:** Tim McNamara, Nik Fiore, Peter Kermond, others representing Friends of Hanover Crew

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.

**Current Business:**

***Dartmouth College's after-the-fact wetlands special exception for Rivercrest and comments to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and NH DES:***

Tim McNamara, Ed Chamberlain and Doug McIlroy met at the site on Monday, March 8 to look at the riverbank failure that occurred at the end of October 2009. Dartmouth received emergency permission from NH DES to regrade and stabilize the area. Since this work was completed, there has been no noticeable erosion; everything is working well and the bank is stable. Dartmouth would like approval of the re-vegetation plan so planting can begin in May. They would like to plant shrubby species that grow to a height of 12 feet, to get many roots on the slope to hold the bank. Nature will revegetate with large trees. McNamara suggested that the Conservation Commission watch sites up and down the river for bank failure. The tops of river slopes should not be used to support heavy loads, nor should drainage be allowed to overflow the top of the bank. While it isn't certain what caused the bank to collapse, it is probably due to water accumulating in a temporary manmade wetland near the top of the bank that caused it to fail. That area is a fill of unconsolidated material, up to 50 feet, that was never properly compacted. It was probably mined at some point, then filled. A safety fence keeps people away from the stabilized area. McNamara has a key to the gate. Randy Shuey, environmental scientist with New England Environmental, Inc., is going to submit an application to DES but Vicki hasn't seen it yet. Anne Morris made the motion that appropriate action was taken by Dartmouth College. Dartmouth is waiting for approval of the planting plan which it hopes will come before May. It was seconded by Sandy White, all approved with one abstention.

***Friends of Hanover Crew application for a Standard Dredge and Fill permit for installation of a seasonal crew dock at Wilson's Landing:***

Nik Fiore, project manager at Engineering Ventures, reviewed and described the dock, addressed the reasons why the Friends are unable to use the Dartmouth and Chieftain docks. There was discussion about the way the dock will be anchored. The floating dock will ride up and down on twenty-eight to thirty 2"-diameter poles that extend above the high water level. It will be removed every year by hand. There may be a need to bring in a trailer to remove the modular dock once it is up out of the water. Ed Chamberlain remarked there had been no discussion about the impact of the docks on the wetland setback and to the wetland (marsh). Anne Morris said there has been little discussion of waterfowl impacts. The commission was uncomfortable about the lack of information about flora and fauna impacts in the dredge and fill application, in community discussions, and in the presentation to the commission. Fiore stated that a wetland scientist will be on site in the next couple of weeks to judge the impact of

activities on the buffer and wetland and to review the town regulations. He stated that the State looks at only the impact of the footprint of dock and ramp, not the area in the wetland setback. The Friends will be coming back for three special exceptions at the end of the month. There is a history of docks withstanding flooding and debris floating downstream and it is felt there is a minimal risk of losing docks. Chamberlain wondered about the State approving a parallel dock as they normally require a perpendicular dock. It was stated that there are two applications, five special exceptions, and a variance for two driveways. Fiore said there are minimal impacts from augering, no anticipated erosion, safety risks of a dock in the channel will be minimized by reflectors on the dock. At the end of the high school rowing season in June of each year, 50 feet of dock will be removed. It has been proposed that mitigation funds will be designated for the Steele property, since there are no other waterfront projects for funds. A motion to send a note to DES stating the Commission is unable to comment on the dredge and fill application until it gets information on wildlife impacts from the applicant was moved by Morris and seconded by White with unanimous approval. The Commission plans on convening soon after information on wildlife is made available.

***Resource Stewardship:***

The Conservation Commission proposed that a representative of the conservation community be appointed as one of the Town of Hanover's three members on the new Trescott Board for the Water Company. The Open Space Committee will discuss the formation of a joint subcommittee with the Planning Board charged with implementing the master plan recommendation regarding the water company lands, and choose a name for this committee. There are two planning board representatives on this committee, in addition to three members of the Commission. This discussion needs to be noted on the next Open Space Committee agenda.

***Baseline Documentation:***

Vicki is still working on the documentation. Out of 48 easements, 42 signed easement monitoring reports have been returned. Vicki has been working with the Open Space Committee on five easements to set boundaries. She is getting bids from surveyors, and hopes to get abutters to share costs.

***Tanzi Update:***

There is no word yet on whether the abutter to the Tanzi tract has removed personal property from the town-owned land. The abutter was given 30 days to respond, and that time is up on March 20.

***Plant Swap:***

The Commission voted to direct Vicki Smith to spend up to \$200 from the Ledyard Bank funds to buy seedlings for the town's holding beds to support a plant swap of invasives for plants to be administered by the Garden Club. Barbara McIlroy will create a brochure to advertise this event. Morris moved, Hogue seconded, the vote in favor was unanimous.

***Open Space Committee Report:***

Morris reported there were seven people addressing and stuffing direct mail envelopes with a brochure and letter soliciting donations for the Steele property. The Commission is looking for \$40,000 in donations, with \$2,850 on hand already as the direct result of a

presentation made at Kendal. The Hanover Conservation Council will pay half of the cost of the brochure and is considering taking a conservation easement on the property. The Commission will pay the Council the stewardship fee. It was agreed to approve \$220 for brochure printing by Gnomon Copy.

There will be two public hearings at the April 14 Conservation Commission meeting on the Steele and Hayes acquisitions. A conservation easement will be carefully written to include wording to improve a trail for wheeled vehicle access for baby joggers and wheelchairs. A simple structure for recreation should be allowed. The manager of the Chieftain Motel told Morris that she was interested in a warming hut by Rinker Pond so people could skate. Vicki was hoping to get a management plan from Paul Harwood by the end of the month.

Molly Donovan of Hanover Conservation Council will change the draft memo of understanding to reflect the changes above to sign. It was moved by Chamberlain that Julia Griffin sign the memo of understanding when the suggestions have been incorporated into the document. It was seconded by Morris and approved unanimously.

The Hayes property is for sale. It is hoped that the town will purchase a nine acre portion of this property that is about to be subdivided. The back four acres of this parcel has no road frontage, adjoins other conservation land and has been valued at \$84,000 by the Town assessor. Julia Griffin offered to pay for another opinion of the value. Robert Lamprey will give his opinion this week. The Hanover Conservation Council is considering holding the easement on Trescott Ridge Wetland and the four acres. Fern Meyer is looking for a place to memorialize her parents. She is somewhat interested in one of the Hayes parcels but would prefer a natural playground. There will be a public hearing at the April 14 meeting of the Conservation Commission to discuss using Commission funds to pay for a portion of the Hayes property.

***L.A. Suncook Natural Resource Inventory:***

Rick van de Pol's bill will be paid by L.A. Suncook (\$1,500). He will lead a three hour site visit on the land on Monday, April 26.

***Baseline Documentation Digital Storage Option:***

Vicki has identified a good data storage option through the internet web site, Carbonite. The cost is very modest- \$55/year.

***Trails Committee Report:***

The Hanover Conservation Council wants to help on trails work on Pasture Road and Occom Ridge.

***Conservation Commission's budget:***

The budget did not get cut for 2011. It will continue at the same amount.

The minutes of February 10, 2010 were approved with minor corrections.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.