

Approved: April 15, 2009

**Hanover Conservation Commission
Minutes 03.11.09**

Members present: Bill Baschnagel (Selectboard representative), Robin Carpenter (Chair), Ed Chamberlain, Ray Hogue, Doug McIlroy, Michael Mayor, Anne Morris, Vicki Smith (Town staff), Sandy White (recorder)

Members of Public: Molly Donovan, Tom Linell

Meeting was called to order at 5 pm.

Current Business:

Conservation Opportunities in Area South of Velvet Rocks:

A priority of the Conservation Council is looking at conservation opportunities in the sensitive and important Mink Brook Watershed, specifically the entire Route 120 corridor from the Appalachian Trail to I-89, in order to prepare for future projects. The Council would like to host a meeting with the Lebanon and Hanover Conservation Commissions to 1) discuss concept of a conservation area or community forest within the Route 120 corridor, 2) define the area, create a map, and determine an appropriate name for the area, 3) talk about a shared vision statement and how it can be communicated to the community, 4) discuss ways of working together. Carpenter will ask Reeve if she is willing and able to participate in a pre-meeting with Morris to define meeting goals. Donovan will send Smith potential meeting dates to determine times that will net a quorum. Smith is unable to take a position until Rick Van de Poll's natural resources inventory is complete. He is due to wrap up in September.

Capital Improvements Plan:

The Trails Committee drafted a plan prioritizing six areas that need funding. Morris and Carpenter reported being contacted by two residents regarding the Shoreline Trail, worrying about the public relations aspect of it. McIlroy would like to add a paragraph of explanation to the purpose statement of the trail. Mayor stated that owners of Occom Ridge properties have a rider on their deeds allowing foot traffic through their front and back lots, as well as a "no cutting" without permission of the town forester clause. Smith suggested inserting a disclaimer at the start of the plan, similar to the one that is in the open space plan, about working with neighbors. McIlroy said the trail will take a lot of study and there would be some development work to make it a well-used trail.

Chamberlain wanted it made clear which trails are for walking. It was decided that discussion should take place later.

Remove "Trails Committee" from the title of the plan, since it is coming from the Commission.

Easement Monitoring Progress:

Smith noted that confessions aren't necessary, but expressed a hope that everyone would complete their assignments soon. She will resend the monitoring forms via email.

Resource Stewardship:

Morris asked Smith if she would order a copy of the DES Water Resources Primer that just came out if we don't already have one.

Budget Cuts:

McIlroy reported that the Commission's budget was cut \$500, which could fund the occasional cutting of trees. Smith responded that the door of the town manager's office is always open if there is a special request.

Open Space Warrant Articles:

The Commission has two warrant articles that Smith passed on to the town manager who then forwarded them to the town attorney and Selectboard. Explanatory material can be placed in the town report. Someone needs to be at town meeting to explain, and perhaps someone could write a letter to the editor.

Carpenter had comments about Warrant Article #2: 1) which local governing body is referred to in the phrase "subject to the approval of the local governing body"? The article deals with property outside of Hanover. Baschnagel said the legislation clarifies it – it refers to the town. Carpenter suggested changing it to "subject to the approval of the Hanover governing body" upon approval of the town lawyer. Vicki will pass these comments to Julia Griffin and Walter Mitchell.

Policy Governing Expenditures from the Conservation Fund:

The Commission discussed the following changes: in the third paragraph of the policy add "under most circumstances" after "fiscal year"; substitute may for "will" at the end of the first paragraph; and place a footnote after "vote" that reads "in accordance with the memo of understanding."

Mayor moved to adopt these changes to the policy governing expenditures from the Conservation Fund. Carpenter seconded. Motion was accepted unanimously.

Other Business:

McIlroy reported that a steering committee has been appointed for the Upper Valley Trails Alliance four town (Norwich, Hanover, West Lebanon, Wilder) bike trail, all on roads. The commission's representative is Tom Linell, Vicki Smith is the staff's representative.

Minutes of the February 11, 2009 meeting were corrected.

Carpenter suggested that a map accompany the capital improvements plan.

Morris would like to attend the Saving Special Places 2009 workshop. Smith indicated that the town would pay the registration fee.

Mayor referred the Commission to the Stormwater Manual on the NH DES web page that can be downloaded.

Smith was asked for commission achievements that could feed into a partnership with landowners and other towns. Chief among them will be the Van de Poll survey.

Chamberlain moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40pm; Carpenter seconded.