

Hanover Conservation Commission
Meeting Wednesday 14 May, 2008
Minutes

Present: Judith Reeve (Chair), Robin Carpenter, Anne Morris, Michael Mayor (scribe), Sandra White, Bill Baschnagel (Select Board), Vicki Smith (staff)

Absent:

Meeting convened by Reeves as chair at 5:05P

1. Current Business

- Open space at Rivercrest (30 minutes, All)

Tim McNamara, Dartmouth Office of Real Estate:

Tim presented a brief review of the site visit from Monday, May 12. Major changes are: two small greens replaced with a single large green space with reduction of one curb cut to a total of three (including the access to the lower Phase II site.) Site visit included identification of large “heritage” trees, mostly mature sugar maples, and open space. Also salient were the two wetland basins, 11.32A open space (more than previous), elimination of open play field in SW corner, plus miscellaneous pocket parks and play spaces and large middle meadow (required minimum well exceeded.) 270 Units planned, down from 273 previously (290 allowed by current zoning.) Smaller play space is planned on knoll between two wet-land basins. Mown pathway will allow foot/ski travel from cross-walk at Lyme Road round-about to the wetland in the NW corner. Discussion of pervious paving, parking lot design and infiltration/run-off followed. Sense of the meeting was that the open space plan is fully supported by the membership, and Vicki will dispatch a letter to that effect to convey the CC’s assessment to the Planning Board.

- Girl Brook (45 min. All)

Frank Robbins, Russ Rohloff , Lindsay O’Reilly, Ellen Arnold.

Zoning board discussion will be held in July 2 with repair of erosion phase and reconstruction/stabilization phase. College returns because Department of Environmental Services reviewed the project of the clay pipe across the fairway on the practice course and called for an improvement instead of just a repair, raising the need to make a restoration plan with a bridge and other elements. The process is being kept separate to preserve the permitting for the repair project. Staff emphasizes the importance of alacrity to forestall further damage that might ensue should the repairs/reconstructions/stabilizations be delayed. Substantive required changes during the process have to go back to Brotman in Zoning, and possibly back to the State depending on the significance of the change. Brief discussion ensued regarding avoidance of invasives becoming established with 60 day follow-up inspection and next season repair report by Sept 1 of the following year. Carpenter moved to recommend expeditious permitting, seconded by Morris. Unanimous approval voted by Commission. Staff requested a summary accounting from the College of costs related to the projects.

- Dog management on Mink Brook lands (7.5 minutes, All)
- Water level of Mink Brook (7.5 minutes, All)

Brief review of the results of Monday's site visit to Mink Brook including discussion with Ken Alton of Trans-Canada Power to become sensitive to the complexity of Connecticut River management issues. Baschnagel raised the possibility of restoring the flow gauge for Mink Brook from grant money with maintenance supported by local neighborhood contributions. Trans-Canada permit is pending for 2016, with a five year lead for T-C generally used for preparation. Staff strongly advocated attention be paid to mitigation of uncontrolled storm inputs for each building project in the watershed, and a general effort to better understand the interactions between wildlife and citizenry with pets to minimize adverse impacts on those wildlife elements. Mitigation Enhancement Fund under the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation might be petitioned for monetary support for such a project. (See Lebanon's Wildlife Movement study) Overlap with the 120 Corridor Study may be real but the wildlife study will be a distinct effort. Coordination with the City of Lebanon will be a requirement. Reeves will ask neighbors to log water levels at the mouth of the brook for 6 to eight weeks and report.

- Lawless conservation easement (5 minutes, Vicki)

Awaiting input from the Open Space Committee, and insights about Lyme's stance on the issue.

- Gile Tract fencing and erosion control (5 minutes, Vicki)

Site monitoring is in Jonathan Edward's hands. Carpenter will pursue with J.E.

- Filling yard expansion F/U (5 minutes, All)

No formal site plan application is in hand yet.

- Gardner waterbody setback and floodplain permitting (10 minutes, Vicki)

Brotman has the plans on her work list and has not reviewed the project in sufficient detail. Brian Gardner has been directing the work and has re-graded the flood-plain behind the new garage structure. Commission will await Brotman's response and keep this issue on the agenda for June for a chance to re-evaluate.

2. Resource Stewardship

- Route 120 Corridor wildlife report (30 minutes, All) See above.
- Participation in natural resources inventory with Lebanon (10 minutes, All)

See above. Staff is working on information flow with Lebanon. Expansion of the scope of that inventory would be of great value. One issue would be to identify the Great Hollow wildlife crossings and understand how they would extend to 120 going west. This insight would provide major advantages to Hypertherm in its planning process. Mark Goodwin will be contacted as part of the initiation process, especially in view of the need to spend money to gather needed information.

- Lake Host funding request \$1000 (5 minutes, All)

Goose pond lake protection station is enthusiastic about continued process and funding. Reeve will send confirmation for \$500 with the possibility of a smaller later amount.

- BM development plan review (15 minutes, Anne)

Staff has produced a chart form for the information in the CC packet distributed prior to the meeting. The chart has proven to be a long one for people to fill out rather than

working from the list of questions also distributed. The effort was focused on covering salient points about environmental impact. Mayor will ride shotgun on the arrival of the chart to the planning board when it appears on their agenda. It should serve as a valuable reference for the 4 step application process for the board and applicants appearing before it.

3. Administration Business

- May Minutes taker: Michael Mayor
- June Minutes taker: Doug McIlroy
- July Minutes taker:

4. Committee Reports

- Open Space Committee (5 minutes, All)

Morris points out that stewardship set-aside does not have a specific fund identified as a set-aside. Amounts appropriate per easement vary considerably, from \$2,500 upwards with the expectation of increasing expenses in the future. Documentation via a set of guidelines is suggested as an alternative to a separate fund. The documentation should include a protocol that can be expected to go ahead into the future, modified/revised as appropriate. Devote the interest on the sustainment fund to grow the fund.

- Trails Committee

McIlroy requests a change in trail routing per e-mailed map and memo, from the junction of Pasture Road and Ridge Road to the south up to the Ridge Road to the north shown by the red road on the map distributed. Acceptance moved by Reeve, seconded by Carpenter, and approved unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes – April 9, 2008: Mayor moved to approve with changes noted, seconded by White. Approved unanimously.

6. Other Business

B. McIlroy: The Garden Club is organizing a Tanzi Tract project 4 June for buckthorn and barberry removal as an ideal demonstration project to protect abundant stands of vegetation worthy of protection by control of invasives. Permitting will be needed for application of effective herbicide by Prescott Towle. Announcement approved by the sense of the meeting.

Topologix GIS associates flyer will be distributed to the GIS Committee by Mayor.

7. Adjourn, as moved by Reeves and seconded by Carpenter, unanimously approved at 8:15P

Next Meeting: 9 July 2008; Court Room, Town Hall