

Approved: 8 October 2008

Hanover Conservation Commission  
Minutes of the September 10, 2008 Meeting

In attendance: Robin Carpenter, Ed Chamberlain, Ray Hogue, Doug McIlroy, Michael Mayor, Judy Reeve, Vicki Smith, Sandy White (recorder)

Public: Leslie Boulton, Earl Simpson, Armando Gonzalez, David Farr

Meeting started at 5:05 pm.

**Simpson Development Request for Administrative Permit:**

The Commission visited the Ladd Road site with the applicants on September 8, 2008. The Commission's main concerns are impacts to the wetlands from the driveway construction and continued use. The Commission noted the existing culvert installed by the Town. The Commission considered that this alternative minimized impacts and found the information submitted in support of the permit to be very informative.

The Commission decided to support the application for administrative permit with the understanding that there be no disturbance downhill from the existing logging road and there would be only occasional seasonal mowing in order to maintain a vegetative buffer between the driveway and wetland. The Commission suggested a 12 foot driveway instead of the proposed 14 feet, but due to the steepness, the applicant wanted the width to remain at 14 feet.

**David Farr Request for Administrative Permit:**

The Commission visited the Farr property on August 11, 2008 and reviewed the plans for development on September 10, 2008. The Commission's main concerns are impacts to the wetlands from the driveway construction and continued use. The Commission considered this to be a driveway layout that minimized impacts, though it was noted that a shared driveway would be even better. The submission materials were not as complete as the Commission would like, but they understood the site well enough from their visit to make a decision.

The disturbance is limited to the 25-75 foot buffer. The Commission decided to support the application for administrative permit as presented. Hogue asked how errors on unprofessional maps are addressed. Smith said that professionals can be called on to verify map information.

**Girl Brook Restoration:** Smith reported that the bridge abutment is threatened. The Town will apply for an emergency wetlands permit to fix it. The DPW will be doing some of the work. The College is paying from Route 10 to the big curve. A logger is looking at the blow-downs. Within the next five years, a 40 foot swath on each side of the brook needs to be removed to recreate a floodplain. There are a lot of valuable plants that

need to be protected that are mixed in with invasives. Removal of the invasive plant wild chervil is not a priority at this point.

It was noted that a ravine has been created by stormwater from the emergency services building draining onto the golf course. It needs a stormwater retrofit to better eliminate peak discharges. This is a huge undertaking, perhaps an item for the capital improvement plan. If the Commission wishes to make a recommendation, we need to write a proposal that includes the magnitude of the problem and costs. The town has a responsibility to address this problem if the College is fixing the ravine. We should start to develop a working list of projects to be addressed.

**Update on Work at Hanover Center/Ruddsboro Road:** The property owner has not been in communication with the town. The town needs to initiate enforcement action. Jonathan Edwards seems open to “ticketing,” which doesn’t require court action. The town manager will make the final decision. Smith will research various ticketing procedures employed by other towns for discussion by the Commission, with the possible goal of presenting a formal proposal at town meeting.

**Ecological Resource Study Progress:** Smith noted that landowners along Route 120 and Great Hollow Road were contacted for permission to conduct a resource inventory on their property and all were amenable with the exception of Parker/Leavitt/Paragon and L.A. Suncook.

**Dispositions of Easements in Lebanon:** Indian Ridge is continuous with extensive conservation lands administered by Lebanon. The Indian Ridge easement has been an administrative nuisance for the Trails Committee and problematic in terms of trail maintenance and compliance monitoring as it is located in Lebanon. It may make sense to transfer the easement, rights and maintenance to Lebanon if we could modify the no mountain bike clause. Hanover does not allow bikes on trails and Lebanon does allow them on Boston Lot trails, which connect with Indian Ridge. The first step will be for McIlroy to discuss it with Lebanon and find out if they are amenable and take it from there. It would have to go to town meeting for a vote.

**Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Amendments:** Reeve pointed out the highlights of the powerpoint presentation that the Wetlands Bureau has giving throughout the State: the grid and points system given to trees and saplings in the waterfront buffer and stormwater management.

**Trails Committee Report:** A memo of understanding has been worked out between the Town and UVTA for John Taylor’s services. He has been paid \$1,000. McIlroy will write a tip of the hat statement to honor Ron Bailey for his years of trail maintenance, and pass it by Reeve, before presenting it to him at the October Conservation Commission meeting.

Boy scout Matt Geason rescued the Velvet Rocks Trail (from Dustin Coates’ property to the AT). Trail work was done, blazing, and wood signs installed. White will

ask the Valley News to write an article about the recent Eagle Scout trail projects of Ollie Simpson and Matt Geason.

Old Spencer Road blow-downs have been cut. Larry Litten and McIlroy finished the cutting after talking with Bill Nutt. Three quarters of the cut wood has disappeared already from the side of the road.

**Approval of August 13, 2008 Minutes:** The minutes of the August 13, 2008 Conservation Commission meeting were approved with changes. Carpenter moved to approve the minutes. Reeve seconded the motion. It was approved with one abstention.

**Mink Brook Work Day:** Tuesday, October 7 from 9am to noon. Rain date October 8. Cut buckthorn from the substation to the big turn. Meet at the substation on Route 10.

**Pleasant Street Cutting:** Started with \$15,000 in the maintenance account and paid \$522 last year for cutting. Over the year the account lost money in the market, now standing at \$13,878. After discussion about whether or not to cut again this year, it was decided to go ahead with it.

Chamberlain moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm. Reeve seconded the motion. There was unanimous approval.