

**Hanover Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, November 12, 2008
Meeting commences at 5:00pm
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Members present: Robin Carpenter, Ed Chamberlain, Ray Hogue (reporting), Doug McIlroy, Anne Morris, Judy Reeve, Sandra White; **also**, Bill Baschnagel (Select Board representative) and Vicki Smith (staff).

Environmental Impact List: Anne introduces a working draft of the Environmental Impact List (EIL); it was this working draft of the EIL that she provided to Hanover Fire Chief Bradley and Dartmouth College Director of Environmental Health & Safety, Michael Blaney for their review. Anne met with Chief Bradley on Monday, November 10, 2008 to go over the working draft of the EIL with him. Anne says that “threshold quantities” should be a key element of the EIL. The Conservation Commission (CC) agreed that the next step was to have informal discussions regarding the working draft of the EIL with a Planning Board representative.

Fullington Request for an After-the-Fact Special Exception: Judy, Robin and Ray made a site visit to the Fullington residence on Monday, November 10, 2008. Neil Borger, the designer of the septic system that is the subject of the request for the special exception, is serving as agent for the Fullington’s. Sandra asked if Mr. Borger had responded to the ZBA’s communication to him; no one on the CC was aware of any such response. Judy **moved** that the CC pass on to the ZBA Robin’s written site visit notes, noting that no response from Mr. Borger to the ZBA, if it exists, has been provided to the CC. Robin **seconded**; vote: **unanimous**.

4 Weatherby Terrace (Trees to be downed onto Town Land): Vicki reports that the owner of 4 Weatherby Terrace, Ms. Mueller, is concerned about the view of the pine tree to be downed on Town land behind her home. She requested that she be allowed to move the limbs and other loose material from the tree to the west side of the tree (from the east side; with the trunk of the downed tree to run approximately north/south). Additionally, Ms. Mueller would like permission to mow/bush-hog a portion of the Town’s land adjacent to her property that she has been mowing for a number of years. Vicki reported that the low bid to fell and limb the pine and fell the dead half of the oak nearby was \$850. Robin **moved** that: 1.) the \$850 bid be accepted, to be funded by CC funds; 2.) Ms. Mueller be allowed to move the limbs and other related loose material from the downed pine from the east side to the west side of the tree; and, 3.) pending the determination of final dimensions, Ms. Mueller be allowed to mow/bush-hog a portion of Town land adjoining her property (that will be a portion of the area she has been mowing for a number of years). Anne **seconded**; vote: **unanimous**.

Easement Monitoring: Anne suggests that conservation easements need to be monitored annually. Ed indicated that there is no baseline data on the resources the easements are protecting. It was suggested that those performing easement monitoring bring a digital camera. Doug suggested periodically monitoring the trail easements, too. A discussion was had of the idea of sending letters each year to all abutters of conservation easements and trail easements to inform them that monitors may be in their area. Vicki indicated that she typically sends letters to (and encourages monitors to call) those owners of the land affected by the easement.

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Tri-State Connecticut River Watershed Initiative: Hanover has been invited to participate in the Tri-State Connecticut River Watershed Initiative whereby committees from municipalities on the Connecticut River will meet to discuss regulatory approaches to the protection of related water supplies. No one had time to participate.

Open Space Committee: Anne indicated that there is one active project (on Dogford Road) and that an appraisal is in progress.

Trails Committee: a.) Doug was presented with an email from Ms. Helen Lacosse dated November 10, 2008 in which Ms. Lacosse questions whether the Mount Support Trail should be on the trails map. Doug indicated he will contact the pertinent landowners regarding the trail. b.) Doug reported that some participants in Youth-in-Action have blazed a trail from the Rinker Tract to Storrs Pond (thank you). c.) Doug reported that a bicycle trail from the Simpson Development to the top of Velvet Rocks II is coming closer to finalization. d.) Doug reported that he and Vicki spoke with a representative of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA) about the "Loop Trail" – a bicycle trail connecting through the towns of Lebanon, Hartford, Hanover, and Norwich. To the extent to which the trail would go off-road and onto conservation lands in Hanover (and Doug indicated he is encouraging the UVTA to move as much of the trail off the roads as possible), it would come under the purview of the CC.

Minutes: Judy **motioned** to accept minutes from the October 8, 2008 CC meeting; Anne **seconded**; vote: **unanimous**.

Adjournment: Judy motioned to adjourn; Robin **seconded**; vote: **unanimous**. Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.