

Approved: 10 January 2007

Minutes
Hanover Conservation Commission
December 13, 2006

Attending: Anne Morris, Doug McIlroy, Sandy White, Judy Reeve (chair), Robin Carpenter (recording), Joanna Whitcomb, Bill Baschnagel (5:40), Vicki Smith (staff).

The December CC meeting was convened at 5:15 p.m., beginning with discussion of possible Commission goals for 2007:

- Morris and Whitcomb reported on their private Rural Resource Protection group's recent proposals to the Planning Board, involving their views on (a) how to meet build-out objectives, (b) how to implement Guiding Growth directions, (c) seeking information for assuring water supply. The group is recommending zoning changes including adjusted calculations in RR and F zones, density exclusion calculations for "high resource value" land, adjustments for "moderate resource value" land and review/reset of permitted and prohibited uses.
- The Commission discussed likely need for P&Z to add staff, whether as employee or contractor, especially to increase/improve enforcement activity and to accommodate regulations and RRPD planning, if adopted.
- Attention to increasing CC membership.
- Enhance CC's stewardship capabilities, such as easement monitoring, river structures monitoring, improved GIS mapping.
- Review and suggest process for enhancing CC role in the 4-step planning process.
- Enhance and standardize CC site visit and reporting. Suggestions include timing and timeliness of site visit summaries, standardizing summary format, designating a core site visit team.
- Tighten-up monthly meeting process, possibly including regular meeting continuations (or at least deliberative decisions regarding continuation) for large or complex projects.
- Adding a CC web page.
- Trails Committee instructions w/r Girl Brook plans.
- Develop/suggest invasive species policy for the Planning Board in Site Plan Review.
- To encourage more volunteers to help with CC issues. More specifically, to encourage active participation in committee work & land/easement stewardship.

Chair Reeve distributed materials from a CSPA presentation, and a “How To” presentation on wetland permit applications. Also a letter from Reeve and David Peart on tax benefits for conservation, and a Dec 11 memo from Barbara McIlroy on Hanover’s Section 702.6D (alteration of surface and ground water flow).

The Commission discussed two recent wetland violations, on Greensboro and Elm Roads. In both cases, projects were undertaken without prior permits, and the issue at hand is whether Administrative Permits should be issued after-the-fact. The sense of the Commission was that the violators ought at least to seek Special Exception from the ZBA. No vote or conclusive action was taken.

Commissioner White reported on significant stormwater discharge from Velvet Rocks into wooded area (adjacent to her house) on Greensboro road.

Commissioner Whitcomb departed at 7:00. Commissioner Carpenter (recording) departed at 7:30. Reeve began recording at 7:30pm

Open Space Committee Report:

- Chairperson Reeve and David Peart, President of the Hanover Conservation Council have sent a letter to the editor to the Valley News explaining the new expanded tax benefits for conserving land.

Trails Committee:

- McIlroy visited the Lebanon Conservation Commission November meeting to discuss the trails on Indian Ridge. There is no immediate interest toward any easement or land transfers in that area.
- A Girl Brook trail from Verona Avenue along the sewer easement to Reservoir Road area (Ray and Richmond schools and Dartmouth Day Care Center) is being investigated.
- The recent windstorms and heavy rains have caused many trees to be blown down across trails. Much clearing has been going on.

Construction Practices Review Committee

- The draft of the erosion and sediment control and stormwater regulations was presented by Jonathan Edwards to the Select Board on Dec. 4th. The draft needs to be more concise and less redundant and will be worked on in January with town staff.
- Baschnagel suggested that the Select Board encourages the use of a bonding requirement as a security deposit for all required erosion control plans. Smith said the town now requires a letter of credit or cash on big projects.

Conservation Easement Monitoring

- Hollenbeck Lane Easement: White reports that she observed a make-shift pedestrian bridge over Mink Brook held in place by large wires attached to trees on either side of the

water. Abutters will be notified of the violation of the easement and also waterbody regulations.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10pm. (Reeve moved, White seconded. Unanimous.)