

Approved: March 11, 2009

**Hanover Conservation Commission  
Meeting Wednesday, February 11, 2009  
Municipal Building**

Members Present: Carpenter (chair), Chamberlain, Morris, White, McIlroy, Mayor  
(scribe), Hogue, Baschnagel  
Staff Present: Vicki Smith

Meeting convened at 5:04PM

1. Current Business:

- Discuss and formulate recommendations for Hypertherm special exception request (All, 30 minutes)

Rod Finley & Perry Seale presented the details of the application for wetland administrative permit for undergrounding electrical service at 21 Great Hollow Road, subsequent to their Feb. 3 presentation to the Hanover Planning Board. Details contained in packet distributed. Conduit buried, with concrete surround under the road. Efforts to preserve screening from Great Hollow Road have routed the buried conduit around the tree-line. Disturbance has been held to below threshold, satisfying Judith Brotman's review. Question raised by Morris re wetland setback impacts, with Finley responding that the disturbance is temporary, and recovery beyond construction is assured. Chamberlain wondered about the decision to come in at the far side of the building, with the response that the building is being serviced at opposite ends for greatest diametric separation. Most of the routing is through previously disturbed soil. Carpenter renewed the request that plans include a graphic scale. Moved by McIlroy that we have no objection to the plan presented, seconded by Carpenter. Unanimous approval.

- Discussion with Mark Zankel, Deputy Director for The Nature Conservancy, re Bear Hill Conservancy Trust

Hanover/Lyme project: Bear Hill Reservation: Biodiversity conservation is the goal of the project, with a large forestry block (Mascoma river head-waters, 65,000 acre block) adjacent to Goose Pond Road including David Roby's property. It is hoped that this area will be designated a focus area in the Silvio Conte Refuge. If it is, it will be eligible for Conte funding for permanent conservation. A Natural Heritage Inventory has been done by TNC. The project is contiguous with Forest Service acres, Appalachian Trail, etc. Six exemplary "communities" re birds, flora, mammals, etc have been ground surveyed. High quality wildlife habitat predominates. The acreage includes some preserved, some actively managed for wildlife. Conservation easement arrangements are being sought with Mr. Roby. There are 7 miles of snowmobile trails, with no other motorized use expected. The intent of the presentation is to solicit a response regarding supportability of the project, in general. The Nature Conservancy is awaiting a draft comprehensive conservation plan, expected last fall, coming from Silvio Conte and the Federal Fish & Wildlife Agency. Commission consensus in support of the project was communicated to

Mr. Zankel, and the expectation that the Conservation Commission is to remain in the information stream, with notification of the substance of the Federal response, with the possibility of a letter of support forthcoming from the CC. Access for Conte's purposes requires access for public enjoyment, habitat protection and scientific research. The town of Lyme is fully supportive.

- Capital Improvements Plan Discussion (Doug McIlroy, 15 minutes)

McIlroy presents from the packet enclosure:

1. Possible linear path along Mink Brook, with objections/concerns re Rick Van Der Poll about wildlife disturbance in the study area. Recommend endorsement, with some possibility of adjustments pending more input from Van Der Poll. In addition, during the recent Ray School public information sessions, questions were raised about using the sewer line right of way, with complications related to exclusions already in place regarding limitations to its use. General consensus was that neighborhood considerations need to be solicited.
2. Girl Brook: Capital improvements have not been mentioned in the CIP document but probably should be. Girl Brook East (Brook Hollow to Day Care) is a trail, probably suitable for bicycles (gently hardened to keep it useful for x-country skiing.)
3. Shoreline Trail: Not currently in the draft plan, though bits of the trail are mentioned. Kendal segment is presently closed to public use. Maximum visioning takes the trail from Mink Brook to Wilson's Landing. Lebanon is working on River Trail development that might link (including Wilder Park).
4. Dana Parcels: The Town is a partial owner of one of the Dana properties. Because the Dana heirs are dispersed around the country, communication with the other owners of the parcel is difficult. Three family members have conveyed title to the town, and others have not. This issue is low on the priority list. Some logging activity has been accomplished.
5. Girl Brook East, see above.

Morris asked for more explicit trails committee input. McIlroy's response was that he would like CC involvement to be more general. (Note, the Jan 12 missive is directed at the CC, not more generally.) Carpenter wondered about dollarizing the items, with Baschnagel suggesting that such a quantitative determination would come later in the process. Still, continuing oversight of the costs incurred would be key.

Action: Move Girl Brook East up to 1, with Girl Brook restoration, as 3, Mink Brook at 2, leaving 3,4 at the tail end as 4,5.

## 2. Resource Stewardship:

- Easement monitoring progress (Vicki, 5 minutes)

A student intern from Dartmouth College Geography department has been identified, and will be working on conservation easement baseline documentation.

- Conservation Fund policy (Anne, 15 minutes)

Policy documents on the table tonight (2) and one in the packet were reviewed. All three documents were discussed with suggested changes reviewed and adopted. Append to the Open Space Plan, FYI to the Select-Board. Unanimously approved for adoption.

### 3. Administrative Business:

- Sandy White is the March minute taker.
- Robin Carpenter is the April minute taker.
- Anne Morris is the May minute taker.

### 4. Committee Reports:

Open Space Committee (Anne, 5 minutes)

Disappointment noted regarding Mr. Roberto's proposal and its reception with the CC. McIlroy raised question about Lebanon Easement disposition, with Ms. Smith responding that Ms. Griffith willing to move forward with Lebanon.

Trails Committee-trail help (Doug, 10 minutes)

McIlroy notes that gender diversity for the trails committee would be valued. Chamberlain suggests Nancy Collier.

### 5. Approval of Minutes:

January 14, 2009 Minutes reviewed; corrections, additions, deletions solicited and incorporated: Unanimously approved.

### 6. Other Business:

Anne Morris: reported on the Whose Water Is It? meeting at the Howe Library, describing the excellence of the meeting, and suggested distributing slide copies in the next packet. McIlroy concurs, and notes that last week's meeting was also excellent, with the final meeting next Wednesday.

Chair asks are we on or over budget: Ron Bailey has taken us over with do-able adjustments pending.

Ms. Smith reports that Van Der Poll will be coming back next month, with his presentation to start at 7P as before. He will present winter tracking insights. Ms. Smith will inquire as to his time needs for presentation, and 15 mins. for questions.

McIlroy also suggests responding to March 9 Selectboard budget hearing presence requested by Mr. Baschnagel.

Ed Chamberlain, Balch Hill Management Committee: State Conservation Service is advising on the management of the viewshed of Balch Hill, with staff from the state re treatment of the trees beginning to move into the view. Need for money may result in a petition to the CC.

### 7. Adjournment: 6:47P