

Approved March 12, 2008

**Minutes of the Conservation Commission
February 13, 2008**

In attendance: Robin Carpenter, Ray Hogue, Doug McIlroy, Anne Morris, Sandra White, William Baschnagel (selectboard representative), Michael Mayor (planning board representative), Vicki Smith (staff)

In the audience: Nicole Cormen (Lebanon Conservation Commission Chair), Barbara McIlroy

The meeting started at 4:00pm.

Site Visit to Rivercrest on Saturday, February 16, 2008

The Planning Board is visiting the proposed Rivercrest development and has invited the Conservation Commission to attend. The entire parcel is covered in snow and ice, making it very difficult for the Commission to see wetlands, etc. The Commission prefers to visit later in the year when the snow has melted. Vicki Smith will email Tim McNamara at Dartmouth to tell him there will not be a big contingent of Conservation Commission members in attendance. The College is scheduled to attend the March 4 Planning Board meeting to discuss traffic and school impacts of this development. Potential issues with the development: five exits to Lyme Road, use of the upper and lower plains, boundary with Kendal, meaningful open spaces, playing fields, creating a safe pedestrian crossing to the big open space across the street. Anne Morris will write to the Planning Board asking for a pedestrian signal or other measures to ensure safe crossing to be considered as part of the traffic planning for this project. (*Judy Reeve wrote the Letter ED NOTE*)

GIS Mapping for Hanover

Doug McIlroy outlined reasons for the town to purchase a GIS system, and included cost estimates. He handed out a revised outline at the meeting that added measures taken by Enfield and Lyme to update their systems. The Hanover Department of Public Works uses a GIS system for inventory purposes. The town planning office could use it to produce maps that would show trails, wetlands, soil types, other environmental locations, and produce up to date location information that would inform town commissions and boards and the public. It could also be used in collaboration with neighboring towns that are using the system. There is no money in the budget for a GIS system this year. Bill Baschnagel suggested writing grants to get the hard and software. The town needs a junior planner who can use it. Currently, Planning and Zoning Director Jonathan Edwards uses Corel Draw, which has limitations (such as not providing longitude and latitude). Is it possible to find money to purchase the software for Jonathan's computer? It would seem that the benefit is great compared to the amount expended (approximately \$1,500). Robin Carpenter felt a case had not been made of ways the town would be better off with GIS software. It would be useful to see a case study of a town that switched from another system to GIS. There is interest in the Commission for a GIS system but a strong case needs to be made. Robin asked Vicki to draft a letter suggesting collaboration with the Planning Board to look into a GIS system. In the meantime, Robin will call Jonathan. Nicole Cormen suggested looking to the New Hampshire Municipal Association and

the Office of Energy and Planning for money to fund the system.

Assistance with Evaluating the Route 120 Corridor Study

Barbara McIlroy submitted a memo urging the Conservation Commission and Planning Board to request an environmental impact review by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department for the route 120 corridor. Barbara has been in touch with Karen Bordeau of the Fish and Game Region 2 office who has agreed to look at the State database and make a presentation to interested Hanover town committees. Nicole Cormen said the Lebanon Conservation Commission wrote a letter on November 26 to the Lebanon Planning Board asking them to seek advice from the Fish and Game Department on the route 120 corridor. On March 6, the Lebanon Planning Board will be hearing about the Qroe land in the corridor. Nicole will ask the Lebanon Conservation Commission if they want to go ahead and request a survey that would include pre and post-development projections, liability assessment, roadkill data, and habitat data. The Mount Support development seems to be aware of environmental concerns and is shifting impacts around. Bill Bashnagel suggested deputizing Barbara McIlroy to work with Nicole Cormen to request an expedited study by the Fish and Game Department before the hearings begin. Nicole Cormen would have preferred that the Lebanon Planning Board asked for the study first. Michael Mayor, a member of the Route 120 Corridor Management Joint Commission, said that group is in limbo until they know what phase 2 is about. Robin Carpenter asked Barbara McIlroy and Nicole Cormen to draft a letter to be reviewed by him before it goes out to be signed by the Lebanon and Hanover Conservation Commission chairs. Nicole Cormen will discuss this with the Lebanon Conservation Commission at its meeting on February 14. The boundaries of the study need to be determined. It was suggested that the boundaries stay close to route 120. Anne Morris said to send Karen Bordeau a map and let her decide on the boundaries. The Commission would like Karen to state her findings in a letter and also present it in person.

Conservation Commission Attendance at ZBA Hearings and Deliberations

It has been the practice of the Commission to send a letter with recommendations to the ZBA for hearings and deliberations and to let that stand by itself. What we write must be specific and direct. It can be helpful to have a representative present at the hearings and deliberations to articulate the points verbally, but we must be clear and very careful about what can be said. Experience attending ZBA hearings may lead to better writing of recommendations. Sometimes things can get skewed at hearings when it is noticed that there are no Commission members present.

Open Space Meeting Report

There is a meeting on Thursday, February 21, at 8:30am to review public relations materials before getting them out to the public. This is an annual charge. Vicki has spoken to a landowner who may want to apply for funds to keep private property out of development. Nicole Cormen will be talking with Judy McNab in Lebanon, who is the liaison between the Open Space Committee and the Lebanon Planning Board, regarding questions she has about the LeBrun property.

Trails Report

The Old Spencer Road visit is still in the planning stage. There is talk about converting part of Wardrobe Road to a trail, something that Lebanon has been very successful in doing. Doug McIlroy suggested that Ray Hogue look into it

with an eye to: the pros and cons, especially with neighbors; how much of the road should be converted; should it be converted to a Class A or Class B trail. Ray agreed to discuss it with Doug. Vicki has been contacted by a potential donor of gates and bars to limit traffic on Class VI roads. It is expensive. The donor requested information about the number of posts and gates needed. Permission must be obtained from the Selectboard. The town would install the gates, which need to open. They are about 12 feet wide. They must not exclude, just discourage the public from driving on them. There is some risk of vandalism. There is a gate on the trail near the Mascoma River by Riverside Restaurant if anyone wants to take a look. The Trails Committee will make a list of the number needed and talk to property owners.

Approval of Minutes of November 14, 2007 and January 9, 2008

After the correction of some misspellings and typos, Anne Morris moved to accept the minutes as amended and Ray Hogue seconded.

Conservation Commission Fund

Ray Hogue asked for the procedure that is followed when the Commission has a proposal to withdraw money from the Conservation Commission Fund. The Commission usually gets an application through the Open Space Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission. Anne Morris, who chairs that group, presents the application and the Open Space Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission recommendations to the Commission where it is further discussed. A public meeting is required for expenditures of over \$50,000 and Selectboard approval, and often for Town Meeting approval. Expenditures of less than \$50,000 require approval of the entire Commission.

Wardrobe Road Land

This parcel was recently purchased by someone with a conservation interest. The buyer is amenable to having Wardrobe Road converted to a public trail.

Pine Tree Removal on Tanzi Trail

William Desch advised that the large leaning pine at the beginning of the Tanzi Preserve off route 120, on which the Tanzi trail sign is nailed, needs to be cut down. There is significant decay in the crown and it is leaning close to a neighboring house. It will cost \$840 to remove. Doug McIlroy will take a look at it and confirm the details. Robin Carpenter made a motion to authorize the expenditure from the Commission's operating budget, Michael Mayor seconded.

Monitoring Progress Reports on Wetlands Projects

Jim Kennedy submitted progress reports on two of his projects: the Wennberg property and the Bailey Wildlife Pond.

Town of Hanover Calendar

The town manager prefers not to send hard copies of the town calendar due to the changing nature of committee and board dates. Her office is working on creating a calendar for the town's web page. If the Commission would like to write a report on its accomplishments for the year, she will have it inserted in the town report.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30.

