

Approved: 11 February 2009

## Conservation Commission

### Minutes of the January 14, 2009 monthly Meeting

**Present:** Robin Carpenter (vice-chair), Vicki Smith (staff), Anne Morris, Ed Chamberlain (recording), Ray Hogue, Sandra White, Douglas McIlroy, Bill Baschnagel (Selectman representative). Visitors: Frank Roberts (Facilities Operation & Management – Dartmouth College) and Randy Schuey (consultant wetland scientist to Dartmouth College from New England Environmental, Inc.): Peter Knights (representing LA Suncook)

Carpenter opened the meeting at 5:00pm

#### 1. Current business:

**A) Hanover Country Club bridge project.** Frank Roberts (FO& M, Dartmouth College) & Randy Schuey (consultant wetland scientist to Dartmouth College) presented description of an ongoing erosion control project in the area of a newly constructed bridge across Girl Brook in Pine Park. Rock rip-rap has been placed in severely eroded areas beneath bridge – upstream and downstream of the bridge. They also described plantings planned for this area for Spring/Summer of 2009. Detailed plans (in the form of a special exception request dated Dec. 26, 2008) for the erosion control measures and plantings were given to the Planning Office and distributed to the Conservation Commissioners prior to this meeting.

Roberts discussed rock vanes that have been placed in the streambed to direct water to center of stream to minimize erosion of the stream banks. Excess material from streambank has placed higher on the streambank slopes and covered with erosion control blankets. The College has also filled an upstream gully (located between a footpath and brook) with boulders. McIlroy asked if grassed areas would be mowed. He was concerned about wild chervil invading grassy areas if they are not mowed. Vicki Smith offered that this might not be a problem because existing wild chervil is too far away to spread into this area.

Roberts said that the plantings will be allowed to take hold until 2010, and if any invasives emerge they will be cut or otherwise removed. The College's State permit from DES requires that the invasives be removed (Vicki Smith). College will have licensed applicator and permits in place to remove invasives (Roberts). Vicki Smith asked that gully area be dressed better. Schuey said that some more grooming would be done. Carpenter said that application seems very complete. McIlroy concurred. Chamberlain asked for clarification on what work has been done and what is to be done. All stream and erosion work is completed. Planting work will be started in 2009 and completed in 2010. Carpenter moved that "the commission supports the

application and the on-going monitoring of the project area for continued stabilization and for prevention of establishment of invasive species as suggested in the application." Yea 6 No 0.

### **B) L A Suncook Conservation Opportunities**

Peter Knights - local representative of LA Suncook - discussed plans for LAS properties between Rix's ledges and Rt.120. He gave a brief overview of planned development areas in Lebanon and Hanover. He came to the Commission primarily to discuss possibilities for 119 acres (between Centerra and Mink Brook in Hanover with its only access from Hollenbeck Drive. LAS has not developed any specific plans as yet. Knights came before the Conservation Commission to discuss the possibility of developing about 22 acres for mixed use, and setting aside the remainder of the 119 acres as conservation property. This would require the rezoning of the 22 acres to OL. Access to the 22 acres would be from a road constructed from LLC property to the South in Lebanon with access from Rt.120 at the old Wilson Tire site. LAS would give about 97 acres to the Town of Hanover or to a land conservation organization. Knights has also talked to the Hanover Conservation Council about their interest in owning and managing the 97 acres.

Knights asked if the CC has any interest in supporting the rezoning part of about 22 acres. The area is currently zoned Forestry. Carpenter stated that he is inclined to support the proposal, but felt that it is premature to endorse any changes at this time without more details. Bill asked if a Hanover representative could have access to property to assess the natural resource values of the property. Knights responded that headquarters officials for LA Suncook have said no. McIlroy asked about an erstwhile class VI road on Hanover parcel in anticipation of locating trails, should much of the LAS land in Hanover be conserved. Knights said that the former Class VI road reverted to the landowners some time ago. Knights did offer that there would be continuity with other Suncook property that LAS has proposed for conservation in Lebanon.

McIlroy expressed concern about rezoning the 22 acres out of context with other property in area. Morris stated that (other than this problem) she likes the proposal. Chamberlain pointed out that the Hanover Planning Board was on the record that any land development in Hanover must have access via a Hanover road. He also said that Hanover may be sensitive to any spot zoning change that enhanced the development possibilities of the LAS property - given the pending lawsuits by the owners and developers of adjacent Leavitt property over zoning changes that impeded the development of that land.

### **C. Capital Improvements Plan**

Doug McIlroy presented his memo dated Jan.12, 2009 discussing the Draft Capital Improvements Plan under consideration by the Selectmen. He proposed that the Commissioners read his memo, and that it be discussed at the next meeting of the Conservation Commission.

### **D) Easement Monitoring**

Vicki Smith reminded us of our easement monitoring obligations.

**E) Open Space Expenditure Policy** Anne Morris presented a draft proposal (dated Jan. 2009) for governing expenditures from the Conservation Fund. Carpenter likes the idea, but wants more time to review the proposal and comment. Chamberlain pointed out that priority areas in the Open Space Plan are given preference to those not given priority. Baschnagel suggested that a statement from memo of understanding with the Selectmen specifically give priority to the Open Space plan objectives. Baschnagel suggested that funding levels be attached to each of the fund raising sources cited in the policy statement, and that the CC be ready to defend this policy. Commissioners are encouraged to get comments to Anne Morris for inclusion in next draft that we will discuss at our next meeting in February.

**F) Joe Roberto's Request for Financial Support.** Joe Roberto has requested financial support to conserve 23 acres of his property at the corner of Dogford and Pinneo Roads. The Commission has labored over how to respond to Roberto's proposal because of the shortage of funds to support it and because the land is not in any of the high priority areas specified in the Open Space Plan. After considerable discussion, the Commission voted to verbally convey to Mr. Roberto that we do not have sufficient funds to make an offer for his property. Yes 5, Abstain 1

**G) Minutes of the December 2008 Conservation Commission meeting.** Carpenter moved that we approve minutes of last meeting with a few typo corrections. Yes 6 No 0

**H) Other business.** Vicki Smith has received a last bill from Ron Bailey (for trail work in 2008) of \$547.67. Robin Carpenter approved.

**I) Motion to adjourn by Carpenter.** Ray Hogue seconded. Yes 6 No 0

Meeting adjourned 6:50pm.

Minutes submitted by Ed Chamberlain Feb. 3, 2009