

Approved: March 10, 2010

Hanover Conservation Commission

Minutes

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, February 10, 2010

In attendance: Anne Morris, Doug McIlroy, Sandra White, Ed Chamberlain (acting chair), Ray Hogue, Michael Mayor (scribe)

Also in attendance: Peter Knights, Tim McNamara

Meeting called to order at 5:05P

Site Visit on Monday, February 8, 2010 at 4:00 pm

At Rivercrest, 74 ½ Lyme Road, Tax Map 49, Lot 7, to visit the site of the after the fact riverbank restoration work to address slope failure of a bank of the Connecticut River. Hogue and Chamberlain were present, but the site visit was aborted due to absence of host.

Regular Meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 2010

1. Current Business

- **Discussion of Dartmouth College's after the fact wetlands special exception for Rivercrest and comments to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and NH DES (All, 30 minutes)** Site visit scheduled for Monday, 8 Feb., did not occur due to oversight on the host's part (McNamara of DREO). Rescheduling is awaited. McNamara presented January 26 photos taken immediately after project completion. ZBA is scheduled to hear the report of the after-the-fact repairs, but that may be rescheduled, pending the formulation of a recommendation from the CC. Regrading went well with weather permitting. Minor erosion proved well contained by erosion control measures in place. Large stone rip-rap chutes will be resurfaced with scant topsoil and seed to soften the surfaces. Area is secure behind padlocks awaiting stabilization. Compilation of a CC response will await a rescheduled site visit and the convening of the March meeting. Additional information was provided by McNamara regarding the nature of the remaining soils and the fact that Dartmouth is not planning to pursue any construction projects near the area atop the bank. Chamberlain raised the question of a river-side trail to Kendal, and McNamara acknowledged discussions with Edwards previously considering such a trail as a possibility, acknowledging too the challenges inherent in such a project.
Revegetation plan included in the packet is primarily directed to restoring a natural appearance of low-lying shrubbery, with emphasis on native species. Commentaries to McNamara on the planting plans were encouraged, recognizing that white pine will repopulate spontaneously. NEE has been the main source. We need to solicit response from Judy Reeve, to be sent to McNamara.
- **Natural Resource Inventory for Hanover LA Suncook land (Peter Knights, 30 minutes)** Jan 14. '09 previous presentation on rezoning referenced. 409 acres, 119 in Hanover. Qroe Development preceded Suncook with interests in development of the property. No complete Natural Resource Inventory was done, but Ben Kilham and others were sourced and a formal NRI is in the packet. A new INDL zone was established in Lebanon with GPS coordinates involving 658 acres and 223 acres set aside in RL-3 (rural lands) as

voluntary conservation area. Tentative planning includes “light” development in the back of the property, with more intensive development not far from the old Wilson Tire buildings.

- A Hanover segment (with abutters Hitchcock Clinic and Leavitt) limited to 26 acres for development (proposed BM zone) with conservation land from top of hill to Mink Brook consisting of remaining 93 acres (in NP or Forestry with easement constraints). Expressed interest on the developer’s part is in Floor Area Ratio (FAR) with preservation of character of the land. Questions were raised regarding a possible site visit. NRI from Littleton outfit was described as definitive by Peter Knights without Rick Van de Poll’s input, but site visit could include his presence. Arrangements could be made on Vicki’s return to establish a site visit. CC is being asked to respond with its perspectives on the project, pending minor additional details. Sense of the meeting was generally in favor, in view of the bulk of conservation lands set aside.

2.Resource Stewardship

- **Crow conservation easement- 239 acres protected (Anne, 3 minutes)** Dismal Swamp. The Town’s Marshall and Pressey Brook conservation area abuts the land, as does David Roby’s Bear Hill Conservancy Trust land. Upper Valley Land Trust holds the easement.
- **Posting signs on Mink Brook lands relative to removal of dog waste (Anne, 10 minutes)** Complaint has been registered by a member of the public regarding dog waste on the trail. A question was raised as a result about establishing a neighborhood group to restock dispensers for use of the dog-walkers. Open Space supported the formation of a neighborhood group, with a \$200 dollar expenditure, possibly degradable bags that need not be transported out.
- **Tanzi Update (Anne, 5 minutes)** Boundaries are surveyed and marked. David Vincelette’s response appears to require a more forceful intervention, which is being pursued by Hanover Town Administration.
- **Baseline Documentation/Monitoring/Management Plan projects(Anne, 5 minutes)** 21 easements, 48 owners under monitoring. Awaiting 16 responses to VS request for response. Next monitoring interval will include requirements yet unmet for meeting easement requirements. New format is receiving the new inputs for both baseline and monitoring. Large-size maps need to be scanned into digital formats to be manageable. Off-site storage needs remain to be met to make secure deposition available, possibly at public works, including the possibility of a digital storage option that would be fiscally responsible. The issue will be placed on next month’s CC agenda in the interest of promoting a solution ASAP. Open Space Plan is being moved to Vicki Smith’s work plan for update/elaboration.

McIlroy presented ideas regarding plans for 2010 regarding invasive plant controls. (see hand-out). Included were plans to encourage land-owners to remove invasives by providing substitute native plants to replant the areas disturbed. This would also serve to educate the populace to the species at issue. The town holding beds need to be cleared out due to the large size of plants and shrubs growing there. The holding beds might then need to be repopulated for \$200 or so, but the orders need to be placed in advance. The Garden Club will pursue the application for the funds and the plants for the project. Moved and seconded (Mayor and Morris). Vote in favor unanimous.

- 3. Administrative Business

➤ **Michael Mayor is the February minutes taker**

- **Ed Chamberlain is the March minutes taker** Agreed
- **Sandy White is the April minutes taker** Agreed

4. Committee Reports

- **Open Space Committee (Anne, 10 minutes)** Steele property/Rowing Club/Hayes Property Library in Etna. All projects active with Open Space. Steele: The CC went to the Select board on 26 Jan and they approved the decision for the acquisition of the Steele property. Purchase and Sale agreement is being returned, signed. Carolyn Tenney, Vicky, Anne M met with Kendal residents enthusiastic about the process, including Betsy Sylvester from Kendal. Some 50 Kendal residents were identified as inclined to be involved, with Feb 22 meeting on the subject. Not a fund-raiser, but an information session that might be followed by a commitment by some to support the project financially. Kendal Foundation may also be approached for funds. Determination emerged that the project was an Open Space Project, with outside support, including a print run for the brochures in support of the fundraising (the Conservation Council has committed to funding the printing of additional brochures beyond the initial printing). Steele and Rinker will exist as separate lots, but be protected by a conservation easement to be placed simultaneously, held by the Council. The Council has pledged \$25,000 to the fundraising effort. Funds will be held in the Conservation Fund, through Vicki Smith. Fundraising goal is \$60,000. Targeted solicitations are planned along Lyme Road North. \$150,000 from Cons Fund. Goal for the fundraising for Steele, set at \$60,000 moved by Morris, seconded by White. Approved unanimously.
- Hayes property, library, parking lot, Julia Griffith and Jonathan Edwards are considering subdivision and development of the lower property, with the upper property being acquired by the CC. The possibility of targeting the upper lands involved in the Hayes piece for a wild-flower garden, benches and a bird sanctuary to realize the commitment toward this memorial recognizing Nan and Alan King. Alternatives discussed, including inducing the neighbors to buy the 4+ acres with the CC placing a conservation easement on the land, pursuant to establishing a sanctuary.
- **Trails Committee (Doug, 10 minutes)** Cliffside trail for volunteer work requires crossing 20 or so parcels. The Occom Pond Protective Association will discuss the problem at their upcoming meeting in regard to their interest in having the trail improvements happen. Trails committee met AM 2/9 with the upper valley mt. bike assoc. Goodwin tract plan & Town Forest plan has not emerged yet. The Mt. Bike group remained enthusiastic despite the remote location of the tract. Bike access to dhmc & Route 10 also discussed, recognizing the power line already is being used by a few. The appearance, from time to time, of spontaneous produced bicycle maps without sponsorship or stewardship was recognized. Many show unapproved routes, and many maps have a short half-life. The maps have a viral capacity to appear and disappear. The Oak Hill-Rinker Tract-Storrs Pond trail is a substantial construct that needs to be snuffed.

5. Approval of Minutes- January 13, 2010 Minutes amended appropriately. Moved to approve by McIlroy seconded by Chamberlain. Approval unanimous.

6. Other Business Trescott Company issues came before the CC. The CC is in favor of establishing a standing committee advisory to the Board of the Trescott Company in conjunction with the Planning Board, with membership of the standing committee and charter to be established by the Chairs or designees of the Planning Board and Conservation Commission, to

recommend both short and long-term policies and practices to the Trescott Board. Moved by Hogue, seconded by Morris. Approved unanimously.

Anne Morris raised the experience from her service in NJ, in re; does the member that is joint to both the Planning Board, and the CC belong to primarily to the CC or primarily to the PB. Tied to this concern is the fact that the Design Review process has been somewhat effective in moving presentations from applicants to the CC in the interest of unearthing objections or substantive concerns that would cause the applicants problems farther on in the process. Can the CC be more forward in offering up those concerns at some point in the PB's deliberations? An item can be established in Committee Reports of the CC agenda to include a Planning Board Report. And, How does the CC become involved in the Preliminary Design Review Process? Vicki Smith can provide information to the CC about applications in the pipeline, as an agenda item.

- Balch Hill Management Committee meeting is formalizing their viewshed maintenance procedures. Their plan and strategies are being formalized.
- Sandra White attended the Greensboro Ridge Stewardship Committee meeting on February 9, chaired by Carl Renshaw and Dick Birnie..

7.Adjournment: 8:45 PM

NEXT MEETING: March 10, 2010 5:00 PM , Court Room, Town Hall