

**Hanover Conservation Commission  
Minutes, Wednesday, January 10, 2007**

Attendance

**Members:** Robin Carpenter (as chair), Douglas McIlroy, Joanna Whitcomb, Nancy Menton, Anne Morris

**Staff:** Vicki Smith

**Selectboard:** William Baschnagel

Whitcomb announced that she is taking a job as planner at Dartmouth and that the town had suggested she resign due to possible conflict of interest. Carpenter did not see the need. McIlroy expressed concern that she might often appear before the board, but was assured this was not the case. Menton thought that the liaison could be useful. It was unanimously agreed to express the Commission's preference that Whitcomb remain a member.

**Cantu barn**

This application for an ex post wetlands special exception was considered. No representative of the applicant was present. Carpenter noted that the application shows that the subject barn is actually in the wetland, which requires a variance, not a special exception. Observing that the property has plenty of area outside the wetland, it was unanimously agreed that the Commission would not have supported a timely application for a barn in this location. This will be stated in a letter to the ZBA to cover the unlikely eventuality of the present application being treated as if it were an application for a variance.

**Conservation goals**

The December discussion of Commission goals for the year was continued. One item was added to the attached list:

14. Work towards establishing a more effective mechanism for field oversight of approved projects.

Some candidate objectives were seen as closely related and lumped together. These priorities were established:

1. Personnel: Enhance participation on committee and stewardship matters, in particular by finding new volunteers (candidate objectives 2, 3 and 4),
2. Civic process: Review and strengthen the Commission's role in the 4-step planning process and help clarify regulations concerning wetlands and environmental protection (candidate objectives 5 and 11).
3. Commission process: Tighten up monthly meetings and methods of preparing comments on complex projects (candidate objective 7).
15. Responsibility for refining these three objectives was taken by Whitcomb, Morris and Smith respectively.

The runner-up objective concerned attention to Girl Brook restoration and trails (candidate objectives 9 and 10), which Smith and McIlroy opined would be a continuing activity anyway.

### **Administrative business**

Carpenter encouraged action on easement monitoring. Morris and Smith reported completing their assignments. Smith asked if the Commission should continue to pay dues to the Upper Valley Trails Alliance. The clear answer was yes after McIlroy reported that UVTA's John Taylor had recently restored the trail bridge behind Brook Hollow, which had been washed out in June 2005.

### **Committees**

There were no committee reports.

Carpenter asked if the time had come to wind up the ad hoc Construction Practices Review Committee. Smith said it was still performing an important oversight function in respect to revision of town regulations. Baschnagel said the Selectboard sees lots of work to do in reducing the bulk of current draft regulations about stormwater, and has urged concentration on big projects first.

### **Minutes**

Corrections were suggested for the December 2005 minutes. Carpenter moved and Morris seconded their approval as amended. The motion passed with no nays and one abstention. Carpenter moved and Morris seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Douglas McIlroy, scribe