

Approved January 13, 2008

**Conservation Commission  
Minutes  
January 9, 2008**

**Present:** Vicki Smith (Senior Planner, staff), Anne Morris, Sandra White, Robin Carpenter (Chair), Ed Chamberlain (recording), Doug McIlroy, Ray Hogue, Bill Baschnagel (Selectboard representative)

The meeting was called to order at 5:28pm

**1. Current business:**

**Public education ideas:** a) zoning changes and storm water regs (Morris); b) wetlands (Doug McIlroy & Anne MORris to follow-up), c) web site development (Carpenter), doug to follow up; d) what does the CC do - report for town meeting annual report (Baschnagel); e) more pages for Town report? (Morris); f) for town calendar? (Morris); maybe too costly (Bashnagel). Who would organize? Commission. Could do on different activities each year, maybe picked up by rec. dept one year. Sharing with other town departments would be attractive (Carpenter); Baschnagel will discuss with Town Manager.

**2. Resource Stewardship:**

**Balch Hill Cutting Proposal** (Vicki Smith) Dr. Baker asked for permission to remove some trees and brush from edge of driveway to his house on Balch Hill. The Town has an easement along his driveway for access to the Fire trail on the Balch Hill Natural Area. Vicki reported that the Town does not need our permission because the town only has a right a way on Baker's property, not an easement. The terms of the right-of-way do not include regulating additional clearing.

**Rt. 120 Corridor Study** (Doug McIlroy). Jim Hornig has drafted a change in vision statement. The Hanover Conservation Council has volunteered to take a leadership role. Vision statement says that the Conservation Commission will give input. Responsibilities for wildlife study seem unclear. Volunteers or professionals? Habitat study? Mike Mayor is on steering committee. Doug McIlroy recommends that we check with steering committee for makeup of wildlife study committee. Ed Chamberlain recommended that the appropriate professionals be in the study group. Doug McIlroy should fire off email to Mayor (Carpenter and Baschnagel).

**3. Open Space Committee**

Richardson conservation easement not completed yet (Morris).

**4. Trails Committee** (McIlroy)

Reviewed Old Spencer Road hearing. Vicki Smith will organize an onsite review of proposed clearing, what obstacles will be left, if there will be salvage logging. Vicki Smith will develop plan.

**5. Wetlands** (Vicki Smith) Meeting today. Wetlands Committee will wrap up wetlands amendment to zoning regulations for review for 2008 town meeting. Michael Hingston leading group. Jim Kennedy will input regs that parallel State regs. The 125 ft hard setback has survived.

**6. Rural Committee** (Anne Morris) Ian Sim is providing great leadership. Amendment still in draft form. Still soliciting input. Meeting next Monday at Trumbull Hall for public review and input. Draft amendment includes hilltops, ridgelines and ag soils.

**7. Minutes of Dec. 12.** Approved with minor & substantial corrections. Morris moved, Chamberlain seconded. 5 yes, Hogue abstained.

**8. Other business:**

Vicki Smith talked with Peter about parking area by Old Dana Road. Follow-up of item #3 of Dec. 07 CC meeting. Commission needs to take lead for permits needed for approval of planned parking spaces for the Dana conservation area on Old Dana Road. Doug McIlroy will discuss designing parking area and permitting requirements with Mike Chase and Peter Kulbacki. It is expected that the Highway Dept will do work.

**9. Gift of \$5000 from Parkhill Trust.** Vicki Smith read letter sent by Ed Chamberlain, Trustee for the Parkhill Trust. Gift is to support costs of placing a conservation easement on the Richardson farm on Dogford Road. Robin asked Vicki to send letter of thanks.

**10. Meeting in Concord for conservation commissioners:** Jan 16, Feb 14, and March 6. Vicki Smith will go on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**11. Motion to adjourn:** Anne Morris, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ray Hogue. 7:30pm.