



**Town of Hanover Conservation Commission**  
Hanover Town Hall, 550 Hanover St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room  
**MINUTES for September 18, 2013**

Approved 10/02/13

Those Members and Staff present: Lou Paradis, Chairman; Frank Brierley, Hearing Officer; Justin Shepard, Commissioner; Amy Walkey, Conservation Agent; Sandra MacFarlane, Asst. Conservation Agent  
Those Members and Staff not present: Lisa Satterwhite, Vice Chairman; William Woodward, Commissioner;  
(vacant), 2 Assoc. Members

Others: as per attached list.

**6:30 PM**- Chairman Paradis welcomed all present and made the following announcements:

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS & DATES TO REMEMBER:**

1. **October 2<sup>nd</sup> and October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 @ 6:30 PM** in 2<sup>nd</sup> Flr. Mtg Room - Town Hall
2. **Welcome to new Commission Member Justin Shepard**
3. **Vacancies on Commission**- 2 Associate positions

**II. ACTION ITEMS:** none

**7:00 PM**

**III. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

1. **BL 13-64, Indian Head/Riverside Dr. Conservation Parcel**- RDA- *for const. of wood bridge, boardwalk, trail maintenance*

PRESENT: Eagle Scout Candidate Kyle Grant, Scout Master Robert Minihan, and Mr. Daniel Grant

DISCUSSION: Eagle Scout Grant presented his project as the enhancement of an existing trail system on a Town-owned Open Space parcel known as the Indian Head River and Riverside Dr. Conservation Parcel. He explained that the project included trail clearing and the construction of a 16 ft. long boardwalk along the trail and a 24 ft. long bridge over a portion of Iron Mine Brook. He explained that the existing trails are difficult to maneuver due to wet soil conditions and overgrown vegetation. In addition, that the current materials placed across the stream are inadequate, to hold persons attempting to cross. He noted that to make them passable, he proposed removal of vegetation within the trail layout, as well as vista pruning to cut away over hanging branches, etc. Further, that because hand tools would be used, there would be minimal disturbance to existing wetlands or buffer areas located near the trails. Further that disturbance from the construction work for the bridge and boardwalk would also be kept at a minimum by bringing in pre-built sections onto the site. In response to the Commission's comments regarding site inspections to the location, he noted that the work area was clearly marked with yellow tape. Scout Grant also pointed out that the steel support pieces for the bridge were rated for 5,000 lbs. and that they were donated by Marty Barnes, Barnes Building Co., Hanover. In regard to increasing the longevity of the structure, he explained the difference between galvanized and epoxy coating on the lag bolts, noting that galvanizing, although the preferred method, was costly.

Mr. George Pongratz, 30 Indian Head Drive, noted support for the project as a whole and commended Scout Grant for his efforts, but asked if the project could be moved to a different parcel in Town. He explained his concerns with increased mis-use of the area, as was happening at the nearby boat ramp, adding that opening the trail may attract more vandalism. He added that he was also concerned for hikers in the area due to the amount of hunting that took place on the parcel. Further that due to the close proximity of the trail and bridge to his property line, he was concerned with increased flooding and people having increased access to the rear of his property, noting that he has children.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the above and the accurate location of the stream on this parcel. Chair Paradis reminded all that hunting was only allowed on two (2) parcels in Town and should not occur on this parcel at all. Mr. John Dudley, interested party, stated support for the idea of the project, but also noted similar concerns for safety and vandalism. He told the Commission that he too had hunted on the parcel with permission from Town officials. He added that he appreciates open space and has often removed trash and debris from this site and boat ramp to help maintain it in good condition. The Chair commended Mr. Dudley for his efforts, but reminded all that there is no hunting on this parcel.

Regarding accuracy of the stream location, Scout Grant noted that the location on his plans agreed with USGS and similar online maps as well as GIS measurements made in the field by a Hanover Open Space member, Mr. Soule. He added that the project location was proposed and approved by the Open Space Committee in July 2013. Mr. D. Grant added that the construction details have recent Building Dept. approval as well.

Mr. Pongratz reiterated his support for the project, adding that he would be willing to galvanize the lags at no cost and use his own equipment to help move sections of bridge and boardwalk in place, at his own expense, but still was concerned with the proximity of the project to his house and asked that it be moved.

In response to the Commission's questions regarding time frames, Mr. D. Grant and Scout Master Minihan explained that 3-4 months of planning have already taken place and that this public hearing was the result of numerous meetings with several Town Dept's. He thought it unreasonable to start over with a new location at this late date.

Further discussion resulted in the Chair's recommendation for a continuance to allow time for site inspections by the Commission to determine the accuracy of the stream location.

The Agent reiterated that the project was endorsed and approved by the Open Space Committee, adding that the trail is existing, not new, and is part of the larger Town-wide network of trails. She noted concerns with additional site inspections and a continuation of the hearing in light of the RDA's general purpose. Mr. Grant noted concerns with time already spent and upcoming weather issues if the project is further delayed to the winter months.

The Chair restated his concerns for possible siting problems of the stream on the plan, as well as this being Commissioner Shepard's first meeting (wouldn't have had a chance to visit the site), and especially in regard to the absence of two (2) other Commission members.

VOTE: Based on the discussion above and as per a motion and second made by Commissioners Brierley and Shepard, it was voted 3-0-0 to continue the hearing to October 2, 2013 at 6:30 PM and for those interested in a group site inspection to contact the staff as soon as possible to ascertain the best date and time for all to meet on site.

#### IV. ADMINISTRATIVE:

1. **Minutes-** 9/4/13- No action taken as only two (2) members in attendance at the 9/18/13 meeting were present at the current meeting.
2. **Correspondence-** Reviewed without comment.
3. **Reports and Minor Permits:**
  - a. Conservation Staff- General and Enforcement Issues- The Agent gave a brief update on current projects and:
    - (i) **#160 Woodland Dr.-** Update  
The Agent reported that she still has concerns with the amount of fill placed within the buffer and up to the adjacent BVW on this site. Also that Ms. Bramowski has not hired an arborist to supervise the design of the tree wells as required by the Commission at the last meeting. She recommended that the Commission maintain the requirement for a professional Arborist due to the depth of the fill. She also questioned the origin of the fill, noting the amount seemed to be more than that excavated for the new garage, which would necessitate bringing fill in from off-site. Further review is necessary and this project will be monitored by the Agent with a report at the next meeting.
  - b. Open Space Committee Liaison Report and Community Preservation Committee Report: The Agent reported that the new Open Space map project is moving forward, but that project leader Les Molyneaux, former Conservation Commission and Open Space member, would like input from the Commission. Also that September 21, 2013 is cleanup day at the Denham property in particular and other properties as time permits. She also noted that the Open Space Committee is co-sponsoring the Rails to Trails project and that the committees are working on creating an overall vision in regard to location and ease of use. Further that the Committee had contacted a party to mow one of the hay fields at a cost of approximately \$600. Resident George Pongratz offered his equipment and help, noting that as a resident who cared for the town and its natural lands, he would discount his normal pricing for town projects. His name and information will be sent to Hal Thomas, Co-Chair of the Open Space Committee.
  - c. Minor Permits/Event Cards Issued: Reviewed without comment.
    - (i) **BL 13-66- #514 Hanover St., The Stetson House-** *for minor construction upgrade on existing footing.*
4. **Other:** none.

**8:15 PM**

Upon motion and second made by Commissioners Brierley and Shepard, it was voted 3-0-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by  
Sandra D. MacFarlane, Asst. Conservation Agent  
DMI, Conservation Office