

HILLSBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 16, 2016

Approved Minutes

Site Visit – Grimes Field / River-Walk

Present:

Commissioners: Terry Yeaton, Vice Chair; Linda White; Richard Head; Ann Ford, Alternate.

John P. Segedy, Recording Secretary & Alternate; Dave Fullerton, Selectman; Robyn Payson, Planning Director.

Bob Anderson, Vice-President - Contoocook Valley ATV Club; Jim Morse, President - Contoocook Valley ATV Club; Lynn Morse, Treasurer - Contoocook Valley ATV Club; Mike Black, Saxon Partners; Mark West, West Environmental.

Acting Chair Yeaton called the Hillsborough Conservation Commission (HCC) meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Ann Ford was appointed to vote in place of a vacant position.

VISITOR BUSINESS

1. Contoocook Valley ATV Club

Acting Chair Yeaton opened discussion regarding the ATV club trail.

Jim Morse talked about the ideal would be allowing them to travel on the track road around the field.

He noted that in the winter the snowmobiles just cross the field. Consensus was the Selectboard would have to give permission for any use of Grimes Field including the track road.

There was also discussion of getting from the trail behind the sewer plant to the field.

Bob Anderson said they would prefer to use the road. It wasn't clear if the Selectboard had given permission for that or to cross the Conservation land.

Dave Fullerton said he wasn't clear what they had approved.

Jim Morse noted that the club usually doesn't start riding until after mud season. He said they open trails from May 23 until November. Jim Morse noted the state speed limit was 10mph for ATV's.

Richard Head inquired about the amount of traffic on a busy day of trail use.

Bob Anderson answered 10-20.

There was discussion of possible crossing of the Barrett & Gould property.

Consensus was that the club would talk to the Selectboard again and see if they could use the road as that was their preferred path.

Terry Yeaton noted that if that doesn't work out and they decide they do want to cross the Conservation land they could meet again.

The Commission recessed to travel back to the Town Office at 7:22pm.

Regular Meeting - Hillsborough Town Office

Acting Chair Yeaton reopened the meeting at 7:37 pm.

MINUTES

1. June 2, 2016

Richard Head moved: *To approve the minutes of June 2, 2016 as presented.*

Ann Ford seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

2. June 2, 2016 – Non-Public Session

Richard Head moved: *To approve the minutes of June 2, 2016 Non-Public session as presented.*
Ann Ford seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Richard Head moved: *To unseal the minutes of the June 2, 2016 Non-Public session.*
Linda White seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. **New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC)** – Publication: “Picking Our Battles – A Guide to Planning Successful Invasive Plant Management Projects”, and request to share with interested parties. John Segedy will investigate putting it on the Commission's website.
2. **Intent to Cut** – Bog Road (M 6, L 73 & 74).
3. **Town of Hillsborough** – Conservation Fund monthly interest - \$37.36.

OLD BUSINESS**1. Trails**

Terry Yeaton reported he had weed-wacked the new trail corridor on the Conservation property behind Barrett and Gould.

Terry Yeaton reported that he and Richard Head have been looking at the boundaries of the Old Mill property to determine trail placement.

2. Lighting

Terry Yeaton said he had talked to Robyn Payson and she had suggested that just talking to the property owners in question would probably solve the problems.

3. Press Release – Property Conservation

Linda White reported that the press release regarding the conservation easement should be in the papers this week.

VISITOR BUSINESS - continued**2. Weatherstone Crossing – Wetland Application - Rte 202 (M 11D, L 298; M 11H, L 305 & 306; M 11L, L 311 & 327)**

Mike Black and Mark West appeared to present the Application and plans that are being submitted to the Department of Environmental Services (DES).

Mark West showed and described the existing conditions plan. He pointed out the drainage on the steep east side of the property which drains into a drainage swale along the road (Rte 202) and then through a culvert into the river, vernal pools that are in the proposed Conservation Easement, and a basin swamp on the SW corner of the property (also in the Conservation Easement). Mark West also described the process developing the plans in consultation with DES and the Army Corp of Engineers (ACE). There was also discussion of the separate 200' wide easement granted to Eversource which overlaps the Conservation Easement.

Linda White asked about the retention ponds and their ability to protect drainage into the rivers. Mike Black explained that the plans had been reviewed and approved by the town's engineer.

There was discussion of the required DES Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) fund payment listed on application as \$149,000.00. Mike Black said he thought that it had been reduced to \$109,000.00. He noted that there would also be a \$10,000 payment to be placed in a trust for protection of the easement.

In discussion of the part of the property along the North Branch river Mike Black said that DES did not want that as part of the easement. He said that he would be talking to the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee (CNBRLAC) and perhaps giving it to them.

Mike Black pointed out that there would also be a temporary impact along the river at the bridge during sewer work.

There was discussion of access to the easement. Among other suggestions, Mike Black pointed out a small triangle of property along the Second NH Turnpike that was kept out of the easement because it is in Antrim that he would sell to the town (Hillsborough) for a dollar. It was also noted that the Town of Hillsborough also owns a parcel (M 11H, L 304) at the town line that abuts the easement. Consensus of the Commission was that the Selectboard be asked to retain that parcel.

There was discussion of the easement being given as part of the DES and ACE requirements for Mitigation. In answer to a question Mike Black said that the easement would also cover the set aside property required for the cluster development.

Mark West said he understood that the easement language still needed to be worked out and that they hoped to get a proposal to the Commission in the next three weeks. Richard Head asked to also see proposed easement language for snowmobiles. Mark West agreed to do so.

Linda White asked about snow removal. Mike Black said that it would stay on site.

There was discussion of the Commission not needing to do anything with this proposal although they could voice any concerns or support. It was noted that if a letter of support was to be sent to send it to Carl Benedict at DES.

Mike Black and Mark West left the meeting at 8:47 pm.

The Commission discussed whether to send a letter of support.

OLD BUSINESS continued

4. Widow Murdough Lot

Linda White reported that she had asked Peter Mellen to send information regarding the property line between the Widow Murdough lot and the Boy Scout lot to the surveyor for the Ausbon-Sargent Land Preservation Trust.

OTHER BUSINESS

Terry Yeaton talked about seeing an eagle along Route 202.

ADJOURNMENT

Richard Head moved: *To adjourn.*

Ann Ford seconded. Motion passed 4-0 at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

John P. Segedy
Recording Secretary
Approved July 7, 2016