



## Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes February 13, 2018

Attendees: Todd Hathaway, Scott Pim, Liz Wilson, Sandy Goodspeed, Dan McCombs  
Absent: John Bennett

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:04 p.m.

### **Route 27 Site Plan for Glass Pro**

Patrick Bogle of Jones & Beach and a representative of Glass Pro presented a site plan for an unavoidable wetland buffer impact. The wetland in question is a relatively narrow channel on a small property that otherwise has no other developable value. The wetland is already relatively isolated because of blockage at both ends of the property. Members questioned whether different snow storage plans could be made to make sure that no run off flows directly into the wetland, versus a detention pond. In light of the small impact, relatively low value wetland and lack of other developable opportunities for the property, the Members agreed to recommend approval with the condition that alterations be made to the snow storage plan so that there is no run off directly into the wetland, and that curbing is placed in the parking lot to prevent run off into the wetland. Scott will write a letter to the Planning Director regarding the Commission's position.

### **December 12, 2017 Minutes**

The Members unanimously agreed to approve the minutes and allow Todd to sign for them and file.

### **Dimond Hill South**

Scott reviewed the history and recent issues relating to this property, including that this is an older conservation easement held by the Conservation Commission, but owned by private landowners. SELT also has an interest in the property. Recently, neighbors advised that there were signs placed on the property prohibiting hunting and, in some places, prohibiting trespass without permission of the owners. The Conservation easement indicates, among other things, that "public access" shall be allowed. Some neighbors have expressed concern that public access is being unnecessarily restricted. Scott also indicated that there is a more general issue about exactly what the meaning of the term "public access" means with respect to this and other Town properties, particularly whether that term encompasses hunting and other activities that go beyond "traditional quiet enjoyment," such as ATV use. The Members discussed their general views about the term "public access" and preference that all members of the community be allowed to access Town conservation lands unless a particular use is inconsistent with conservation purposes, or otherwise restricted by deed or applicable law. The Members unanimously agreed that "public access" would definitely include traditional uses



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for quiet enjoyment, such as hiking, snow shoeing/skiing, wildlife observation, horseback riding and hunting. Less clear to the Members is whether “public access” includes more non-traditional/modern usages, although it was observed that it seems to be the general practice around the State that “public access” means all kinds of access, unless specifically excepted otherwise. The Members agreed that Todd will coordinate with the Town Manager to solicit an opinion from the Town Counsel about the interpretation of the term “public access” as used in the Dimond Hill Conservation Easement deed specifically, and on other Town properties more generally. Once an opinion is received, the Commission will write a letter to the property owners explaining the Commission’s position. For now, however, the Members agreed that members of the community shall have public access to Dimond Hill for traditional quiet enjoyment activities, such as hiking, wildlife observation, and snow shoeing/skiing.

### **Mission Statement**

Todd has not yet rewritten the revised Mission Statement as discussed at the December meeting. He will make changes to the initial draft to circulate to the Members.

### **Bike Event**

No update at this time. There will not be any further update on this until more progress can be made on the trails at Folsom once there is better weather.

### **Breckenridge Monitoring**

The monitoring subcommittee led by John Clark completed its monitoring of the property and removed barbed wire. A report of their activities has been filed and will be made available on the Commission website. The Members discussed generally the process for publishing monitoring reports on the Commission’s website.

### **Website**

We will communicate with John about the desire to have a link to easement monitoring forms on the website. John also recently provided an update to Members on security attacks from the outside to our website and reminded Members of the need to keep security in mind when posting materials.

### **Miscellaneous**

Scott addressed the question of whether the small Dumas property on the east side of Town should be surveyed. There was recent logging on a neighboring property. The Dumas property is relatively small (six or ten acres depending on the reference) and there are some questions



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about the boundary lines given that it borders the Lamprey River and there are some other areas that have not been well-surveyed in the past. There is also a question of the actual boundary line between the property and the neighboring cemetery. Scott obtained a quote to survey the property of approximately \$7,700.00. The Members expressed concern over such a large expenditure for a small landlocked property. It was decided that the monitoring subcommittee should move this property higher up on its priority list and report back on the present conditions. Scott will arrange that. Once that information is available, the Members can decide the next steps with respect to monitoring.

The UNH Coop Extension is partnering with the Southeast Land Trust to present an Easement Monitoring Workshop on March 17, 9:00-2:00, at the Brentwood Coop Extension office. The workshop includes field experience at Fox Run Park. The flyer is available at [naturegroupie.org](http://naturegroupie.org).

Dan described some potential technology ideas relating to communications amongst the Members and sharing of information. Dan will experiment with a Google groups to facilitate email, with an archiving feature that could be made available to the public. He will also look into creating a single repository for passwords to various ECC accounts so they can be stored in one location.

Liz provided an update on the field book being prepared by local 5<sup>th</sup> graders and a potential visit to Fox Run.

**Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 13, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,  
Todd Hathaway, Secretary



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Minutes Approved:

Scott Pim (for) 2.13.18

Scott Pim, Chair

Date

John Bennett (for) "

John Bennett

Date

Sandy Goodspeed (for) "

Sandy Goodspeed

Date

Todd Hathaway 2.13.18

Todd Hathaway

Date

Dan McCombs (for) "

Dan McCombs

Date

Liz Wilson (for) "

Liz Wilson

Date