



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION

AUGUST 4, 2014

MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Monday, August 4, 2014, at 6:32 p.m. in the Merrimack Memorial Conference Room.

Chairman Tim Tenhave presided:

Members of the Commission Present: Matt Caron, Vice Chairman
Gage Perry
Councilor Thomas Mahon (arrived at 6:43 p.m.)
Lauren Kras, Alternate

Members of the Commission Absent: Thomas Lehman
Michael Boisvert, Alternate
Robert Croatti, Alternate

Also in Attendance: Nelson Disco, Chairman, Town Center Committee
Debra Huffman, Town Center Committee
Andrew Duane, Wildcat Falls Sub-Committee
Matthew Shevenell, Business Administrator, Merrimack School District

Chairman Tenhave noted Commissioners Lehman and Boisvert were unable to be in attendance, and appointed Alternate member Kras to serve as a voting member.

Chairman Tenhave informed the viewing audience of two full-time openings on the Commission. Individuals interested in serving in this capacity should contact Becky Thompson in the Town Manager's Office either via e-mail (BThompson@MerrimackNH.Gov) or phone (424-2331).

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

APPOINTMENTS

- 1. Visit with the Town Center Trail Committee** Commission to receive an update from the Town Center Trail Committee and to discuss potentially assisting the Committee with funds to implement a portion of the trail.

Nelson Disco, Chairman, Town Center Committee, stated the Town Center Committee was chartered by the Town Council to implement the results of a previous committee, which recommended certain pedestrian improvements in the vicinity of the Town center as defined in the Master Plan (Plan). The Plan was completed with the assistance of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) in the 2007 timeframe, and identified the Town center as the area from Fraser Square to the Commons Shopping Center. That area is called the Town Center east of the turnpike. The Council appointed the Town Center Committee to implement the Plan without expenditure of any taxpayer funds.

One aspect of the Plan is the construction of sidewalks in a defined area; particularly critical areas such as adjacent to the school, crossing Baboosic Brook, etc.

Another aspect is a trail system. The trail, as envisioned at that time, was to go from Watson Park on the east side of the F.E. Everett Turnpike, under Route 3, across School District and Town property, and under the turnpike. There is a crossing (footbridge) of the Souhegan River under the turnpike which was provided by the State as part of the rebuilding of the Merrill's Marauder's Bridge on the highway. The footbridge is part of the trail system, which then winds up to Chamberlain Road and continues on to Wildcat Falls across a piece of land owned by the State. It is hoped the right to cross that land will be provided at some time.

With Watson Park on one side of the highway there is a path that traverses under the D.W. Highway and comes up adjacent to the Fire Station, and eventually will cross a former wetland. With removal of the dam, the area is no longer wet. The Town Center Committee is focused on the crossing under the D.W. Highway. Mr. Disco spoke of the sluiceway that was deeded (donated) to the Town by Pennichuck Water Works. He commented, at one time, the area was a canal that fed water to the mill when it was water powered. Following that it was used to feed water to the mill when they were tanning hides. Impoundment basins were built and were filled with river water to wash the hides. The basins remain to this day, and some will have to be removed to accommodate a pathway.

The passage under D.W. Highway is open with a 12-15' ceiling height. It is believed, with a little work, the Committee would be able to make a path that travels from Watson Park (at almost one level) all the way under D.W. Highway up to the side of the Fire Station. From there, there has to be a change of elevation, which requires work in terms of design, etc.

In parallel, on the east side of D.W. Highway the sidewalk has failed. The sidewalk (reinforced concrete) that connects to the Chamberlain Bridge was cantilevered out from the edge of the D.W. Highway and supported on a few posts. It has deteriorated to the point where it has fallen through in some places. The steel plates that have been put in place are a temporary solution. The Town has plans to modify that. Kyle Fox, Deputy Director/Town Engineer, Public Works Department, is in charge of the project. The intent is to construct a retaining wall and fill in under the sidewalk to provide for proper support. As part of that project the desire is to remove some of the concrete basins that were used for washing hides. Deputy Director Fox has applied for Federal monies to help cover the cost. He is hoping to get an extension of that to the point where the area in the sluiceway could be cleaned out, and perhaps even all the way up to the Fire Station.

The trail will continue across what was a wetland; a trickle stream runs through the area (seasonally), and will require a small bridge crossing. Then it will connect onto hard ground and continue on up to connect with the rest of the trail. Mr. Disco noted work has already been done on the upper portion of the trail through an Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Disco stated the Committee is in the process of preparing an application to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for work in the Shoreland area. As part of that process, a topographic survey is required. A local engineering firm has agreed to do the survey at cost. A firm price is not yet available. It is believed Pennichuck Water Works may have had surveys completed in the area as part of the dam removal that was undertaken a few years earlier. If that is the case, and the information could be obtained, the cost of the survey could be reduced. The current estimate is \$3,500.

The Committee has been working to raise funds. An offer has been made by the National Park Service; however, it is unclear if it can be accepted because of the aversion to accepting funds that may or may not have strings attached.

Mr. Disco requested the Commission consider the possibility of funding some of the cost. He stated his belief the project ties directly into a conservation trail system that will eventually connect people from Watson Park to Wildcat Falls via a footpath.

When asked, Mr. Disco stated the expected construction will begin in 2015. Councilor Mahon noted the project is included in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). Commissioner Perry questioned the timeframe for which funds are needed. Mr. Disco stated the desire of the Committee is to submit the application to NHDES this year. Once that is completed the design process could begin. He commented on the difficulty with the design of the trail due to elevation changes; the level of the foot trail has to be brought up to that of the river crossing (12-15').

Andrew Duane, Wildcat Falls Sub-Committee, questioned whether additional permitting would be necessary for the work to continue the trail along the remainder of the Souhegan River up to the F.E. Everett Turnpike. Mr.

Disco stated the belief no additional permits would be required. It is an existing trail, some of which has recently been relocated to get it away from the river.

Debra Huffman, Town Center Committee, stated the section of trail was relocated. The Eagle Scout who performed the work also conducted the background work of contacting NHDES and the Souhegan Watershed Commission. Relocation of the trail back from the river improved the health of the environment, e.g., erosion concerns, etc. Once the trail crosses, going towards Wildcat Falls, it travels away from the river and uphill on the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) property. The NHDES would have no involvement there. She reiterated the belief there would be no additional requirement for NHDES permitting.

Vice Chairman Caron expressed no concerns with the trail as presented. Mr. Disco remarked the townspeople he has discussed this with have been in favor of the project and having that amenity accessible to the citizenry. Commissioner Kras requested clarification of funding offered by the National Park Service. Mr. Disco stated the offer as \$1,000 to go towards the project, which could be utilized wherever the Committee determined most desirable. The Committee had considered utilizing it towards the application to NHDES. The Committee continues to investigate ways in which that may be able to occur.

Ms. Huffman remarked the National Park Service has been very supportive of the project for the past two years. They have provided time from one of their experts, Lelia Mellen, NH Projects Director, Rivers & Trails Program, who has worked with the Committee and assisted the Committee in its interactions with NHDES. Ms. Huffman remarked, according to Ms. Mellen, the offer of \$1,000 has no associated paperwork, e.g., no strings attached. They support the project, and this is money they wish to put towards it.

Chairman Tenhave stated his support of the project as a whole. He noted work continues to acquire an easement through the NHDOT parcel. He questioned whether the desire was to receive a verbal commitment from the Commission, given the exact cost is unknown. Mr. Disco stated a desire for a verbal commitment at this time. Depending upon how the other pieces of the puzzle come together and what the final price is, he may be back before the Commission in a month or so with a formal request for a specific amount. Chairman Tenhave noted the Commission, at some point, would be asked to provide a recommendation to NHDES as part of the permitting process.

Commissioner Perry stated from the point of view that the Commission has already dedicated funds to Watson Park and is trying to support the other trails, this is a project he would like the Commission involved in. Vice Chairman Caron echoed Commissioner Perry's remarks. Commissioner Kras stated her support, and commented the more funding that can be gained from other sources the more the project would benefit.

The consensus of the Commission was to support the project, and look for the Committee to return to the Commission with a formal request.

STATUTORY/ADVISORY BUSINESS - None

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Gateway Trail Stabilization Project** Commission and School District to review bids received against its RFP for the trail stabilization project. Commission may potentially award the project or take other related action.

Chairman Tenhave noted one response was received to the Request for Proposal (RFP) as well as a number of updates; one being the reasons why some of the other invited bidders chose not to respond and another additional clarification with regard to the bid that was received from Hopkinton Forestry & Land Clearing.

He noted additional clarifying information forwarded from the bidder through Commissioner Lehman stating a total of 410 yards of $\frac{3}{4}$ crushed gravel that would be used on the project.

He requested Commissioners provide their thoughts regarding the RFP process, and the bid price of \$15,500. He noted last year the response to what was a lesser project was a projected cost of just over \$12,000. The response received broke the down out between the school (\$5,270) and Town (\$10,230).

Chairman Tenhave noted the Commission has done business with this vendor previously. They performed the work on the Red Maple Trail project, which was a significant project and included a lot of the same types of work. Commissioner Perry noted one of Commissioner Lehman's notes included the rock raking. He stated his

impression the vendor was *not* saying there would be a need to perform that function every year. Chairman Tenhave was unsure, and stated the bidder was asked to identify appropriate maintenance. Commissioner Perry noted the additional 4 to 5 yards of material was intended for the bottom side of the school loop trail. He questioned whether the additional \$25/yard cost included spreading the material or simply delivery. Chairman Tenhave stated his understanding the quoted cost was to deliver the material as close as possible to the location.

Chairman Tenhave informed the Commission Mike Powers, Bay State Forestry, reviewed the bid and had noted information relative to quantities was not included (has since been provided), and has stated "Judging by the amount of work that needs to be done on the project, their price seems reasonable, but we would still need to see more detail as to what their plans are to accomplish the work." Chairman Tenhave noted an e-mail has been received providing that information.

The vendor has indicated the following: "Schedule: Middle to end of September. It will take one week. We will be able to stockpile the material before school starts. We will have to access through the gate to drop off the equipment and pick it up when complete, which also could be done before school hours. After that it will be just the service trucks with the employees. As far as the maintenance of the trail, it should be rocked raked once a year and the shoulders should be mowed. Exception on how long it's going to last it should be many year as long as Mother Nature doesn't change that."

Matthew Shevenell, Business Administrator, Merrimack School District, requested the e-mail be sent to him as he has experienced difficulties with e-mails and is uncertain he has a copy. Mr. Shevenell informed the Commission the project was discussed by the School Board at its last meeting. The Board is supportive of the project and understands the sense of urgency as well as the necessity. He added "They have blessed this so to speak."

Chairman Tenhave commented the schedule indicates work will begin in September, which means it will be during school hours. He remarked he is certain the district would want to establish a protocol. Mr. Shevenell stated agreement. When asked if he saw anything that has been mentioned as an impediment, he stated he did not. Mr. Shevenell commented the district has gone through this type of process in the past; has provided radios to the contractor to allow for contact with the office when large vehicles are coming through, etc. He was of the belief that process could be replicated as it worked well in the past. Commissioner Perry noted that process was utilized successfully with Hopkinton in the past.

The general consensus of the Commission was the price quoted is in line with the scope of work required.

When asked if he was able to participate in the site walk, Mr. Shevenell stated he had. He also drove up to where the logs to lumber operation was and walked the remainder of the site. He drove the trail and took photos to be able to show the School Board the current conditions and how the area has changed. He remarked he knows how it looked, and if it is going to look as it had in the past, the \$5,000 is more than reasonable for what is expected to be gained by the project.

Chairman Tenhave noted an e-mail exchange he had with Paul Micali, Finance Director, who has stated, in the past, when involved in joint projects, the procedure utilized has been for the Town to be invoiced and pay the bill, and then look to (invoice) the other party for reimbursement. Mr. Shevenell stated that would be acceptable to the School District.

Commissioner Perry noted disappointment in having received only one response; however, stated the Commission has a good history with Hopkinton, and, therefore, he is not concerned. He stated he would be pleased to have Hopkinton on the property again.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PERRY TO ACCEPT THE BID RECEIVED FROM HOPKINTON FORESTRY & LAND CLEARING WITH THE CLARIFICATIONS PROVIDED. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN FUND 53
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARON
MOTION CARRIED
5-0-0

Chairman Tenhave stated he would inform the Finance Department and Bay State Forestry of the Commission's vote. He informed Mr. Shevenell he would look to Mike Powers, Bay State Forestry, to act as the coordinator between the School District and the vendor.

2. Use of Funds for new signs at Wildcat Falls Conservation Area Commission to discuss utilizing Conservation funds to replace damaged, vandalized, and old signs at Wildcat Falls Conservation Area.

Chairman Tenhave remarked the item was on the agenda for the Commission's last meeting. Vice Chairman Caron offered to look through the inventory and see if this type of signage was available.

Andrew Duane, Wildcat Falls Sub-Committee, informed the Commission the Sub-Committee was provided with three signs, which fill most of the requirements. He stated they have sufficient signage for the conservation area boundary signs, private property signs, and the no motorized vehicle signs. The only signage issue remaining on their agenda was a replacement sign at the falls itself warning about dangerous currents, etc. The existing sign has been covered in graffiti to the point where it is no longer readable. He commented he is unsure if a replacement sign would help as it too would likely be subjected to graffiti. He remarked he is not sure the Sub-Committee has reached a conclusion as to what to do about the sign. He suggested some kind of sign warning of the obvious danger of swimming in the waterfalls; an activity permitted by the Town. He reiterated the Sub-Committee is not convinced a new sign would help. He commented the general tone of signs within the Wildcat Falls area has tended to be congenial rather than authoritative.

Mr. Duane stated, at most, a single sign would need to be printed, which would have to be custom to address this particular situation. He questioned whether funding would be available should the Sub-Committee come to the decision to replace the sign.

Chairman Tenhave questioned whether it was prudent, from a liability standpoint, to sign the area. Councilor Mahon remarked it would be similar to the no lifeguard signs at Wasserman Park. Chairman Tenhave noted the signage reads Warning Dangerous Conditions; swim at your own risk, Town of Merrimack and then provides the address. Mr. Duane suggested that would be appropriate language. Councilor Mahon agreed that would address the concern. Vice Chairman Caron suggested the height of the sign could be adjusted. It was noted there are materials available that would allow signs to be washed and graffiti removed.

Mr. Duane stated, pending a discussion of any liability, issues the Sub-Committee would tentatively ask for funding for one sign to replace the existing sign. Chairman Tenhave stated his opinion he would not anticipate the cost would exceed \$100.00.

**MOTION BY COUNCILOR MAHON TO EXPEND AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00) TO COVER THE COST OF A SIGN AS DESCRIBED. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN FUND 53
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARON**

ON THE QUESTION

Commissioner Perry spoke of the Commission's responsibility for maintenance of the properties, and questioned at what point the Town is responsible. He noted a request from the Police Department for use of Commission funds to cover the cost of additional patrols on conservation properties. Chairman Tenhave responded all he can provide is an opinion, and stated his opinion to be when the discussions took place and Fund 53 was established, the intent was to utilize the funds to purchase property for conservation purposes. That was publicly stated. Underneath that was the thought the funds would also be used to maintain those properties. He added he is unsure the issue of maintenance was actually spoken during the process as too much time has passed. The last time the issue came up at Town Meeting former Chairman Powell participated. With the Town Council in place it has been adjusting and controlling how monies enter the fund. The fund is set up in accordance with RSA 36-A.

Chairman Tenhave stated his opinion the request meets the intent of RSA 36-A:5. Therefore, he believes it to be an appropriate use of funds. He reiterated that is his opinion, and added utilizing the funds for maintenance could likely vary depending on the will of the Commission and who is serving on the Commission at any given time.

Councilor Mahon remarked, in reality, it is Town money. Commissioner Perry agreed and noted it is going back to the Town; however, his thought was the Commission shouldn't be approving things just because the process is easier. He agreed the request fits the model of what the Commission should be doing. Councilor Mahon commented if interested in pursuing that issue you must be prepared for the intended and unintended consequences. Councilor Mahon added there is nothing to stop the Commission from denying requests if at some point it is felt a particular request is beyond the intended use of the funds.

Chairman Tenhave commented with Wildcat Falls, like all of the properties, has unique parts. The opening from the parking lot all the way to the river has to stay clear regardless of the season. It is Wastewater Treatment employees who are responsible for that. It has the sewer line in it, and they are required by EPA regulations to maintain the width of it. It is plowed in the winter as is the parking lot.

Vice Chairman Caron agreed to take on the responsibility of acquiring the sign. The wording stated will be utilized on a graffiti resistant material of a size deemed suitable and within budget.

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

Vice Chairman Caron questioned whether it is the intent of the Sub-Committee to sign the trails. Mr. Duane responded that is being debated. The plan is for a minimal form of signage. It would likely be something along the lines of numbering the junctions of the trail and placing the numbers on the map and then placing single-color blazers on the trails. A few forms of intersection markings have been discussed and a rough count identified of 21-22 intersections. They require a 6' 4 x 4 with some paint.

Mr. Duane informed the Commission he will be bringing before it for review a draft of the trail map. Chairman Tenhave suggested its appearance should be similar to a standard trail map so that it could be posted to the website and usable by visitors to the site. Mr. Duane noted a map should be placed at the kiosk to make users aware some of the trails have a significant elevation gain and are fairly difficult trails.

Mr. Duane informed the Commission and viewing audience the Sub-Committee believes it now has the final version of the North Loop Trail complete. A trail day was conducted a few weeks earlier. After some consideration a small portion of the trail was moved as it was believed too steep. The new trail is in use and the entrances have been marked. It will likely receive a little more maintenance over the next year or two as they shepherd it into being a mature trail. The bridge is being utilized and is holding up well.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Sub-Committee Appointments** Commission to review and potentially (re)appoint sub-committee members whose terms have expired. Commission to appoint ex-officio members to the sub-committees as well.

Chairman Tenhave noted of the three sub-committees only one, the Grater Woods Sub-Committee, has members whose terms are expiring on 7-31-14. They are as follows: Steve Desilets, Secretary, Jason Wright, alternate, Steve Bachand, alternate, Adam Dodge, alternate, and Roger Blais. All members have indicated a willingness to fill the full-time position.

Vice Chairman Caron informed the Commission Mr. Desilets has stated a desire to continue on as a full member and as the Secretary. He has been in attendance for every meeting and at most of the trail days. Mr. Wright also was in attendance at every meeting, has attended trail days, is a neighbor of the property, and grooms the trails during the winter months. Mr. Bachand has expressed a willingness to stay on as an alternate. With his work schedule, he is unsure he would be able to be in attendance at all meetings. Mr. Dodge has also stated a willingness to continue in the position of alternate member. Chairman Tenhave noted Mr. Blais has stated a desire to continue as a full time member; however, has had scheduling difficulties with another group/committee he participates on. He is hopeful that will change. Both Chairman Tenhave and Vice Chairman Caron stated they have not received any information from any other individual interested in serving.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO REAPPOINT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO THE GRATER WOODS SUB-COMMITTEE; STEVE BACHAND AND ADAM DODGE AS ALTERNATE MEMBERS FOR TERMS TO EXPIRE 7-31-15 AND STEVE DESILETS AND JASON WRIGHT AS FULL TIME MEMBERS WITH TERMS TO EXPIRE 7-31-17

MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MAHON

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Tenhave remarked he meant no offense to Mr. Blais, but he does not believe he has participated. As an alternate member he would be able to participate as the sub-committee very rarely has full membership present. He could be a voting member most of the time, and the Commission could consider him again next year for full time membership. He reiterated he meant no offense to Mr. Blais who is a very dedicated individual who

has done a lot of great work for the Town and on this property. He stated his hope Mr. Blais would accept the alternate position for a year; however, remarked he has no indication as to whether he would or would not.

**MOTION CARRIED
5-0-0**

Vice Chairman Caron was asked to relay the results of the vote to the Sub-Committee and thank those who volunteered to continue to serve in this capacity.

Chairman Tenhave noted Ex-Officio position terms are for a one-year period. The Ex-Officio position on the Wildcat Falls Sub-Committee is currently vacant.

The consensus of the Commission was to appoint Commissioner Kras as the Ex-Officio member of the Wildcat Falls Sub-Committee for a term to expire 7-31-15.

Chairman Tenhave noted the Ex-Officio position on the Horse Hill Nature Preserve has been filled by Matt Caron for a number of years. Chairman Tenhave stated a willingness to step into the position.

The consensus of the Commission was to appoint Commissioner Tenhave as the Ex-Officio member of the Horse Hill Nature Preserve Sub-Committee for a term to expire 7-31-15.

Chairman Tenhave stated the Ex-Officio position on the Grater Woods Sub-Committee is currently filled by Commissioner Lehman. He has not heard from Commissioner Lehman with regard to continuing in this role. He questioned whether any member of the Commission wished to serve in that capacity. Commissioner Perry stated a desire.

The consensus of the Commission was to appoint Commissioner Perry as the Ex-Officio member of the Grater Woods Sub-Committee for a term to expire 7-31-15.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Beaver Management Study – Update

Commissioner Perry informed the Commission GZA has the list of approximately 31 sites. Nine or ten of the properties have been identified as priority. Drones will be in the air next week taking pictures of areas not easily accessed. Those photographs will provide topographical information, dam counts, etc. They are also working on the list of priority projects. He and Adam Jacobs, Operations Manager, Public Works Department will be meeting with representatives from GZA on Thursday afternoon during which they will visit Meadowood Pond to see if they can determine a course of action, understanding work performed in this location will impact other locations.

A schedule will be provided of when and where the drones will be overhead. When asked how that information would be relayed, Commissioner Perry stated he would be informed of the dates and times and would in turn share that information with the Police Department. The Department is already aware of their presence. Councilor Mahon commented some may not be as receptive to the idea. He stated he would speak with the Town Manager regarding a means to get inform the general public of the purpose. Councilor Mahon questioned whether GZA could be asked if they have and could provide a copy of protocol utilized.

Chairman Tenhave noted the Commission would be hearing from Mrs. Thompson of Powerhouse Road at its next meeting. Mrs. Thompson wishes to discuss her property and the impact beavers are having on it. She has requested Mr. Jacobs and Director Micali be in attendance.

Chairman Tenhave noted he has heard from neighbors of the Hamson Drive area, which is experiencing beaver issues. He made them aware the area is one of the identified areas being addressed. Commissioner Perry stated it to be one of the top 10 priorities. Chairman Tenhave stated he has heard from one of the members of the neighborhood association stating a willingness to be of assistance in placement of beaver control devices, etc. He has requested and they have agreed to await an opinion from GZA before taking any action.

- Use of Funds for Police Work on Conservation Property

Chairman Tenhave informed the Commission he has notified Chief Doyle of the Commission's discussion; concerns and a desire for additional detail. He has not yet received a response; however, is aware the Chief was away for some time.

Chairman Tenhave informed the Commission of his receipt of a letter from the NHDOT regarding sign replacement work being performed in Merrimack near Exit 11. The signs are within their Right-of-Way. The letter questions whether the Commission has any comments or concerns. The letter was also addressed to the Town Council, Merrimack Planning Board, and the Historical Society.

Vice Chairman Caron noted the NHDOT broke ground on the development located near the medical center. The foundation is in and framing is going up.

Chairman Tenhave remarked the Commission had considered conducting the public hearing for the invasives work to be done on Brookside Drive at its next meeting. He stated all of the necessary components are not yet in place; therefore, he may or may not proceed with that at that time. There are encroachment issues that need to be addressed as well. He will speak with the Forester regarding the timing of the public hearing as well as spraying. He is of the belief spraying is best done in late September.

Commissioner Perry remarked heading into the Outdoor Classroom from Bambee Lane where it crosses a stream along Old Blood Road is an area that has become very steep. The area is wet. A tree fell last year and there is already a path well trampled around it indicating the level of use. It is obvious there is a lot of use by kids. He was hopeful someone could pursue whether the Safe Routes to School Program might be utilized to address that relatively short but very wet trail.

Vice Chairman Caron commented Steve Bachand's Grandson is a Scout, and Steve was going to look into whether or not he would be interested in taking that on as his Eagle Scout project. Commissioner Perry commented on the size of the project and the wetness of the area. Vice Chairman Caron commented it may benefit from PWD fill to solidify the piece right off of Bambi Trail.

Vice Chairman Caron added in addition, there is another trail off of the school loop that goes to Marty Drive, which is not only heavily used by the kids, but there is an ATV utilizing the trail going onto school property and up to the soccer fields. Chairman Tenhave recommended he contact Matthew Shevenell and make him aware. Vice Chairman Caron noted that trail also crosses a stream that flows through the Beaver Meadow, which requires a bridge.

Chairman Tenhave noted the area is a wetland, and if work is to be conducted, NHDES wetland permitting would be required. He questioned the will of the Commission.

Commissioner Perry spoke of the Transportation Alternatives Program, which has a call for new projects. A request was made for information to be submitted by August 6th indicating the types of projects we would like to do. Their letter states failure to meet this deadline will result in the potential of the project having to wait until the next funding cycle. Chairman Tenhave suggested the Commission could consider paying the Forester to prepare a proposal to address the area so that potential cost could be understood. Vice Chairman Caron was asked to bring the issue up at the Grater Woods Sub-Committee meeting in case a member feels passionate about it, and would like to take it on.

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES

Merrimack Conservation Commission. July 21, 2014

The following amendments were offered:

Throughout the document; replace "Commissioner Thomson" with "Commissioner Boisvert"
Page 4, Line 45; replace "Unidentified Member of the Public" with "Cindy Glenn"
Page 6, Line 46; replace "Chairmen" and "sub-committee" with "Chairpersons" and "sub-committees"
Page 7, Lines 7-8; add a paragraph break
Page 7; Line 32; replace the word "branding" with the word "brandishing"
Page 7, line 44; replace the word "state" with the word "stated"

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CARON TO ACCEPT AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE
MOTION CARRIED**

4-0-1

Commissioner Perry Abstained

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chairman Caron informed the Commission the Horse Hill Nature Preserve Sub-Committee members installed a bench dedicated to Harold Watson last week. A formal dedication of the bench will take place in the near future. When a date is available he will make the Commission aware, and post it on MerrimackOutdoors.org.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MAHON THAT THE COMMISSION ENTER NON-PUBLIC SESSION, BY ROLL

CALL, PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3, II(d) CONSIDERATION OF THE ACQUISITION, SALE OR LEASE OF

**REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY WHICH, IF DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC, WOULD LIKELY BENEFIT A PARTY
OR PARTIES WHOSE INTERESTS ARE ADVERSE TO THOSE OF THE GENERAL COMMUNITY
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE**

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Commissioner Caron, Commissioner Perry, Councilor Mahon, Commissioner Kras,
Commissioner Tenhave

5

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

The Commission went into non-public session at 8:16 p.m.

The Commission came out of non-public session at 9:13 p.m.

Chairman Tenhave stated, for the public record, that the non-public meeting minutes were sealed by Roll Call vote during the non-public portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY COUNCILOR MAHON TO ADJOURN
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PERRY
MOTION CARRIED**

The August 4, 2014 meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan