



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOVEMBER 17, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Monday, November 17, 2014 at 6:33 p.m. in the Merrimack Memorial Conference Room.

Chairman Tim Tenhave presided:

Members of the Commission Present: Matt Caron, Vice Chairman
Michael Boisvert
Cynthia Glenn
Gage Perry

Members of the Commission Absent: Councilor Thomas Mahon
Robert Croatti, Alternate
Lauren Kras, Alternate

Also in Attendance: Kenneth Clinton, Meridian Land Services
Lt. Matthew Tarleton, Merrimack Police Department

Chairman Tenhave noted Alternate Member Kras was unable to be in attendance.

Chairman Tenhave reminded the viewing audience hunting/firearm season is underway, and those utilizing the woods should wear hunter orange and stay on marked trails. The Commission's website, www.Merrimackoutdoors.org, identifies conservation lands where hunting is permitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

APPOINTMENTS - None

STATUTORY/ADVISORY BUSINESS

1. Conservation Easement at Chestnut Hill, Old Blood Properties, LLC

Commission to receive information and review a request for a conservation/open-space easement as part of the Chestnut Hill subdivision along Old Blood Road.

Chairman Tenhave stepped down and Vice Chairman Caron presided;

Mr. Kenneth Clinton, Meridian Land Services, commented the cluster application has been before the Commission on two prior occasions; once as a preliminary introduction and more recently to provide a greater level of detail regarding the likely wetland crossings and design issues.

The project is that of an open-space subdivision; therefore, open space regulations have to be abided by, e.g., 50% open space, etc. As the cumulative impact is over 10,000 sq. ft. the requirement is for a minimum 10/1 ratio of upland protection. The upland protection is required to be more than simply an open space lot. There is the requirement for third-party oversight. Mr. Clinton stated the hope the Town, through the Commission, would provide that oversight.

Mr. Clinton formally requested the Commission state a willingness to accept an easement (not yet finalized). The plan will be before the Merrimack Planning Board on December 16th. The desire is for all wetland permit applications to be filed prior to that meeting. Mr. Clinton stated it to be critical, when filing the application with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), to include a statement of intent and some level

of supporting documentation from the Commission stating a willingness to accept conservation easement oversight with the appropriate language, e.g., Deed to be found acceptable to the Town of Merrimack and the Conservation Commission.

With regard to wetland crossings, Mr. Clinton stated there are two (2) onsite, approximately four (4) culverts being replaced on Old Blood Road, and a crossing at the intersection with Madeline Bennett. He stated a willingness to return to the Commission to discuss the particulars of the wetlands permit; larger, major impact permit. He stressed it is critical, while finalizing the permit, to be able to describe, with legitimacy, the intent to convey an easement to the Town, and that the Commission is accepting of that subject to final wording, etc. Mr. Clinton provided a map outlining the area of protected lands highlighting areas that are Town owned/easement land, privately held protected lands, and the four open-space lots of the Chestnut Hill Sub-division. He stated the northerly open space adjacent to the school conservation areas is approximately 23 acres in size. Given its shape, it does not add substantial corridor width of contiguous area. However, it is substantially larger than the minimum 10/1 upland ratio (exceeded by 20 acres in this area alone). The southerly area is approximately 86 acres, which would provide protection to a good many wetlands and vernal pools. There is greater value and benefit to that area. The other two open-space lots will be protected by open space requirements; however, due to location and type of land, easements internal of the sub-division lots are not being sought. There will be in excess of 100 acres covered by the easement.

Vice Chairman Caron questioned whether the easement property identified as the 23-acre parcel would touch the newly adjusted Old Blood Road, and was informed it would have frontage. Mr. Clinton remarked due to the nature of the slopes he would suggest there would not be a parking area.

When asked about the area below the new and original Old Blood Road, Mr. Clinton stated that section is in fact not very wet. At 5+ acres, it doesn't have the same level of conservation value that would rise to the level of an easement by the Town. That area will have some drainage in it (drainage easements). It did not rise to the level of something that was worthy of asking for oversight from a conservation standpoint. When asked if the area would be left natural, Mr. Clinton responded, except for the likely two sections that will have drainage, it is part of the open-space, which is to be left otherwise undisturbed.

Commissioner Perry requested additional information on the cul-de-sac located on the west side of the development, which abuts a rather large parcel, which itself is not yet conserved. Mr. Clinton commented, from a strictly planning standpoint, it would be proper planning to have the new road bump up to that piece. Ultimately what will become of that piece of land, he is unsure.

He stated he has not looked at the piece to see how much road could be constructed there and/or the number of possible lots and connectivity. He remarked from the topography that is available online, you can see a high point (one of the highest in Town). Given the cost of road construction, nature of traversing that slope, etc. he does not see a through road that would make its way down to Grater Road as feasible.

Commissioner Boisvert questioned whether there is the opportunity for possible expansion out of the cul-de-sac. Mr. Clinton responded the property is not part of the application he represents. When asked he stated his belief the road length is 700-800'. It could be extended another 600±, a waiver could be pursued, etc. Although the exhibit surely highlights a large area that would be a nice acquisition for preservation, what was being shown was the addition of 100 acres to an area already protected.

Mr. Clinton stated his confidence the details of the easement language could be worked out with the Commission. Vice Chairman Caron spoke of allowing for passive recreation in an area located next to the school property. Mr. Clinton remarked a review could be conducted of easement language currently on school property, and that exact language could be carried onto the 20-acre piece, and perhaps it would make sense to modify it slightly for the 86± acre piece as well.

Mr. Clinton offered to respond to any questions, and commented what he would like to receive is written confirmation, even in e-mail form, along the lines of; per our meeting of November 17th, the Commission is agreeable in principle to accept oversight of the conservation easement with details to be worked out at a later date. Mr. Clinton stated his belief the Commission would want the project to come back when the wetlands permit has been filed. At that time, some of the design specifics could be discussed.

Vice Chairman Caron questioned the will of the Commission. He commented his only concern is with the wording. It was noted the statement regarding acceptance of an easement could include language specifically

stating a willingness to accept it contingent upon agreement with written stipulations within the Deed and Easement.

The southerly 86 acres are wooded and access is limited; however, mud trucks have been seen in the area. It was noted, depending on the language within the Deed/Easement, it may be necessary for enforcement action to take place.

The consensus of the Commission was to provide an e-mail stating the Commission will accept the easement contingent upon Deed restrictions and easement language noting language will differ on each parcel.

Vice Chairman Caron stepped down and Chairman Tenhave presided;

OLD BUSINESS

1. Funding for Police Patrols at Grater Woods

The Commission to meet with members of the Merrimack Police Department to discuss patrols at Grater Woods. Discussion may include the types of patrols, timing of patrols, budget for patrols, what the Commission should do to prepare for the patrols, maps, points of contact, etc. Other Conservation properties may be discussed and/or included.

Chairman Tenhave spoke of having met with Lt. Tarleton, Police Chief Mark Doyle, Captain Peter Albert, and Captain Michael Dudash regarding this issue. The issue was further discussed by the Commission at its last meeting and internally by members of the Police Department. An update on the discussion had by the department was forwarded via e-mail.

Chairman Tenhave stated the intent to determine how to go about getting patrols in place, and have something to move forward with at the start of mud season next year, if not sooner.

Lt. Matthew Tarleton, Merrimack Police Department, stated his belief the objective is to establish a patrol that would be beyond what is typically done with the NH Fish & Game, which are few and far between. He commented there are not many grants. They are typically 4-hour grants and are town wide. He has had the opportunity to patrol the area of Grater Woods; however, has been limited to about an hour or so before having to cover other areas. He remarked it would be nice to have a dedicated patrol for that property.

He spoke of the importance of signage identifying where motorized use is permitted/not permitted. Signage, kiosks, and any other means of educating users of the property would be helpful. Such educational material would also be useful to enforcement. In general, patrolmen understand where such activities are/are not permitted; however, without postings the only enforcement that can occur is suggesting unauthorized users move along.

Lt. Tarleton remarked he believes the idea of pamphlets to be a good one, and could include contact information for those interested in volunteering in the creation of trails, etc. Chairman Tenhave stated there to be four (4) classes of trails. The Class D trail is geared more towards motorbikes; however, none of those trails exist at this time. The Sub-committee is considering location of such trails. Vice Chairman Caron stated the Sub-committee had intended to flag the area, but time did not allow.

Chairman Tenhave stated his belief the Commission desires creating a pamphlet that could be distributed by the patrolmen. It is hoped getting information out to users of the trails would result in an increase in volunteer activity.

Vice Chairman Caron spoke of having purchased and hung a good number of signs, which have since disappeared. Accompanied by Patrolmen, volunteers reposted the signage. This provided first-hand knowledge for some of the patrolmen. Vice Chairman Caron commented having been in the area over the past weekend he witnessed tracks going past the signs. The school property, which has always been non-motorized, is posted with large signage; however, dirt bike trails can be seen coming out of the school property.

Lt. Tarleton spoke of the Conservancy Foundation placing signage during a time when shooting was taking place on the property. Those signs have been shot at with a shotgun. It was noted those caught taking the signage would be prosecuted for theft. Lt. Tarleton reiterated with signage, the police can take action beyond simply issuing warnings.

Lt. Tarleton remarked the problem is understood; however, the difficulty is in getting officers in the area on a more frequent basis. There simply is not the manpower to dedicate to a patrol in the area. Recent discussions have been around a detail where an officer would be dedicated to patrolling the area, and would not be sidetracked handling calls, etc. The intent would be to schedule patrols for days/hours where they are believed to be most needed. Commissioner Boisvert questioned the type of patrols, e.g., mountain bike, etc. Lt. Tarleton stated that could be done. He stated his personal opinion the patrols would be more effective if a four-wheeler were utilized. That would allow for a greater amount of ground to be covered in a shorter timeframe. Should there be a need to catch up with someone, it would be a great deal easier on a four-wheeler. He stated an understanding of the concern with taking part in the very activity for which the enforcement is needed. Lt. Tarleton reiterated they would look to identify a time of day when it would be most appropriate (early afternoon; noon time on). He stated research could be conducted to identify, through calls received, the days and times to narrow down the window for patrols.

Commissioner Perry acknowledged the desire for patrols to take place when they would be most beneficial. Commissioner Boisvert agreed the patrols should take place after noon and on weekends. Vice Chairman Caron questioned what the Commission might be able to do in advance to provide for enforcement during patrols. Lt. Tarleton spoke of last being in the area during mid-summer. He entered on South Grater Road. Other than the Conservancy Foundation signs, he did not see anything else indicating private property, no motorized vehicles, etc. Chairman Tenhave responded there is no signage in that area as it is private property, not managed by the Commission. Chairman Tenhave commented the area managed by the Commission is somewhat of an awkward layout, which makes it harder to sign, etc. Lt. Tarleton commented users of the property could be unaware of the layout. He suggested being able to hand out brochures identifying the location of trails that can be utilized by motorized vehicles and how to access such trails would be helpful.

Commissioner Boisvert remarked part of the issue could relate to riders not accessing the properties through normal trailhead channels. It was suggested the borders could be over-marked. Chairman Tenhave stated his impression what Vice Chairman Caron had alluded to previously was marking all along the property (trails coming in). Commissioner Perry remarked typically when you mark a trail you put a boundary marker up and make sure you can see the next one. In some cases, particularly when well foliated, the next one may not be as visible as desired.

Chairman Tenhave noted all but the Class D trails are laid out within the trail system. They are mostly marked with triangles, squares, or color markers to indicate usage. Users of the trail system are sometimes entering Commission property utilizing trails of other properties not owned/maintained by the Commission. Those trails not maintained by the Commission are not marked. The question is should the Commission place large signage stating motorized use prohibited at property boundaries. The concern has been with the number of signs posted in the forest. Currently boundary signs are placed, but they don't provide a description of allowed and/or prohibited uses. Vice Chairman Caron commented in areas where issues were known, boundary markers were paired with 2-3 no motorized vehicles signs. Those signs are either disappearing or being defaced. Chairman Tenhave noted consideration has been given to installing cameras. Lt. Tarleton remarked that is where the department would work with the Commission; to identify areas for patrols to be concentrated.

Chairman Tenhave noted the Commission has tried to allow motorized use in every area believed accepted on this property. Areas where this activity is prohibited are areas such as vernal pools where disturbance could result in the killing of hundreds of critters, etc. It is also an issue when puddles are created in areas where they previously did not exist.

When asked about cost, Lt. Tarleton stated he had the opportunity to speak with Captain Albert, and was informed the detail rate varies depending upon whether the detail is covered by a patrolman or supervisor; \$35.46/hour to \$55.48/hour. Chairman Tenhave questioned whether, in addition to the labor cost, there would be costs associated with equipment maintenance, fuel, etc. Lt. Tarleton stated his belief that would not be the case.

Chairman Tenhave stated the need for the Commission to be provided with documentation identifying the number/date of patrols, activity witnessed/addressed, etc. When asked, Lt. Tarleton suggested forms utilized for NH Fish & Game could be used as a template. That form lists the type of contacts made, etc. He offered to provide an example. Chairman Tenhave stated documentation would serve two purposes; to log activity to allow the Commission to review it to identify trends and will identify how taxpayer funds were expended. Lt. Tarleton commented if contact were made a report would typically be generated, which could serve as additional documentation.

Chairman Tenhave spoke of the need to create a pamphlet, and questioned whether the Commission wished for a map to be generated that identified authorized and unauthorized trails. Lt. Tarleton stated that would be of great benefit. Commissioner Perry noted the Commission was cautioned previously about documenting non-authorized trails.

The Commission stated agreement not to generate a map inclusive of non-authorized trails; however, when providing the Police Department with a map of authorized trails, Vice Chairman Caron will make notation of unauthorized trails known to the Commission.

Chairman Tenhave questioned whether other properties within Town should be considered for patrols, and spoke of concern the problem could simply move from one area to another. Lt. Tarleton responded there is the potential for that; however, if efforts are made to direct users to the authorized areas within Grater Woods that could alleviate some of the spillover issues. Lt. Tarleton commented on his belief restricting OHRV use at The Horse Hill Nature Preserve (HHNP) had a spillover effect. Chairman Tenhave noted, although the HHNP is restricted at this time, if a group got together and wanted to create and maintain a trail system, there is an opportunity to do that. It was noted snowmobiling is an allowed activity at the HHNP because the Merrimack Sno-Buds and others have stepped up and help with the maintenance of the trail system. There is also an individual dedicated to grooming the Grater Woods trails in the winter utilizing a snow machine.

Chairman Tenhave stated the need for the Commission to work with the Grater Woods Sub-committee to determine how to go about creating a pamphlet, etc. He requested Lt. Tarleton work towards identifying the frequency and timing of calls. Vice Chairman Caron will serve as the Liaison between the Police Department and the Commission. Chairman Tenhave suggested keeping an eye on other properties as well to see if trends can be identified, e.g., weekend use only, etc. Lt. Tarleton remarked the only other area in Town where the department has had similar issues (mostly firearms) is the piece off of Back River Road.

Vice Chairman Caron stated a willingness to discuss the idea of the Sub-committee creating a pamphlet at the meeting scheduled for the following evening. Commissioner Boisvert expressed an interest in participating in meetings with the police department. Chairman Tenhave stated the item would be placed on the next agenda under old business. Vice Chairman Caron stated a hope, also available for the Commission's next meeting will be information on the best time of day/day of week for patrols to occur.

2. Merrimack Village District (MVD) well at Mitchell Woods

Commission to review and make a recommendation to the Town Council in regards to an easement and MVD well on the Conservation property known as Mitchell Woods.

Chairman Tenhave remarked the project has been before the Commission on several occasions. The well would not be pumped year-round; only during times when the system is under stress. There is no plan to put the well in immediately. The Merrimack Village District (MVD) is trying to get everything in place so that all information can be gathered and brought forward at the Annual Meeting to gain approval. The MVD is a village district in the New Hampshire sense, which means pretty much all Merrimack voters are members of the district whether on Town water or not. The annual meeting is typically the last Tuesday in March where voting takes place for Commissioners, major capital projects, etc.

Chairman Tenhave stated his impression of their intent is to get everything together so they can move forward when capital money is available. It will require a pump house, which does not necessarily have to be in the same area of the well (can be few hundred yards away). Commissioner Perry stated the initial design indicated the pump house would be located near the end of the easement (off Mitchell Street). Commissioner Boisvert commented that would be connected by pipe to the easement to the water main on Mitchell. From Mitchell it will have to go all the way up to Baboosic Lake Road where it will join the much larger main.

Chairman Tenhave stated the Commission has met with MVD's engineering team and has an idea of the details of the project. Presently the desire is to take the sanitary protective area easement deed and bring it forward to the Town Council as only the Town Council can accept an easement on Town property. The MVD would like the Commission to recommend that the Town Council approve and accept the easement.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO RECOMMEND THE SANITARY PROTECTIVE AREA EASEMENT DEED AS PRESENTED AND THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE EASEMENT
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PERRY**

ON THE QUESTION

Commissioner Perry noted the Commission has spoken of the potential for generating some trails in the area. Mitchell Woods is the bottom half of the section and Watkins Forest the top half. There are a number of logging trails already in existence, which are walkable with very little work. The Deed states in part "The Sanitary Protective Area shall be maintained in a natural state at all times except for: (1) Limited land clearing and terrain alteration required for well access and construction of a pump house or other structure(s); and (2) Activities necessary for the maintenance of the production well." He questioned if, by accepting the Deed, the Commission would be prohibited from locating trails in the area.

Chairman Tenhave stated his belief that would be the case within the radius described within the Deed. Commissioner Perry noted existing trails are within the Sanitary Protection Area. Chairman Tenhave stated his understanding it would result in the shutting down of trails. A protection area around a well house is a requirement.

Commissioner Perry commented, within the protection area, will be the dam and water level device being put in place. He questioned whether acceptance of the Deed would limit the Commission's ability to place the water level device and subsequent maintenance of it. Chairman Tenhave stated his belief that would not be restricted, as without the maintenance, the well could end up under water. Commissioner Perry remarked he would be surprised if it is much more than 12-18" from water level currently. He reiterated the existing main trail walks right through this area. He questioned whether the area would have to be posted "no walking". Commissioner Boisvert questioned whether a gate would have to be installed. Chairman Tenhave stated his belief there would be a requirement for signage. Commissioner Perry remarked, when MVD was asked previously it was stated they typically don't have any issues with pump houses; small structure with a pump and power to it, which is locked up. The Sanitary Protection Area will likely be a line on paper; not marked. Chairman Tenhave stated his belief other wells have signage surrounding them. It was noted the combined area of the two parcels in question is approximately 12 acres. Chairman Tenhave stated the Commission has no oversight of Watkins Forest, only Mitchell Woods. Commissioner Perry stated he has not seen a good deal of activity in the area. He has witnessed people at the dam, hunting on the Watkins Forest side (not permitted at Mitchell Woods), and children playing paintball.

Chairman Tenhave remarked the sanitary area is the downside of having a well, but it is necessary for protection of the well. Commissioner Boisvert questioned whether the area would be posted, enforced, etc. He suggested the existing trails would continue to be utilized. Chairman Tenhave stated it would fall on the MVD to post their easement. Chairman Tenhave commented it is a tough call giving up a piece of land, but, in his opinion, it is for the greater good. Commissioner Perry stated agreement; however, questioned whether it needs to be restricted to the point of not allowing pedestrian traffic (walking). Vice Chairman Caron noted the trail opportunities that would be lost with the loss of a border, etc.

Vice Chairman Caron questioned whether any of the abutters have spoken in opposition to the project due to having individual wells. Chairman Tenhave stated his uncertainty there are any private wells in the area. Commissioner Perry questioned whether the only opportunity was to either accept or not accept. Chairman Tenhave stated he is aware the Town Attorney reviewed the easement language as did the attorney for the MVD. Vice Chairman Caron stated he would be in favor of adding language. Commissioner Perry remarked if there is a Federal stipulation that is unknown to the Commission that states trails cannot be located in a protected sanitary area, he would not want to cause difficulty for the MVD. Chairman Tenhave stated his knowledge forestry activities can occur. Vice Chairman Caron commented limited land clearing is seriously more impactful than a hiking trail. Chairman Tenhave stated understanding; however, remarked the issue is people near the well.

Commissioner Perry commented there is an existing, established trail large enough to drive a car down. It seems silly to restrict walking.

Chairman Tenhave stated another option to be to table the item until the Commission's next meeting when additional information could be made available.

Commissioner Glenn spoke of the need for access for maintenance on the water level device.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PERRY TO TABLE UNTIL THE COMMISSION'S NEXT MEETING
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARON
MOTION CARRIED
5-0-0**

Chairman Tenhave requested Commissioners e-mail him identifying additional information desired.

- 3. Beaver and Water Control Activities** Commission to review the current beaver and water control activities it has undertaken. Other activities may be discussed including some being taken by Town staff. Action on funding current or new activities may also be discussed along with the ongoing comprehensive Beaver Management Study.

Commissioner Perry informed the Commission Beaver Solutions was onsite the prior Thursday with GZA. They met with the Public Works Department and walked the sites identified as high priority as well as the one the Commission learned the water department was conducting some of its own mitigation work on. They also went up to Hansom Drive where it was believed the beaver had moved on. Apparently they have moved back.

Beaver Solutions reached conclusions and pricing was verified. During the review of Greens Pond, Adam Jacobs, Operations Manager, Public Works Department, had a different take on what the problem was. Beaver Solutions was able to change focus, and will continue work in that area. Although the work will be slightly different, the pricing will remain the same. Work will begin later this week.

When asked if something would be put in place at Mayflower to indicate the water level, Commissioner Perry responded that was requested, and the response was it would be done; however, he has not spoken with Mr. Jacobs since making the request. A new area of problems was discovered in the Level Street/Cathy Street area. Originally, the area was not recommended as a high priority as GZA did not see what the Public Works Department saw as a problem. The department has now turned that over to the project. Additional quotes will be provided.

With regard to Hansom Drive, Commissioner Perry stated it to be one of the areas where it is believed fences could be installed much later into the season than is the case for pipes. A quote will be provided to protect those culverts and allow them to be free-flowing. The one area where there is an issue is the Naticook Road Extension (behind Joey Road). The way the land comes into the culverts, it is very tight. Beaver Solutions has expressed concern once the trapezoid is put in, it will be along the mudded banks and not doing anything other than creating a flat dam out in front of it. The Town is being asked to remove some of the mud on either side of the culvert before the work is performed. Commissioner Perry has requested GZA look into whether or not a wetland permit would be required. He stated his belief the Commission can agree that type of work needs to be done, and the Town should be allowed to address it.

Chairman Tenhave spoke of there being multiple beaver dams in the area. There is a great deal of water being held back by beaver dams. There are issues of water going over the top of the pipes for which wastewater has an easement. The efforts would control the culverts, but won't control Wastewater's issues. Commissioner Perry stated he has not yet had the opportunity to speak with GZA; however, believes some of the further quotes expected will identify what other work needs to be done to address the entirety of the situation.

Chairman Tenhave informed the Commission upon learning of activities taking place in the Level Street/Cathy Street area; he e-mailed Matt Shevenell, Business Administration, Merrimack School District, and requested additional data on what is occurring in the bigger picture. That put a stop to the discussion of Lyons Road for the time being. Commissioner Perry was asked to speak with GZA to determine if there is a different approach to be taken for Lyons Road.

NEW BUSINESS

1. NHACC Survey

Commission to discuss completing a survey requested by the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions.

The Commission discussed the survey questions and, as a group, formulated responses for submission.

Commissioner Perry departed at 8:40 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Everett Turnpike Maintenance Application

Chairman Tenhave informed the Commission of an e-mail exchange with Kyle Fox, Deputy Director, Public Works Department, who stated he has reviewed the project, and has seen no issues. He noted the project will result in improvements.

- ATV Activity at Horse Hill Nature Preserve

Chairman Tenhave stated the item was placed on the agenda prior to his attendance at the Horse Hill Nature Preserve Sub-committee meeting. The individual who had brought the activity to light has stated the e-mail notification was old; however, Vice Chairman Caron has witnessed this activity.

Vice Chairman Caron stated he witnessed the activity two weeks ago. There is a new closure to the power line easement heading east across Naticook Road. It appears to be a neighbor that dropped a few trees across the power line easement that allows access to Gilmore Memorial Forrest from Naticook Road. The belief is, because that area is blocked off, the individual on the ATV decided to go across the other way, which is into the HHNP. Vice Chairman Caron noted the sign stating "no motorized vehicles" has been replaced repeatedly. The sign was shot once, which is very alarming given there is a residence about 50 yards from the sign, and it has been removed every other time despite how it has been secured.

Chairman Tenhave spoke of comments made during the Sub-committee meeting about continuing to keep an eye on the area, and make the Commission aware if the activity continues. He commented we are all volunteers and do the best we can.

- Piscataquog Land Conservancy

Chairman Tenhave questioned whether any additional information has been received, and was informed that has not occurred as of yet.

- 2015 Meeting Calendar

The Commission expressed agreement with the proposed calendar.

- Tennessee Gas Pipeline Project

Chairman Tenhave commented on having seen newspaper articles on the project. It is now being stated the pipeline will be run up into New Hampshire along power lines. This proposed route takes it straight through Merrimack; through Seaverns Bridge Road, near Bates Road, Peaslee Road, the Horse Hill Nature Preserve, crosses the street and near the Gilmore Hill Memorial Forest, takes it near the mall, across D.W. Highway, and then across the river.

Commissioner Boisvert commented on the constantly changing nature of the project/route. Chairman Tenhave stated the informational meeting previously scheduled for the following night in Hollis was cancelled. He commented newspaper articles give the impression some in Massachusetts have been successful in convincing them not to go through their town. If it comes through the power line easement area, it will cut through some homes. Although homeowners would stand to gain revenue for this activity taking place on private property, it could potentially have an impact on property value, etc. It was noted it could be that a large pipe could go right through Long Pond and other areas of conservation property.

Chairman Tenhave stated during his last e-mail exchange with the Town Manager; he was notified the MVD is watching the issue as the only area in town that was going to be impacted was MVD property. It does not look like that is the case any longer.

The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions has questioned whether Commissioners are interested in attending a regional meeting to learn more about the project. The Milford Conservation Commission

has offered to host a meeting. Chairman Tenhave stated he would respond stating the Commission's interest in attending such a meeting.

- Signage

Chairman Tenhave stated the desire of the Horse Hill Nature Preserve Sub-committee to be provided with additional blue signs. The discussion has been around marking every trail that is not the Loop Trail with a blue triangle. At Grater Woods more than half of the trails were marked with the blue triangles. There are likely enough remaining to mark the school property, which has not been started. There is an Eagle Scout wishing to put a trail in, which would require additional signage. It was suggested the same number of blue triangles ordered previously is needed again.

Vice Chairman Caron volunteered to reach out to the vendor and obtain a quote. The suggestion was made that twice the amount of blue triangles ordered previously be ordered.

Chairman Tenhave stated the item could be placed on the next agenda.

- Wasserman Park

Vice Chairman Caron spoke of the number of trails at Wasserman Park, and noted three trails in particular that are well marked and well used by people that park in the Wasserman Park area; Quarry Trail, which takes you into the HHNP, Bear Facts Trail, which takes you from Naticook Road to Naticook Lake, and what is referred to as the Fitness Trail. The Fitness Trail is named as a result of fitness stations that were placed along the trail by an Eagle Scout years ago. It is a lollipop trail that crosses Bear Facts towards Naticook Lake. Unfortunately, a lot of the fitness structures/posts have deteriorated although some remain functional. He stated the desire for a trail to traverse between Bear Facts and the fitness trail to provide another trail to do a loop on. It is less than a mile to connect the two, and would be similar in nature to quite a few other trails on the Greens Pond Conservation property. The Quarry, Bear Facts, and Fitness trails are 6' in width. The proposed trail would be 2' wide.

When asked, he stated target users would be hikers and bicyclists. Vice Chairman Caron remarked the Greens Pond trails are utilized by dog walkers, bicyclists, and trail runners. Chairman Tenhave noted on that property there is no motorized use of any kind (by Deed).

When asked if any water crossings would be required, Vice Chairman Caron stated there would be no water crossing. He noted there is a stone wall on the property, and the trail would be located next to it in a few areas, but would not cross it.

The Commission expressed support of the construction of an additional trail.

Vice Chairman Caron commented, had he had the proper equipment, he could have mapped three of the properties over the past weekend while bicycling through all of the HHNP, Greens Pond, and Grater Woods. Chairman Tenhave noted the project being spearheaded by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission appears to have stalled. The most recent brownbag luncheon was cancelled. He stated he would follow up.

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES

Merrimack Conservation Commission. November 3, 2014

The following amendments were offered:

- Page 1, Line 38; delete "(copy attached)" and the actual copy
- Page 3, Line 12; replace "extend" with "extent"
- Page 5, Line 33; replace "overflows" with "overflow"
- Page 7, Line 4; replace "remove" with "removal"

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO ACCEPT AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARON
MOTION CARRIED
4-0-0**

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS - None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GLENN TO ADJOURN
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARON
MOTION CARRIED
4-0-0**

The November 17, 2014 meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan