TOWN COUNCIL – AGENDA REQUEST FORM

THIS FORM WILL BECOME PART OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION USED BY THE COUNCIL AND PUBLIC

Please submit Agenda Request Form, **including back up information**, 8 days prior to the requested meeting date. **Public Hearing requests must be submitted 20 days prior to the requested meeting date to meet publication deadlines** (exceptions may be authorized by the Town Manager, Chairman/Vice Chair).

MEETING INFORMATION

Date Submitted: 3/9/2016	Date of Meeting: 3/24/2016
Submitted by: Tim Tenhave	Time Required: 30 minutes
Department: Conservation Commission	Background Info. Supplied: Yes ☒ No ☐
Speakers: Tim Tenhave	

CATEGORY OF BUSINESS (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Appointment:	☐	Recognition/Resignation/Retirement:	☐
Public Hearing:	☐	Old Business:	☐
New Business:	☒	Consent Agenda:	☐
Nonpublic:	☐	Other:	☐

TITLE OF ITEM

Discontinue portion of South Grater Road, a Class VI road. Initial discussion.

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM

Conservation Commission would like to discuss and gain initial approval for discontinuing a portion of a Class VI road in Grater Woods called South Grater Road. Also a short portion to be made into an Emergency Lane. The MCC will present the history, tie into the Stewardship plan for Grater Woods, process that needs to be followed as defined by the Town's attorney, and help answer questions.

REFERENCE (IF KNOWN)

RSA:	See backup	Warrant Article:	
Charter Article:		Town Meeting:	
Other:		N/A:	

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Projector:	☒	Grant Requirements:	☐
Easel:	☐	Joint Meeting:	☐
Special Seating:	☐	Other:	☐
Laptop:	☐	None:	☐

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:	Tim Tenhave	Address:	
Phone Number:		Email Address:	ttenhave@merrimacknh.gov

APPROVAL

Town Manager: Yes ☐ No ☐ Chair/Vice Chair: Yes ☒ No ☐

Discontinue a portion and Declare a portion an Emergency Lane – On Class VI - South Grater Road

Presented by:

MCC Chair Tim Tenhave

March 24, 2016

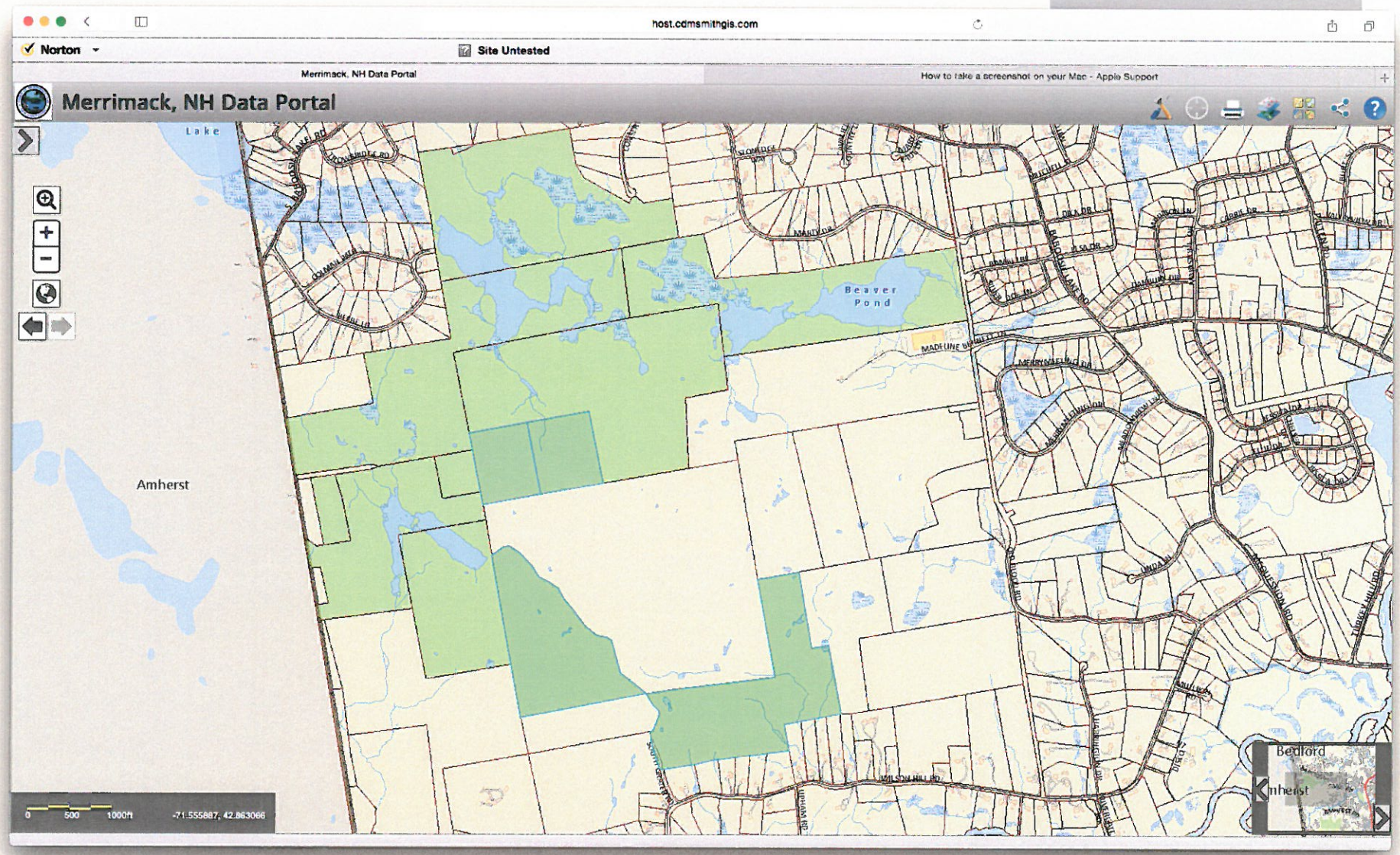
Overview

- To accomplish most of the intent of a Grater Road, Secondary Access point from the Grater Woods Stewardship Plan, pages 60-61.
- Parking area no longer needed, Amherst has done that with access to our trails.
- Access by trucks, jeeps, 4-wheelers, ATVs, needs to be stopped on a portion due to wetland issues (pictures to follow).
- Gates to be eventually installed as noted in the Stewardship Plan.
- Maintain and vastly improve emergency vehicle access.
- Allow access for forestry operations.
- Re-route to avoid wetland impacts and re-open to motorized use (dirt bikes and ATVs).
- No longer allow public non-emergency 4-wheeler (trucks, jeeps, etc.) access through Grater Woods.

Why are we here Today?

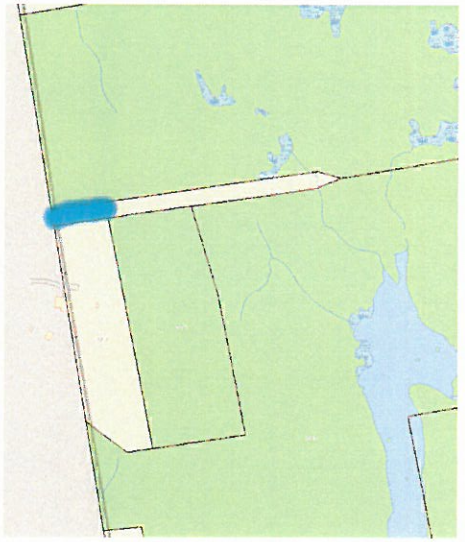
- The MCC asks the Town Council to declare a short portion of South Grater Road an Emergency Lane (details next).
- The MCC asks the Town Council to discontinue a portion of South Grater Road (details next).
- There is a legal process to follow including: notice to abutters, public hearing for both, and a vote of the the Town Council.
- MCC is here to ask the Town Council if it supports the actions and if it will follow the process outlined by our Attorney with the support of the MCC (costs born by the MCC).
- MCC is not asking for a final approval, but wants to be reasonably assured the Council supports this.

Grater Woods as of November 2015



Portion for an Emergency Lane

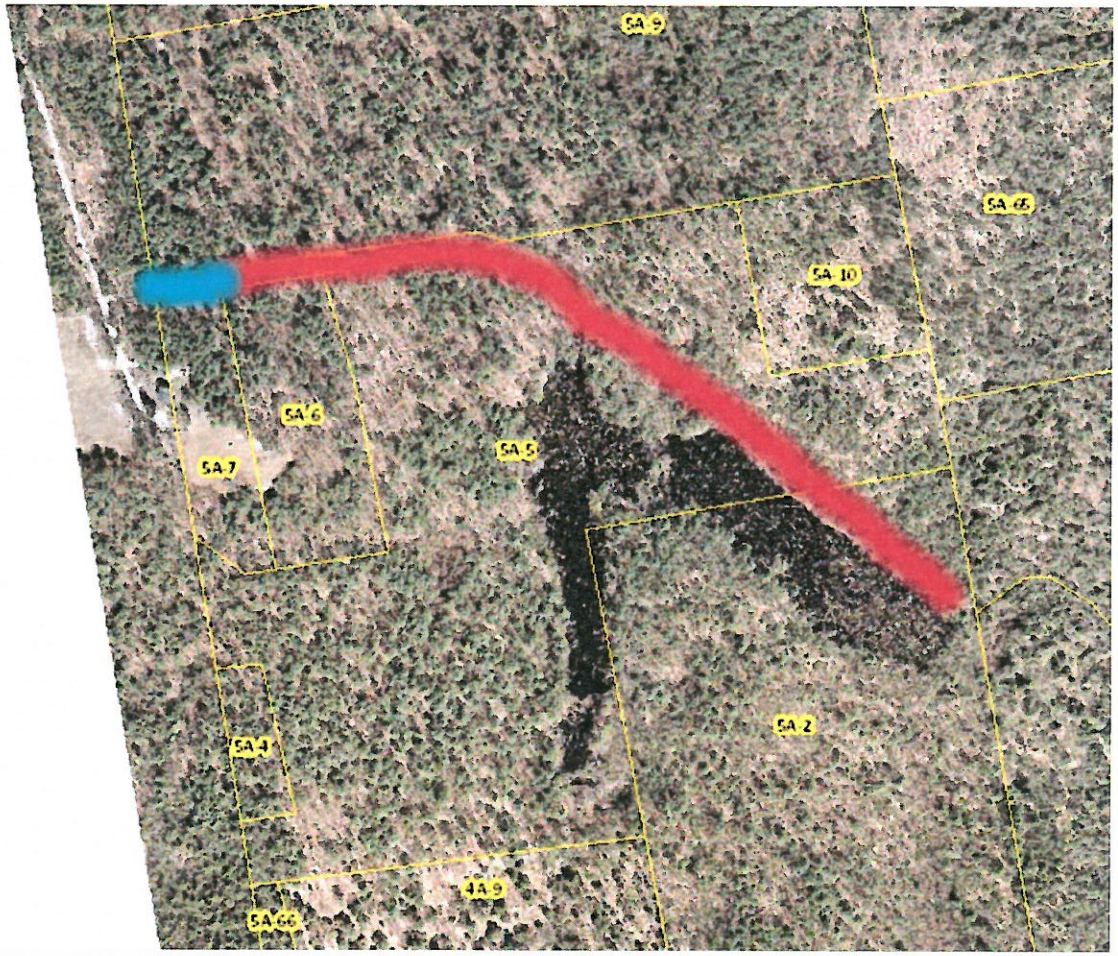
- Just the north end of South Grater Road starting from its intersection with Grater Road and stopping just past the Bender property line (shown in blue below).
- A locked gate to be placed at this ending point point (in the future).
- Why…to ensure the Town/MCC has the ability to do maintenance and ensure this portion of the road is able to support emergency/fire vehicles in case they are needed in Grater Woods.
- Approximately 700 feet.



Portion to be Discontinued

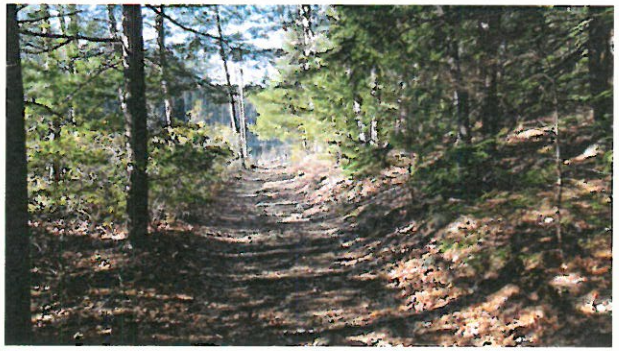
- Intent is to make this section (shown in red) no longer a road of any legal kind, it goes away, approximately 2200 feet.
- Roadway is evenly split between the owners of land on each side of the road. In this case, the Town of Merrimack and the MCC. No private landowners directly impacted.
- A locked gate to be placed at the southern end.
- Starts at the gate where the emergency lane ends.
- Next phase would be to create a new emergency woods road that takes the high ground and allows fire and emergency protection.
  - Future wetland mitigation project, with either ARM funds or NED wetland funds.

Combined in an aerial view…



Show other pictures showing conditions and end points or see next slide…

Questions????



In Closing…

- Commission is looking to see if the Town Council agrees this is an important thing to do and gives its general support to the idea.
- If yes…
  - Commission is asking the Town Council for the OK to proceed and allow the MCC to work with Town Staff to start the notification and public hearing process.
- If not…
  - Is there something you need to know more about?
- Thanks!