



Gilmanton Conservation Commission

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Gilmanton NH 03237-0550

Minutes of the Gilmanton Conservation Commission Site Walk and Special Meeting
Held Friday, 23 October 2009, 5:30 pm at Comeiro Property on Stage Rd.

Present: Paula Gilman, Sue Hale de Seve, Nanci Mitchell (Chair), Dick de Seve and Brenda Sens from the Conservation Commission.

Absent: Joe Derrick, Erin Hollingsworth, Lisa Robinson, Tracy Tarr.

Nanci Mitchell appointed Sue Hale de Seve to vote for Erin Hollingsworth

The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the wetland impact of the installation of a proposed 20' x 60" culvert to provide access to Gilmanton Tax Map/Lot 418/007 and for the relocation of the snowmobile trail from Gilman Road. Nanci explained that Gilman Road had been closed to the Gilmanton Snowmobile Association (GSA) when the Comeiros initially purchased their land but had been reopened in the last several years. The road would again be closed now that the Publicovers had built a home off of Gilman Road. It was not clear who decided to close Gilman Road to the GSA.

It was observed on the site walk that the proposed crossing would be very (4-5') close to Stage Road and that it would be only 200+ feet from Gilman Road. The applicant already has access to his land from Gilman Road, a discontinued road. The abutter, Charlie Publicover uses the initial part of this road for his driveway access to his new home.

It was observed on the site walk that the stream (a branch of Ayers Brook), had considerable flow, was very close to the road and had a deep channel greater than 3 feet but we did not measure this.

Nanci Mitchell explained that she had spoken with Paul Osborne, President of the GSA, and their main concern was finding an alternative way to get to Gilman Road for this winter. This is part of a State Snowmobile Corridor. He would be happy with the typical GSA bridge that does not impact the bank or the stream.

Nanci also spoke with the Road Agent, Paul Perkins, and he would be happy with either a bridge or culvert. He said that it would be very difficult for the wing of the snow plow to hit a bridge. Paul Perkins also said that he had never seen the culvert on Gilman Road on the same brook overtopped.

The Commission had the following concerns about the plan prepared by Deborah Hinds.

- The stream is shown as an intermittent stream. However, all USGS topos show it as a perennial stream. Members of the Commission had not seen it dry. In addition, life-long residents confirmed that the stream flowed year round.
- The spelling of the landowner should be corrected to Comeiro.
- The distance to abutting properties is not labeled.

Other questions included:

- Is embedding the culvert 6" adequate?
- Is the letter from NH Natural Heritage Bureau required?
- Should the application be accompanied by the Army Corps of Engineers Secondary Checklist?
- Is permission required from the Town because the stream crossing is so close to the paved portion of Stage Road?

Motion made by Dick de Seve that the Conservation Commission would not sign the Minimum Impact Expedited Wetland Application for the new culvert off of Stage Road on Gilmanton Tax Map/Lot 418/007 because of the concerns expressed above. The vote was unanimous. Nanci will contact the landowner and the GSA and draft a letter to be sent with the application to the Wetlands Bureau explaining why we did not sign it.

The meeting ended at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nanci Mitchell, Chair