Canterbury Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes – 2019-07-08

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Members Present: Tom Osmer (Chair), Steve Seron, Kelly Short, Linda Fife, Bob Fife, Ken Stern, Chris Blair

Members Absent: Bob Steenson, Teresa Wyman, Charlie Krautmann

The Chair opened the meeting at 7 PM

# Updates

Tom received a stewardship report from the Forest Society (Society for the Protection of NH Forests) for land easements they own in Canterbury. The Commission agreed it would be a good idea to issue reports for easements owned by Canterbury.

Kelly suggested that the Commission ask Chris Kane to develop a questionnaire that the Commission could send to the owners of land under easements owned by Canterbury in the years they are not scheduled for an on onsite compliance visit.

The Commission’s contract with Chris Kane to perform periodic easement compliance inspections is in its third and final year. Therefore, the Commission needs to either renew our contract with Chris or find a new company for this function.

**Kelly agreed to prepare a notice to be inserted into the file folders of land with conservation value at the Town Offices in the Sam Lake House**.

Tom received a call from Ellen McKay saying she would like to attend future CCC meetings**. Tom agreed to let her know that Canterbury Residents are welcome to attend our normal monthly meetings**.

Ken noted two issues that need to be addressed in the Canterbury Conservation Map. First, lot lines need to be visible in views that show land with high conservation value. Second, property identifiers need to be added to and visible in views showing easements owned by the Town. Both tasks are labor intensive, so the Commission agreed that the lot line issue would be addressed in a map update this year while the property identifier issue could be included in the 2020 map update.

# Sawyer’s Ferry Conservation Area Management Plan

Tom suggested the minor change of moving whole plant collection from section 2.A (Allowed…) to 2.B (Restricted without Written Permission…) and then moved the plan, as amended. Kelly 2nd. The plan, as amended, dated July 8, 2019, was approved unanimously.

The Commission discussed changing the name of the SFCA to honor Samuel Battis. All members agreed this idea had merit. However, since the Commission has referred to this area using the Sawyer’s Ferry name in all previous documents related to the SFCA, and at our last meeting where we discussed the plan with abutters and other residents, all members agreed postpone making a name change until the Commission does further research and gets public feedback.

The Commission discussed how the approved plan should be presented to the Canterbury Select Board. All members present agreed that a formal presentation was not needed because the plan had been discussed in many meetings over the past hear, in particular our last meeting, at which residents were invited to provide feedback. Therefore, **Tom said he would email a digital copy and hand-carry a printed copy to the Town Offices in the coming weeks**.

The Commission discussed how to respond to questions from residents who attended our last meeting regarding the section of Sawyer’s Ferry Road within the SFCA. Specifically, residents asked the Commission to confirm that this section had been discontinued by the Town and therefore was no longer open to the public. The Commission agreed that this question ultimately needs to be answered by the Select Board or other Town officials. However, the Commission decided it would perform further research and discuss this matter at future meetings, with the goal of providing the Town with any clarifying information that is discovered.

The Commission discussed what procedure should be used when it or the Select Board receives a use request related to the “restricted without written permission” activities in section 2.B of the SFCA Management Plan. The Commission agreed it would discuss this issue as it relates, in general, to any of the Town’s conservation areas at a future meeting and send its recommendations to the Select Board.

During its discussion about permitted and restricted uses of the SFCA, the Commission agreed to ask the Town Assessor if any of the properties abutting the SFCA had deeded access rights to the power line corridor that abuts the east end of the SFCA. **Tom will make this request.**

# Riverland Signs

The Commission reviewed a recent change to the Town’s Riverland Beach Regulation regarding Hours of Operation. It was noted that signs at the Riverland area have not yet been updated to reflect these changes. Ken said that the Select Board is working to fix this issue. **Kelly agreed to draft a Riverland Sign Update Plan, with text changes and possibly new sign locations**, to be reviewed and approved by the Commission at our next meeting, and then sent to the Select Board for consideration. The Commission agreed that all Riverland signs must be welcoming, simple but contain all essential information, and consistent with current regulations.

# Other Business

Lucas Gendron approached the Commission looking for ideas for his Eagle Scout Project, which he hopes to start this fall. Kelly suggested a project involving invasives control in the RSFCA or another Town conservation area. Ken felt that an Eagle Scout Project needs to have lasting impact, such as building a structure that could be enjoyed for years. Other ideas discussed included: an invasive species awareness campaign, a Kimball Pond interpretive trail, and repairing the canoe launch area on Interval Road. In addition, the several members suggested that Lucas should contact other groups in Canterbury including the Select Board, Historical Society, Cemetery Committee, and Shaker Village. **Tom agreed to relay these ideas to Lucas.**

The Belmont Planning Board contacted the Commission regarding a excavation project in Belmont that could impact ground water in Canterbury. If the Belmont PB determines that Canterbury has standing, the Commission will be given the chance to comment on this project at a future Belmont PB meeting.

The Commission agreed to hold our next meeting at the SFCA. **Tom will send out meeting time and place details.**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM.

# Actions:

## Tom

* Let Ellen McKay know she is welcome to attend CCC meetings.
* Send digital and printed copies of the SFCA Management Plan to the SB.
* Ask Town Assessor if any properties abutting SFCA have deeded access rights to the power line.
* Give Lucas Gendron our ideas for his Eagle Scout project.
* Send out email with time and meetup location for our next meeting at the SFCA.

## Kelly

* Prepare the notice to be inserted into the file folders of land with conservation value at the Town Offices in the Sam Lake House.
* Draft plan for Riverland signs.