CCC Minutes – 2020-01-13

Present: Tom Osmer (Chair), Ken Stern (Vice Chair), Steve Seron, Kelly Short, Linda Fife, Bob Fife, Teresa Wyman, Charlie Krautmann, Bob Steenson, Chris Blair

Absent: None

The Chair opened the meeting at about 7 PM.

# Project Updates

Tom: Received the 2019 easement monitoring reports from Chris Kane and paid him for this work.

Kelly: 2020 is the last year in our agreement with Chris K. The CCC should move up the due date for his 2020 easement monitoring report to Dec.15 (at the latest) so the CCC will have time to review the report and pay his invoice before the end of the year.

Kelly: Requested that the Town prepare a P.O. for Mark Padula for the RSFCA field causeway project.

Charlie: The CCC application for the causeway project has been submitted to New Hampshire DES Wetlands.

# Discontinued Roads

Tom: Had discussion with Ken Folsom regarding the concern that roads discontinued by vote at Town Meetings may still be class 6 roads (i.e. never actually discontinued) in cases where Town Officials did not subsequently submit certain data (forms) to the Superior Court.

Bob S.: Questioned the idea that the actions specified in articles voted on and passed at Town Meeting could be blocked by subsequent paperwork errors.

Bob S.: Will talk with Ken F. or the Select Board to set up a joint meeting of the SB, CCC, PB, and appropriate Town Department heads, to discuss this issue.

# Master Plan

Tom: Mike Tardiff from the Central NH Regional Planning Commission will attend the PB meeting tomorrow (Wed. Jan. 15) to discuss their participation in the upcoming Canterbury Town Master Plan rewrite project.

Tom and Bob S.: Will attend this PB meeting to hear Mike’s presentation.

# CCC Priorities for 2020

Tom: The CCC needs to establish its (conservation) priorities before it can decide which projects to pursue in 2020. Such priorities might include what types of land to protect and which Town policies/ordinances should be updated.

Kelly: To set its priorities, the CCC needs to have internal discussions and consult with experts. Some questions to consider. What are the Town’s key natural resources? Which Canterbury landscape components need to be conserved (e.g. drinking water, wildlife habitat)? The CCC can review inputs from the experts the CCC has already consulted, for example the Merrimack Conservation Partnership (MCP, comprised of experts from NH and MA) co-occurrence maps. Kelly will send CCC members a link to these maps. There is a need for a new map that overlays the MCP maps with CCC co-occurrence maps, and possibly Canterbury Town zoning maps.

Bob S.: Adding map layers showing Canterbury aquifer protection and workforce housing overlays would be useful.

Kelly: Adding Canterbury zone boundaries to CCC co-occurrence maps would be useful.

Tom: Hanging key CCC maps on the walls of the Meeting Room would be useful.

Kelly: Will talk with SB and Historic Society about moving some of their photos to other spaces.

Ken: The MCP map is simpler (less granular) than our maps and so may be easier for non-experts (i.e. most people) to understand.

Bob S.: Maps will help the CCC explain its positions regarding any proposed zoning changes, master plan updates, etc.

Ken S.: The CCC needs to learn more about what new residents think with regards to Canterbury zoning, character, conservation, development, etc., and incorporate their ideas into the new Master Plan.

Kelly: The CCC could ask the CNHRPC to implement the map changes discussed tonight.

Kelly: The CCC needs to establish its priorities before specific discussions/projects begin, for example: source water protection, drinking water protection, and wildlife habitat conservation.

Kelly: The Pembroke open space plan defines key elements for their “green infrastructure” in order to decide which lands should be conserved.

Ken: The Pembroke plan gives a conservation score to every parcel of land in their town (lots of work!).

Bob S.: The CCC needs to consider risk-of-development when deciding which parcels are most important to conserve.

Tom: Need to simplify our maps.

# Actions

Bob S. and Tom: Attend Jan. 15 PB meeting.

Bob S.: Ask Ken F. or SB to set up meeting regarding discontinued roads.

Kelly: Send CCC members a link to the MCP maps. Talk with SB and Historic Society about moving some of the photos now hanging in the Meeting House so the CCC can display key conservation maps.

The Chair closed the meeting at about 9 PM.