



Canterbury Conservation Commission

Canterbury, NH

DRAFT MINTUES of February 9, 2023

Present: Bob Fife, Audra Klumb, Steve Seron, Bob Steenson, Ken Stern, Kelly Short.

Absent: Teresa Wyman.

Guest: Rob Knight, Hopkinton and Concord Trails Committees

Kelly chaired the meeting. Kelly was in the meeting house with Bob Steenson and Audra Klumb. Everyone else attended by zoom.

1. Approval of minutes of the January 12, 2023 meeting.

Upon motion by Audra, seconded by Steve the minutes were approved as amended

2. Trails Committee

There has been discussion with the Commission as well as mention in the Master Plan about having a more organized effort to develop and maintain recreational trails in town. The CC invited Rob Knight to share some of his experience with us. Rob lives in Hopkinton and is on the trails committee and CC there. Rob also serves on the Concord Trails committee as does Audra.

In brief summary

- The Hopkinton trails committee grew organically out of an effort to build a trail in town. It serves under the CC.
- The Hopkinton Greenway trail has been a huge success.
- In Concord, the Swope and Winant loop trails are very popular, as are the connector trails between different areas.
- Never publicize a trail on private property without landowner permission.
- The Hopkinton Trails committee is less formal than the Concord Committee.
- The Concord committee has the benefit of City Staff and other resources. It is also a little more formal. The Concord trails have much more use than the Hopkinton trails.
- There can be issues with trails which warrants oversight to avoid conflicts. Some of these issues include; having too many trails, conflicts with wildlife habitats, impacts of heavy use, etc.
- Proper siting and construction of trails can avoid problems before they occur. There is value in soliciting advice from a professional before constructing a trail. Ron Klemarczyk is very good at this and serves this role for the City of Concord.
- Rob mentioned the value of having criteria for evaluating new trails and procedures for their establishment. He later emailed copies of these.
- Land owner permission was reviewed. There are two levels of agreement used. The least formal is a simple written agreement that the landowner can cancel with 30 days notice. Some of these agreements evolve into longer term permissions. There are a few permanent trail easements.

- Financial needs depend upon the level of improvement. Kiosks, boardwalks, trail head parking, signage and mapping can require funding. A trail head kiosk is often a good Eagle Scout project.
- There are many trail users. Some of them are compatible, others are not. Potential trail users include hikers, runners, mountain bikers, cross country skiers, snow mobilers, snow shoers. Equestrian usage can create conflicts and damage to trails.
- Most of the trails have volunteer trail stewards that check on them periodically and report needed maintenance.

There are many people interested in using trails. Having a broad array of volunteers is helpful. Keeping the effort organized but informal and fun was suggested.

Rob left the meeting at 7:30

The Commission discussed people in town who might be interested in participating.

3. Membership and terms.

Two members terms are expiring, Kelly Short and Bob Fife.

Kelly indicated she is willing to serve another term. Upon motion by Bob Steenson, seconded by Audra, the Commission voted to recommend to the Selectmen, Kelly's appointment to another term.

Bob Fife indicated that he will not be serving another term. He wants to remain informed of activities of the commission and participate in property management. Bob indicated that he joined the Commission in 1970 when it was first established.

The commission expressed their gratitude and appreciation for Bob's 52 years of service and for all the good work he has done through the years.

4. Permits.

There were no permit applications received this month.

5. Property Maintenance.

Kelly has not yet received any alternative bids for removing the boulders from the Riverland parking area.

6. Conservation property priority process discussion.

Kelly shared the list of potential natural resources professionals and others with deep knowledge of Canterbury's natural resources. A few more people were added to the list. An email will be sent soliciting their input sometime in next few weeks.

7. SPNHF Easement monitoring reports for 2022

Kelly reported that we received favorable comments from the Forest Society on the status of the town properties where they hold conservation easements.

8. Other Business.

85 There was brief discussion about information from the NHACC including the availability of a
86 manual for conservation commissions, HB 592 relative to wetland setbacks

87 Note: Bob Steenson will no longer be a selectman after town meeting. He will share his new
88 email address with us.

89 Kelly reported on new and improved map presentation of our natural resources by the Regional
90 Planning Commission. She then showed the new improved interactive mapping tool. We can
91 now toggle on and off the various data layers. She sent the link to commission members.

92
93 **9. Next meeting**

94 The next meeting will be March 9th. If the agenda is really light and there are no permit
95 requests, we may not hold the meeting.

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97 Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

98 Respectfully submitted by Ken Stern.