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Canterbury Conservation Commission

Canterbury, NH

DRAFT MINTUES of May 11, 2023

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6 **Present:** Ken Stern, Kelly Short, Audra Klumb, Lance Armstrong, Steve Seron (Zoom), Teresa Wyman

7 **Absent:** Bob Steenson.

8 **Guests:** None

9 Kelly chaired the meeting. Items were recorded in the order in which they were discussed.

10 Meeting called to order at 7 pm.

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12 **1. Approval of minutes of the April 13, 2023 meeting.**

13 Ken moved approval of the minutes of the April. 2023 meeting, seconded by Steve. There was some
14 discussion and minor corrections were made. The corrected minutes were approved unanimously.

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16 **2. Election of Officers**

17 Kelly reviewed the need to appoint officers annually, with the exception of the Chair who serves a two
18 year term. Ken is in the second year of his term. Kelly reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the open
19 positions. After some discussion about the position, Lance volunteered to serve as treasurer. Kelly
20 volunteered to serve as vice-chair. We agreed that the role of secretary would remain a rotating position
21 so that no one would be obligated to take the minutes at every meeting. Ken moved approval of the
22 slate of officers, Audra seconded. The slate of officers was approved unanimously.

23 **3. Master Plan – Natural Resources Chapter**

24 Kelly had distributed the May draft of the master plan which included most of our comments and
25 suggestions. Kelly then led a review and discussion of the current draft, including suggestions and
26 questions from the Planning Board posed at its May 8 meeting. Kelly will convey our next round of edits
27 to the Planning Board and Regional Planning Commission.

28

29 Kelly, do you want to preface the following with “Kelly met with the Selectmen and discussed”

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31 **4. Property Management**

32 Kelly reported that she attended the May 1 Select Board meeting to update them on the Deepwood
33 conservation project; request they approve access to a small parcel of town-owned land to allow
34 Eversource to avoid wetland impacts during its pole replacement project; explain plans to work on
35 controlling invasive species in the Riverland parking area; and to request their help in addressing tree
36 removal at the Kimball Pond/ FS Fife Conservation Area.

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38 **a. Riverland Conservation Area**

39 As a result of discussion with Selectmen, the town road Highway Dept. removed the boulders from the
40 Riverland parking area. Ken Stern visited the site and confirmed that the boulders were gone and
41 suggested a work day to cut back the vegetation. It was the consensus that we should try to cut back as
42 much as we can and create a large pile for the road crew to remove when they have the time. Kelly will
43 reach out to Doug Cygan and Chris Kane to review the next steps in invasive control at the site. We will

be meeting with the abutter soon. Many thanks were expressed for the timely work of the road crew and Road Agent John O'Connor.

b. Kimball Pond / RSF Conservation Area

The Martin family lives in the house on Kimball Pond Road which is surrounded on three sides by town-owned conservation land. Recently a very large pine on their property came down close to their house, which raised concerns about the very large pine trees growing out of the stone wall between their property and the town conservation area. Some of the trees lean towards their home. These trees are located along the lane leading from Kimball Pond Road to the interior of the conservation area. Kelly reported that the Selectmen agreed to cost share with the Martins for removal of the trees. Ken Folsom will contact the Martins to discuss follow-up.

5. Five Rivers Conservation Trust – Conservation Plan

Ken reported that Five Rivers is in the process of both updating its Strategic Plan and developing a Conservation Plan. They are reaching out to the towns they serve to solicit input on their interests. There will be a planning workshop on June 5th in Concord. Ken will be attending. Kelly may also attend. The Commission then completed the survey as a group which Ken later returned to Five Rivers.

6. Bowden Property 30 ac on Rte 106

Ken reported that we have been approached by Sandra Bowden who is settling her mother's estate. The estate owns a 30-acre property on the east side of Rte 106 which is surrounded by the speedway on the east and north and by a self storage building being constructed on the south. The property is level along the road and portions are wetlands. The property then rises steeply to the east towards the back of the property. The Commission decided to inform the Selectmen that we are not interested in owning the property as conservation area due to its location, size, isolation and the significant development surrounding it. Kelly will discuss this with the selectmen.

7. Name of the brook between Shaker Road and Baptist Hill Road.

In the process of reviewing the list of water resources for the master plan, it was noted that the drainage between Shaker Road and Baptist Hill Road does not appear to have a name. It flows through a large Shaker Meadow. It was speculated that this might be part of Peverly Brook as it drains into Peverly Meadow. Members will ask around to see if anyone had more information on this.

8. Saving Special Places Conference. Steve reported on the workshops he attended.

10. Permits – There were no permit requests at this time.

11. Other Business

-- **Agriculture:** Kelly reported that she met with Mark Stevens, chair of the Agriculture Commission, to discuss areas of overlap between the two commissions' interests. The two commissions are eager to work together to achieve their shared goals.

-- **Easement Monitoring:** The current contract for easement monitoring expires this year. As the commission has been very happy with the work of the current contractor, Chris Kane, Kelly will ask Chris to submit a proposal to renew his contract.

Next meeting

91 The next meeting will be May June 8, 2023
92
93 **Meeting adjourned at 9:00.**
94 Respectfully submitted by Ken Stern and Kelly Short.