

**Canterbury Conservation Commission**  
**DRAFT MINUTES 10-12-2023**

**Present:** Kelly Short, Ken Stern, Steve Seron; Audra Klumb, Lance Messenger, Bob Steenson, Teresa Wyman.

Additional Attendees: Mike Frary -Wetlands permit applicant

Meeting opened at 7 pm.

1. **Approval of September Minutes** — Steve motion to approve as amended by Kelly prior to the meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob. Motion passed unanimously

2. **Wetlands Application – Expedited Minimum Impact wetland application for Map 264/Lot 35 on Pickard Road**

Audra recused herself as she was representing the applicant

In brief summary, Mike Frary owns property on Picard Road. He has owned it for many years. Two lots were previously developed for houses along Pickard Road with a strip of land providing access to the remainder of the property. Much of the road frontage for the property includes a portion of the large Burnham Brook wetland at the corner of New Road and Pickard Road. The best point of access is along the route that already serves as a driveway for the abutter and then extends through the woods to the remainder of the parcel. This route crosses a section of shrub wetland.

Audra explained how this is the least impacting alternative to developing access to the property, affecting about 350 square feet of wetland. The crossing was designed according to best management practices and will include an 18-inch culvert. The area being crossed is not a flowing stream but rather a seasonally wet low area.

After brief discussion Bob moved and Ken seconded a motion stating that “The Canterbury CC waives our right to intervene in the permit application.” The motion carried unanimously. Ken Stern signed the permit application indicating our decision to waive further intervention.

Audra returned to the meeting as a member

3. **Conservation Easement Monitoring**

Kelly reported the unfortunate and unexpected passing of Chris Kane. Chris performed easement monitoring for the Town, under contract, for many years.

Norman Spicher worked with Chris on monitoring our easements as is familiar with the properties. He performed the field work with Chris who then produced the maps and final reports.

Norm offered his services to help us complete our easement monitoring this year. He will get some help from Jeff Littleton of Moosewood Environmental to produce the maps. We will provide Chris's prior reports as templates.

Norm offered to work for \$35/hour plus expenses. The commission felt this was a reasonable price and was pleased Norm stepped forward to help us. Kelly will check with Ken Folsom to set up Norm to complete the work contracted to Chris.

Ken offered to monitor two of the town held conservation easements, Dubois and Thunberg. Ken will also monitor the Messer easement with Norm.

Kelly offered to convert Chris's PDF reports into word format so they could be revised for this monitoring round.

Ken solicited input from the land conservation list serve and received several emails of interest including Emily Landry (who performs easement monitoring as her profession). Kelly and Ken will keep a list of other potential easement monitors. Ellen Snyder from the seacoast does this work. Kelly has asked Mark Stevens if he has any interest in monitoring.

4. **Master Plan** – Kelly and Ken reported on two of the three listening sessions that have been held by the Planning Board in cooperation with the Regional Planning Commission. At the last CCC meeting there was not enough time to review comments on the land use chapter, but Kelly reported that the draft included most of the changes previously suggested by the CCC. Kelly submitted further suggestions on the current draft as an individual.
5. **Budget** – The CCC reviewed the prior year budget and proposed increasing the land management line to \$6,300 and the easement monitoring line to \$3,000 in 2024 due to rising costs. Upon motion by Bob, second by Audra, a motion to approve the budget as proposed passed unanimously. Kelly and Lance will work on preparing this for submission to the Selectmen.

- A. **Related:** Bob mentioned that the budget in Town Report for 2023 should show the revenue offset from the Land Use Change Tax fund for the one time cost of \$36,943 for land conservation.

## 6. **Property Management**

### A. **Riverland**

- i. Ken is to contact Doug Cygan to see if he completed treatment of the invasives.
- ii. We discussed the potential to mow the parking area and path to the beach and additional time or two to suppress the invasives. Ken is to contact Chris Aiken.
- iii. A morning walk was scheduled for Tue., October 17 at 8:30 to review the current conditions to inform further decisions.

77 **B. Robert S. Fife Conservation Area**

- 78 i. Ken will also ask Chris to complete mowing the northern half of  
79 the RSFCA prior to November 18<sup>th</sup>.  
80 ii. Lance cleared the rangeway path after the big pines were cut;  
81 iii. We agreed to have Chris mow along the entire perimeter of the  
82 field annually.  
83 iv. Work session required to prune along the stone wall and the rock  
84 piles was scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.

- 85  
86 7. **Deepwood Forest Conservation Area** – Ken reported that delays in the survey have  
87 postponed the closing for the conservation easement. He offered to conduct a  
88 guided walk on the property. Saturday Oct. 21 was agreed upon. (note, due to rain  
89 on that date, the walk did not occur)  
90

91 **8. Other Business**

- 92 A. Kelly reported contacting Five Rivers Conservation Trust about pursuing  
93 conservation of the Meadowsend parcel abutting Shaker Village. Five  
94 Rivers is very supportive of the project but referred us to the Forest  
95 Society as likely being better able to take on the project.

- 96  
97 9. **Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn at 8:25pm. All in favor.**  
98

99 Minutes by Ken Stern