



Canterbury Conservation Commission

Canterbury, NH

DRAFT MINUTES

December 14, 2023

Present: Kelly Short, Audra Klumb, Teresa Wyman, Lance Messinger.

Attending by Zoom: Ken Stern

Absent: Steve Seron, Bob Steenson

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Minor edits were made. Upon motion by Audra, seconded by Lance, the revised minutes of the November 9th meeting were approved.

2. Conservation Projects

a. Deepwood Forest – Ken reported that the signing of the conservation easement deed is scheduled for January 4th. The Forest Society will be issuing a press release so we can expect some publicity in the Concord Monitor. Ken suggested a small note in the town wide email would be a good idea once the easement is signed. Also, it may be appropriate to put a story in the town newsletter in February. Ken suggested planning a tour of the property for the town sometime after mud season. Details to be figured out later.

b. Meadowsend Property – Ken reported that he had spoken with Brian Hotz of the Forest Society and that their Board of Trustees has approved moving forward with this project. The Town's participation was a significant element in the decision. The Forest Society will be applying to LCHIP for grant funds next year.

3. **Conservation Easement Monitoring:** Kelly led a discussion about finding a contractor to monitor the town held conservation easements next year. Our prior contractor, Chris Kane, passed away. Kelly will be working on developing a request for proposals (RFP). She will be talking with the selectmen about contracting provisions. We already have expressions of interest from several people. She anticipates sending the RFP out early next year. Audra suggested including the NH Association of Natural Resources Scientists in the mailing. Ken suggested including the NH Land Trust Coalition. Kelly will also ask LCHIP if they have any suggestions.

a. We need to submit our 2023 monitoring reports to the State. Kelly will forward the reports we received from Norm Spicher.

4. Property Management:

a. Riverland, invasive control – Kelly reported that she had been to the property with Chris Aiken and he has now completed mowing of the field, in addition to the parking area and walking path. We will need to decide how often and to what extent we will have Chris mow next year. There were some areas he could not get to because of obstacles. Kelly suggested a work day (or two) to remove these obstacles. Timing will be tricky. Open ground is best. Late January was suggested. It would be good to have more help. One suggestion is to reach out to the group of volunteers organized by the UNH Cooperative Extension, Nature Groupies. Ken will reach out to Emma Tutein of Extension to get more information on this.

- b. Riverland, hunting – One of our neighbors, David Day, reported a conflict with hunters on the town owned land. Our sign indicates no hunting but the property is not officially posted. Legal posting requires a sign mounted every 50 feet around the entire perimeter.
- The commission discussed the several issues related to this. Whether it is appropriate for this property to be open to hunting and if not how do we best accomplish notifying hunters.
- It was agreed that posting signs every 50 feet around the perimeter would be a major challenge and expense. In the alternative, we could place a few signs at the parking area discouraging hunting and directing hunters to other more suitable locations. The Muchedo Banks conservation area owned by NH Fish and Game is very near by. Kelly will reach out to some local hunters for suggestions.
- This will be discussed further at our next meeting.
- c. Riverland, signage – The commission agreed to make improved signage a priority. Ken offered to lead a sub committee with Lance and Laura to design, create and install one or more kiosks at the Riverland. It was suggested that a small kiosk by the gate with simple welcoming messages and a full size kiosk at the parking area with guidance on everything from swimming safety and ticks to property restrictions would be a good approach. Ken will reach out to other organizations for guidance. Once we have something in mind, we will get broader input from the full commission and then the Selectmen and public safety officials. This may be a good Eagle Scout project.
- d. Kimball Pond, beavers The beavers have occupied a new territory. Their new dam is in the area of the path from Kimball Pond Road west towards the old orchard and snowmobile trail. They have built a substantial structure and flooded a significant portion of former shrub wetland. They have also possibly flooded a portion of the Martin's property. After discussing our options, it was agreed that their activity is consistent with the conservation goals of the property and that attempting to control or remove them would be a major undertaking which would have questionable success. Access to the back of the property can be gained either from crossing the dam at Kimball Pond or crossing through the field of the RSFCA. We decided that it is best to leave them alone.

5. Permits

- a. DES Wetlands notice that they are working on an old permit issue with Mark Bond 245 Battis Crossing Road
- b. DES Wetlands notice of a minimum impact forestry permit issued to Tim and Jill Meeh 341 Shaker Road
- c. DES Wetlands notice of a request for more information from Michael Frary for work off Pickard Road. (this permit was subsequently granted)

6. Other Business

- a. Our annual report for the town report is in preparation. Ken reviewed past minutes and provided bullet points to Kelly who will write the report
- b. The fence at the entrance to the Mucheydo Conservation area is in disrepair. Ken will draft a letter to the owners, the regional solid waste district, informing them of this and requesting their assistance.
- c. The beaver dam on Spender Meadow blew out causing erosion downstream and lowering the water level. Lance will be contacting the landowners about restoration work. (see more below)

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97 **7. Trail Committee**

98 Lance reported on a call he received from Dave Emerson about a trail erosion problem just
99 below Spender Meadow. Ken had also spoken with Dave about it. This led to a broader
100 discussion about the creation of a group to help maintain the trails in town. Dave Emerson
101 has been very active in exploring, maintaining and writing about the trails in town for many
102 years. He is involved with a trail maintenance group in Loudon and thought we should have
103 one here. The CCC has talked about this for years. There was discussion about the workload,
104 time demands, potential costs, landowner relations and communicating with both the CCC
105 and Selectmen. It was agreed that now is the time to move this forward.

106 Lance agreed to be the leader of this committee. The interim title (suggested by Dave) is
107 the Friends of Canterbury Trails Committee.
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110 8. Adjourned: 8:30

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112 Respectfully submitted by Ken Stern