

Canterbury Conservation Commission
MINUTES May 8, 2017

Present: Kelly Short, chair; Tom Osmer, vice chair; Jon Nute, treasurer; Bob Fife, Steve Seron, Linda Fife, Charlie Krautmann, , Chris Blair, Ken Stern

Absent: Bob Steenson, Faith Berry, Teresa Wyman

Permits – None received.

Appointments: The Selectmen have the appointments from the April meeting in their possession. We are unsure if they have been acted on yet. Once paperwork is done, people will get sworn in.

Moffett easement: Howard Moffett has resumed working with Five Rivers Conservation Trust. Ken Stern just came from a Five Rivers meeting, the project is moving forward. Chris Blair will follow up with Beth about the indemnification claus. We will still provide the \$5,000 that was previously committed toward the project for the stewardship fee.

Morrill Road lot: There were two lots for sale at the corner of Kimball Pond and Morrill Road. The larger of the two lots sold. There is a snowmobile trail that comes through the lots and goes all the way up to Welch Road. Ken wondered if the town would have an interest in buying the remaining lot to protect the trail and to fix the intersection. Ken felt this lot, which is only an acre, is at the entrance to the town and the prospect of putting a house on it could have a negative effect on the approach to town. If a house went up, it would also cut off the trail. The intersection is notoriously dangerous. His hope was the town would buy it for the sake of road improvements. He also thought it would be nice to offer conservation funds to the town for its purchase. Kelly asked the CC's opinion about contributing to the purchase of this lot. The general feeling was we should look into with Ken Folsom and check on the sold lot. Chris will pursue it with Ken Folsom and report back to the CC. He will also ask Mandy Irving if she knows who bought the larger lot and if there was any discussion about leaving the trail open. Bob Fife will check with the Snow Shakers. They will report back by email within 2 weeks.

Riverland: The old nature walk boardwalk no longer leads anywhere. The CC agreed the best way forward is to remove the bridges and boardwalks. Methods of removing the boardwalk and the amount of manual labor needed were discussed. Kelly suggested a subcommittee of Nute, Bob, Ken, and Charlie to go over to assess the situation and decide how many people/trucks will be needed. Kelly will talk to Ken Folsom to let him know what we're doing and ask what we should do with the disposal, and whether a Town truck would be available to help remove the debris.

Boundary Marking Project: Tom suggested we get out and mark the boundaries of town owned property and town easement property. Members discussed how much

could be done with unallocated budget of approximately \$500. Chris felt November would be a good time to do the actual work after leaves fell and ticks weren't as much of a problem. Members discussed order of priorities. The purpose of marking is to delineate public vs. private property. Kelly will ask Mark Stevens if he's available to do the work at Misery Road.

Land Management Planning: The CC continued its ongoing discussion about how to best manage town-owned conservation properties, including methods for ensuring that they stay in conservation and how to pay for the cost of land management including possible timber harvests. The CC would like to ensure that any harvesting is done within a long term forest management plan that also considers other uses, such as recreational trails and other recreational ideas.

Members discussed possibilities such as adding conservation easements as was done on the Fife Conservation Area; creating or adding to the Town Forest; asking the Board of Selectmen to officially delegate management of the properties to the CC; or donating parcels to a conservation organization. Tom read the RSA relating to Town Forests. Income from Town Forests goes to a designated fund, which can be used to manage other town properties. Nute said timber harvests vary but can raise about \$1,500 per acre, which must cover costs.

Kelly gave an overview and discussed different layers of protection with various approaches to the timber harvest and what a "special forest maintenance fund" is. Nute said the benefit of Town Forests is that net income can be used to manage other town conservation properties as well. By designating certain properties to Town Forest, we are taking good care of that parcel, and creating a source of revenue to fund the land management. Tom pointed out that we could also put a conservation easement on the property, though there are expenses for doing that. Members discussed the differences between an easement and a Town Forest.

Ken wondered if we decide to do a town forest, whether we do it one property at a time, or for example, research 12 properties and decide which ones designate as Town Forest. Nute didn't feel an urgency for this and Chris suggested putting it on the 2018 agenda. Members discussed the pros and cons of doing the project in 2017 or 2018.

Kelly felt it would be about a six-month project to work with the BOS and gain public support.

Related to timing, members discussed whether to wait until Chris Kane has completed preliminary resource inventories as planned for the Hannah Moore lot and the Town Forest on Briar Bush. It was mentioned that Chris Kane has a lot on his plate with a short outdoor season. We may not see reports until November. It could be tight to put something together for 2018 Town Meeting. Kelly asked if it was a consensus that we would work toward a warrant in 2018 to add parcels to Town Forest. Chris Blair raised concerns about the work load of projects already

underway. After discussion it was decided that Chris and Kelly will make a schedule of ongoing projects so the CC could decide how and when to proceed.

April Minutes: Tom moved acceptance of the April Minutes, seconded by Steve Seron. Discussion: None. Vote: Unanimous. April Minutes were approved.

Other: -

- Tom suggested we have a table at the Canterbury Fair, which would cost \$35.00. We could give out seedlings, or make birdhouses, and have general conversations with people about land management. Kelly felt it was a good idea. The Fair is the last Saturday of July. Kelly asked how many people could commit to helping that day. Chris and Tom said yes. Kelly would be able to as well. We will discuss this again in June.
- Bob informed members that bird houses are in the field at the Fife Conservation Area and one has a nest. He has mixed feelings about not mowing at all. Kelly said by the time we get to mowing this fall, we'll have a plan about how to manage that field.
- Tom and Bob will get together to work on the sign for Kimball Pond Conservation area.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next meeting: June 12, 2017

Submitted by Lori Gabriella

Administrative Assistant to Conservation Commission