**Canterbury Conservation Commission**Meeting Minutes – October 28, 2019

CCC Minutes - 2019-10-28 - v3 - draft .docx

Present: Tom Osmer (Chair), Steve Seron, Kelly Short, Linda Fife, Bob Fife, Chris Blair, Teresa Wyman, Charlie Krautmann, Bob Steenson.

Absent: Ken Stern (Vice Chair)

# Meeting Minutes

Kelly moved the minutes from our September meeting. Teresa noted that she (Teresa) and Charlie were present at the September meeting. All approved the September minutes with the updated present list.

# Mail and Project Updates

## Mail

Tom: No mail this month.

## RSFCA Field

Tom: The planned 2019 RSFCA field mowing was done by Chris Aiken. Tom suggested there is a need to cut at least some of the smaller trees in or abutting the RSFCA wet areas.

Kelly: Plan a workday to cut small trees, saplings, and bittersweet. The project was scheduled for 10 am on Sunday Nov. 17th. It is expected to take about 2 or 3 hours.

Charlie: Talked with DHS. CCC will need to get a trail notification permit, not a wetlands permit. Estimated cost for the causeway improvement project is $5,000 based on a quote from John Carr that includes geotextile material for the base, ¾ inch rock for the surface, and Carr’s labor. Charlie will submit the permit request.

Bob F.: Water runoff from the intersection of Morrill and Kimball Pond Roads has created a ravine in the RSFCA field. Bob F. asked if the CCC should fill in the ravine with erosion-resistant material such as “rip rap” rock. He noted that fixing the ravine would make mowing easier. The CCC took no decisions regarding this issue.

## Riverland

Tom: Ken, along with members of the Canterbury Highway Department and neighbors, will meet in November to decide how the Riverland Conservation Area path (from parking lot to beach) should be maintained, in particular which areas should be mowed and by whom. The Town may take on part of this responsibility.

Tom: A Riverland neighbor has placed a remote camera in the parking lot and has a photo of someone with a shotgun walking by. This neighbor was concerned about the use of firearms in Riverland. Tom does not know what the Riverland easement says about hunting. He will check with the easement owner (Forest Society). The CCC and Town will then have to decide if the Town has a requirement or option to restrict hunting at Riverland. The CCC decided not to take any decisions about this issue until Tom determines whether the easement contains any language regarding hunting.

## Property Alert Sheets in Town Office Files

Kelly: Property alerts (sheets). Kelly presented drafts of these sheets to the CCC. Yellow Sheets will say This Property has High Conservation Value. Please contact CCC if certain things (listed) may happen, including sale of the property and forest harvesting. Pink Sheets will say This Property has a Conservation Easement. Please read the easement and note any use restrictions. Each sheet will have its tax map and lot numbers. Kelly asked members to send her any suggested changes and will provide updated drafts to Mandy Irving at the Town Offices along with instructions for how they should be used.

## Redesign of the Conservation Commission Webpage

Kelly: CCC page on website. Kelly presented a plan and new design for posting key CCC documents and text information on the Conservation Commission page on the Town website. The CCC discussed ways to organize the web page so that it is clear where to find information about recreation and other public uses of Town owned land.

Charlie: Suggested adding “resource links” for example to provide information about controlling invasives.

Kelly: Suggested adding a page that explains how to conserve land, for example with easements. Kelly will talk with the Town Office staff to see what changes the CCC will be allowed to make to the CCC webpage.

# Town of Canterbury Roads Advisory Board

Tom: The Town is creating a Roads Advisory Board to help the Select and Planning Boards decide how to regulate building projects on Class 6 roads. One issue the Town is facing is knowing which Class 6 roads have been discontinued. Meeting minutes from Town Meetings often do not make this clear. Deciding what uses are allowed on Class 6 roads is important to the Town because it owns several properties that are on or contain class 6 roads. One question is whether home businesses with traffic impact are allowed on Class 6 roads. It is the understanding of the CCC that the current Town policy is to make the property owners who border Class 6 roads responsible for their maintenance. It was noted that other NH towns are required to take over roads created in new subdivisions as long as they meet the town’s requirements. Class 6 roads are owned by the Town. The CCC will ask for a seat on the Roads Advisory Board in order to advocate the value of maintaining unfragmented, undeveloped land. Bob S. will ask Ken Folsom if he (Bob S.) can be on the Roads Advisory Board.

Kelly: Zoning changes should not be the sole responsibility of the Planning Board.

Bob S.: The basis for all Town zoning is its Master Plan.

Tom/Chris: We need to work closely with the Planning Board on the next edition of the Town Master Plan and zoning ordinance changes.

# CCC 2020 Budget

Kelly: Presented draft 2020 budget. The CCC needs to make a list of specific land management projects with estimated costs. Kelly will make this list. Kelly also suggested that the CCC move Cushman Elm costs to the budget of a more appropriate department.

It was suggested that the CCC talk with the Town Highway Department to see what part of the RSFCA causeway improvement project they could perform to reduce cost.

Tom: Moved the CCC 2020 budget of $ 10,020. All approved.

Kelly: Will forward the updated proposed budget to all members and send to the Select Board.

# Other Business

Tom: Town-owned land use permission requests. We’ll be on the list of Town groups that will be given the opportunity to make recommendations and other comments on land use requests before they reach the Select Board.

Tom: The Planning Board is working on an obnoxious use ordinance.

Tom: Presented Sawyer’s Ferry Property Management Plan to the Select Board, which was impressed by the plan and accepted it with no changes.

The CCC cancelled its November meeting, which would have fallen on Veteran’s Day. Instead it will participate in the RSFCA work project noted above. The next CCC meeting will occur at 7 PM on December 9th.

# Actions

Tom: Review the Riverland easement to determine if it contains any requirements regarding hunting.

Kelly: Add land management project lines to the 2020 budget. Talk with Town office staff to see what types of changes can be made to the Conservation Commission webpage, and what functions (uploading documents, editing page text, etc.) CCC members can do directly, and which will have to be done by making requests to Town staff.

Bob S.: Try to get appointed to the Roads Advisory Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.