**Canterbury Conservation Commission**Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2020

CCC Minutes - 2020-06-08 - Draft - v3.docx

Present at Meeting House: Tom Osmer (Chair), Steve Seron

Present by Phone: Kelly Short, Teresa Wyman, Ken Stern, Chris Blair

Absent: Linda Fife, Bob Fife, Bob Steenson, Charlie Krautmann

The Chair opened the meeting at about 8 PM.

# Approval of May Meeting Minutes

No changes were proposed. Kelly moved the minutes. All approved.

# Project Updates

## Wetlands Permits

Tom: No permits in mailbox.

## Hancock Road Building Permit

Tom: No decision has been reached by the Town regarding the Hancock Road building permit request.

## Glines Property Conservation Easement

Tom: The Glines property conservation easement project is moving forward. Five Rivers Council will not expect the Town to pay its portion of the easement cost until after the project is completed.

# Sawyer’s Ferry Timber Harvest

Tom: Ron Klemarczyk says this fall would be a good time to do a pine timber harvest on the Town’s Sawyer’s Ferry property. Commission members agreed that this project, if approved, should include needed boundary surveying and remarking.

Kelly noted that the town has designs for metal boundary marking “ID tags.” Ken thinks that boundary markings should include a combination of blazes, painted marks, and ID tags.

Ken asked if new signs are needed at the Sawyer’s Ferry property. The Commission agreed that a simple sign naming and describing the Sawyer’s Ferry property should be installed at the property’s existing parking area.

The Commission further agreed that net project proceeds, that is timber harvest revenue minus project costs, including those related to surveying, boundary marking, new signs, and harvesting, will go into the Canterbury General Fund.

Ken confirmed that Ron would be paid from harvest proceeds and therefore would not require payment in advance.

Tom moved approval of the Sawyer’s Ferry Timber Harvest project, as described in the Sawyer’s Ferry Forest Management Plan, with all work to be performed by Ron Klemarczyk. All approved.

Tom will send a memo to the Select Board describing and recommending the project.

# Town-Owned Building Lot on Snowshoe Hill Rd.

Message from Ken Folsom in Town Email dated June 9, 2020: *The Selectmen have received an offer to purchase town owned property on Snowshoe Hill Rd. Map 203 Lot 5. The Selectmen will discuss this at the next regular meeting on June 15, 2020.*

Tom: The Select Board has asked the Commission for its recommendations regarding this offer.

Tom: Only way into this property is over two Class 6 roads, or via Hancock Rd.

Ken: Properties with high conservation value and not well-served by roads, in general, make good conservation acquisitions.

Tom: Kelly has asked the Commission to prepare a conservation strategy. Other lots in the area are for sale, so we need a strategy for the Show Shoe Rd area at least.

Ken recommended conserving reasonably priced “back land” and not trying to conserve highly priced land on Rt. 106.

Teresa added that “commercial areas” near Rt. 106 could bring in tax revenue for the Town.

Tom will send a memo to the Select Board recommending that the Show Shoe Hill Rd. lot not be sold because of its high conservation value. Tom will also get a list of residents who own lots near Snowshoe Hill Rd to let them know the Town is interesting in buying properties in this area for conservation purposes.

# Other Business

## Riverland Issues

Kelly wrote a notice for the Town Newsletter thanking the Highway Department for the grass-cutting and other maintenance work they did at Riverland.

Ken noted that the Select Board has not (to date) closed the Riverland area as a COVID-19 precaution.

The Commission then discussed the issue of parking near Riverland.

Ken: The Town wants two parking spaces on Riverland Rd, across from the entrance to the Riverland parking area, to be available for visitor parking when the parking lot is closed. However, to ensure emergency vehicle access, the Police and Fire Departments do not want these two spaces to be used when the lot is open. Existing signs near the parking lot entrance do not make it clear when the two road-side parking spaces are (and are not) available for use.

Kelly: One option to consider is moving the parking lot gate so that two year-round spaces can be located on the parking lot entrance road.

Bob Steenson (who attended the last few minutes of the meeting) said that the Select Board feels that closing the parking lot causes problems.

Tom explained that flooding risk is one reason to close the lot during the winter.

The Commission agreed to continue working with the Select Board and Police Department to resolve Riverland parking issues, including how to make parking rules and signs clearer.

Ken moved to close the meeting. All agreed.

The Chair closed the meeting at about 8:30 PM.

# Action Items

Tom:

* Memo to the Select Board describing and recommending the Sawyer’s Ferry property timber harvest project.
* Memo to the Select Board regarding the conservation value of the Snowshoe Hill Rd. building lot.