**Canterbury Conservation Commission**Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2020

Draft

Members Present at Sam Lake House Conference Room: Steve Seron

Members Present by Phone or Zoom: Kelly Short (moderator), Ken Stern (acting chair), Teresa Wyman

Members Absent: Bob Steenson, Linda Fife, Chris Blair

Guests: Ashley Ruprecht, Sara Riordan

Kelly opened the meeting at about 7 pm.

# Meeting Minutes

Changes proposed by Ken and Kelly were accepted. Ken moved to approve, Steve seconded. All approved.

# Items in need of action or discussion

## Easement Monitoring Contract with Chris Kane

Chris Kane submitted a final version of the contract with corrections to include final amount of $6540 for the three-year contract period. Ken moved and Steven seconded the motion to submit the contract to the Selectmen for approval. All approved. Kelly will take the contract to the Selectmen.

# Budget Review

Kelly reviewed the budget. There were no expenses this year for Professional Services. After the mowing of RSFCA and the causeway project there is ~$500 left in Land Management line. There is a total balance left of $2280 at this time. Ken asked if we could encumber the balance. Kelly explained that encumbering funds without a specific purpose is generally not acceptable. Kelly suggested breaking out the usual $1500 in Professional Services into $1000 for Professional Services and $500 for Administrative Support in order to indicate our intent to pay for some admin support, possibly hiring whomever is hired to do minutes etc. for Planning Board.

Ashley reminded the group that there was discussion at the last meeting about paying for a kiosk sign at Riverland. Kelly suggested asking for an increase in the Land Management line from $4200 to $5000 with the intent of paying for a kiosk sign at Riverland. Ken moved to request the draft budget and Steven seconded the motion. All approved requesting increase in the budget to total of $10,540 for 2021.

# Updates of ongoing activities

## Sawyer’s Ferry Timber Harvest

The boundary research continues. Ken provided a recent letter from Ron Klemarczyk by email. In summary, the town acquired the land via a tax deed. Somewhere along the line the boundary changed so there are different versions of the boundary. Ron followed the start and stop with a difference of ~500ft. Ron determined that there was one bearing that was altered. If he corrected it based on the proprietor’s lines he is within 50ft. Ron suggests a conservative approach, doing the timber harvest and staying back at least 50ft from the boundary. It is a good year to do a harvest due to dryness and a mast year for pine cones/seeds. The alternative would be to wait and hire a surveyor, which would include negotiations with the abutters. Kelly suggests taking the careful approach and doing the timber cut a conservative distance from the boundary in order to take advantage of this optimal seed year for a timber harvest. If we do the cut this year it needs to happen soon so that the ground isn’t frozen yet and the seeds are able to embed in the disturbed soil. Kelly proposes that she inform the Selectmen via email of the situation and then she will attend their meeting next week if timing works for BOS. It is important determine if the town has a policy about who deals with boundary issues prior to moving forward.

Kelly proposes recommending to the Selectmen that we proceed with a contract to do a timber harvest and request that the Forester be conservative in determining the extent of the harvest in order to not encroach on the abutter’s property.

## RSFCA Tree and Brush Removal Project

Kelly, Ashley, Teresa, Ken, Bob and Tom Osmer attended the work day on October 3. They took out some of the poplars in the middle of the field, pulled bittersweet out of trees on the west side of the field, and worked on cleaning up around the stone wall along Kimball Pond Rd.

Kelly suggested that we keep working on the stone wall along Kimball Pond Rd to maintain the view. Kelly suggests using clippers and cutting anything smaller than “your wrist”. Kelly suggests Bob would like to keep juniper and sumac in field but removing it from the stone wall could make a nice difference in maintaining the view. Ken commended Ashley and Kelly for their hard work on the large group of poplars. Kelly said there are piles of brush and as we add to them we should ask volunteers with pick-up trucks to haul brush to the dump.

# Other Business

## NHACC Annual Meeting

The NH Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting will be remote this year on Saturday November 7, <http://www.nhacc.org/annualmeeting50/> . The cost is $35 for members. Our CC will reimburse anyone on the committee who attends. Ashley will be attending through her work. If anyone wants reimbursement they should sent their receipt to Kelly.

## CCC Document Access

Kelly sent out links to many of the CCC documents. If anyone has trouble accessing the Dropbox contact Kelly.

## Budget Question

If there is a balance left in the budget we have three options. We can let it go, use it for a project before year end, or encumber it if we have a contract to do specific work. Kelly suggests waiting until she attends the Selectmen’s meeting next week where she will let them know we have a balance in the Professional Services line that could be put toward the expense of a surveyor and possible legal costs to resolve the boundary line issue for the Sawyer’s Ferry lot.

## Boundary Signs

Kelly suggested paying Chris Kane to put up Conservation Easement Boundary signs on the properties that he is monitoring since he already knows the boundaries. We could pay him for this extra work out of the Professional Services line next year. Kelly suggested prioritizing properties and starting with Riverland since this is a high use area. Ken stated that we should talk to the land owners before putting up signs in case the easement does not have sign posting as a right.

## Winter Plans

Ken confirmed that he will remain Chair of the Commission with help from Kelly as he will attend by ZOOM from Florida this winter. Teresa will continue to check the mailbox and email.

Ken suggested that we consider an outing this winter such as a snowshoe hike on one of the properties.

Next meeting will be Monday November 9, 2020 at 7 pm, by Zoom, phone or in person at Meeting House.

Ken moved to adjourn the meeting and Kelly seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

# Action Items

Kelly will send an email to Selectmen regarding the boundary issue on the Sawyer property.

Kelly will attend the Selectmen’s meeting next week to follow-up on the Sawyer timber harvest and request approval of the contract for Chris Kane’s continued work.

Kelly will submit the CCC’s budget request of $10,540 to the town.

We will all continue to work on the RSFCA clean up as able, focusing on the stone wall along Kimball Pond Rd and hauling brush to the dump with volunteers.