

1 **Canterbury Conservation Commission MINUTES January 2017**

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3 **Present:** Kelly Short, chair; Tom Osmer, vice chair; Jon Nute, treasurer; Bob Fife, Linda Fife,  
4 Steve Seron, Chris Blair, Charlie Krautmann, Teresa Wyman

5 **Absent:** Jen Taylor, Ken Stern, Bob Steenson, Faith Berry

6 **Selectman:** Art Hudson (for first item only)  
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8

9 **1. Selectmen's update**

10 a. Kelly presented the CC maps to the BOS and explained the values mapped as  
11 well as how the co-occurrence map was created. The selectmen appreciated  
12 the maps and the work that went into them.

13 b. Selectman Art Hudson explained that board's decision not to include \$10,000  
14 allocation to Conservation Capital Reserve fund was due solely to competing  
15 priorities and trying to balance against some expensive budget items for the  
16 year.  
17

18 **2. No permits received.**  
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20 **3. Easement monitoring – options for properties not visited annually**

21 After reviewing options previously discussed, the Commission decided that for  
22 properties not visited annually, it will send a 1-pg survey annually and look at the  
23 property via online aerial photography such as Google or GRANIT.  
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25 **4. Land management - next steps for Misery, Rocky Pond, Sawyer's Ferry and**  
26 **Schoodac properties.**

27 Tom will draft land management plan based on priorities for review.

28 a. Overall high priority: mark all the boundaries.

29 b. Schoodac: goals: Wildlife habitat, recreation, forestry.

30 Tom suggests Town Forest at minimum; another option is to transfer to 3<sup>rd</sup>  
31 party for permanent protection (e.g., NHF&G); one of most valuable  
32 conservation properties. Strong support for next layer of conservation.  
33 Conservation method is less critical.

34 c. Rocky Pond: goals-natural communities, recreation and forestry.

35 With timber management opportunity, important to consider how  
36 management and conservation designation will affect management.

37 Possibilities: Town Forest, ease property and keep it, or ease it and sell it (to  
38 any owner). If the latter, mandate FMP and public access. Interest in both sell  
39 and ease; Town Forest.

40 d. Sawyer's Ferry: goals: wildlife habitat, recreation and forestry (wildlife  
41 management means active management of property, as opposed to natural  
42 communities meaning let it evolve).

43 Needs active management. Potential to use net income from harvesting (2  
44 parts, in alternating 20-year rotations) for ongoing management (this  
45 property and elsewhere).

46 e. Misery: goals: natural communities, wildlife habitat, recreation.

47 Property is wet and not suited to large development, but could be developed

somewhat. Has largest black gum specimens of 18-20" (local knowledge); good intact swamp community. Sphagnum moss bogs, rose begonia. Possibilities: write management plan, mark boundaries, and take no further immediate action; or include as a tract of Town Forest.

## 5. **Natural resource assessments**

Tom reported that Chris Kane responded to our request for cost to do mini bio assessment (brief report and general guidance for management) on 3 properties:

- a. Briar Bush Rd/Town Forest - \$300 20 ac.
- b. Hannah Moore lot - \$350 – 25 ac.

He also provided cost for complete NRI on Kimball Pond/RS Fife property at \$1,400. Tom will request price for mini assessment; CCC will discuss in Feb.

Jon Nute moved we hire Chris Kane to do the mini assessments for Town Forest on Briar Bush Rd and Hannah Moore lot. Steve Seron seconded. No further discussion. Vote: All in favor.

For Kimball/Fife property, members discussed whether better to do mini assessment or proceed with hiring forester to update/revise/combine current management plans into a single comprehensive plan for area. Tom Osmer repeated his preference for developing a relationship with a single forester to work with town on all property management rather than hiring each individually.

## 1. **Sign maintenance for Kimball Pond**

Bob Fife and Tom will assess whether to refinish or replace sign. Possibly duplicate and replace over the summer. Deal with Riverland signage as well. Members will consider whether to standardize signage on conservation properties and consider which materials are best.

## 6. **Trail clearing for Schoodac area**

Charlie Krautmann has been working clearing downed trees from the trails. He says some parts are easier to get to on skis or snowshoes than when the ground is bare.

Schoodac Trail is in good shape. Spender Meadow and Big Tree loop need work.

Charlie will try to flag these trails in the next couple of weeks so we can plan some work days and invite volunteers.

Kelly reported that Ken Fulsom and Josh Gordon had both expressed interest in these trails.

## 7. **December 2016 Minutes.**

Linda moved acceptance of the Dec. 2016 minutes; Tom seconded. No corrections or discussion. Vote: All in favor.

Submitted by Kelly Short