

# DRAFT

## CANTERBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 10, 2022, Meeting House, 7 pm and by remote zoom participation

**Members Present:** Kelly Short (Moderator), Bob Steenson (BOS rep)

**Members attending remotely:** Ken Stern (Chair), Sara Riordan, Teresa Wyman, Bob and Linda Fife, Steve Seron,

**Guests:** Audra Klumb

### 1. Approve prior meeting Minutes

Ken moved to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2022 meeting and Linda seconded. There being no discussion members voted and the motion carried.

Note: Lois Scribner has been doing part-time administrative work for the Planning Board and Conservation Commission. She will continue to help with some tasks but will not be able to continue to attend meetings and take minutes. Sara will take minutes as Secretary going forward.

### 2. Membership and Welcome New Members

Members introduced themselves to Audra. Kelly reviewed current terms and expirations. Linda, Ken, and Teresa's terms expire in March. Ken will continue on the Commission; Linda will be leaving the Commission at the end of this term. Teresa wants to remain as a member but prefers to serve as an alternate. Audra has agreed to become a member. Sara moved that the Conservation Commission recommend the Select Board appoint Audra Klumb as a voting member. Kelly seconded. All approved. Kelly will notify the Select Board in order to start the approval process.

### 3. Conservation property priority process discussion

Kelly summarized the work of the Commission during recent years including establishing and reviewing priorities, work with Central NH Regional Planning Commission to create resource maps, and the creation of a Co-Occurance Map. A survey was created in the past year and the Commission members have been

asked to allocate points to priority areas. The results of this survey will be given to the Regional Planning Commission to create another map which should help us focus on important areas as opportunities arise.

Kelly shared the results of the two sections of the survey. One section includes items that are objective and currently mapped. By mapping these items with their scores we can see where priorities overlap. This may highlight areas of higher importance due to overlapping values/scores. The second survey section includes items that are more subjective and not mapped. Ken commented that the format of the survey is excellent and should help us see where we should put more emphasis on certain resources over others.

To gain wide input into the process of identifying priorities, the Commission will also survey natural resource professionals in town and invite the broader community as well, with notices through social media, town newsletter, notices at the store, etc.

Teresa suggested having a date to meet in person for input from those who don't use computers and who might want to contribute in person.

Kelly will approach the Regional Planning Commission about using the survey data for a new map. Kelly will share the spreadsheet with Conservation Commission members via email.

Bob S. pointed out that the functionality of these maps is very helpful to the Selectmen and Planning Board in addressing development issues.

#### 4. Master Plan Discussion

Kelly provided the group with an updated draft of Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 on the Master Plan through email this week. Kelly made very few changes to our edits of last month to Chapter 5. She made significant edits to the format of Chapter 6 to improve flow and organization. She wrote a new introduction to explain all the work the Commission has done over the last 15 years. Kelly would like to make it clear in the introduction that the Open Space Plan, which is more dynamic than the Master Plan, should be used to help focus on priorities.

### Review of Chapter 6:

Kelly asked for comments on each section of Chapter 6 as they were reviewed. She reformatted the Chapter as follows:

- Introduction
- Goals and Objectives (items we can *do*)
- Recommendations by category
- Two tables of Maps

Edits were suggested by members to the following sections:

#### ***Introduction:***

Ken will provide Kelly with the # of acres for the conserved properties in town.

#### ***Section I. Canterbury's Natural Resources:***

Will add text re: awareness that PFAS is an environmental hazard that may need to be dealt with in the future. Kelly suggested adding : "The Town should remain diligent in staying up to date on emerging environmental hazards." to cover issues that could arise in the future.

Kelly suggested that as we continue to review the document we make sure that climate resilience is sufficiently addressed.

#### ***Long Range Goals:***

1. Bob S.- commented that goal #1 addresses people, plants, wildlife which are 'things'. Should climate resilience be a separate goal? Kelly will write some text to make this a separate goal which we can edit in the next version.

#### ***Recommended Actions:***

3. Re: encouraging good stewardship.

Several members suggested changing the wording to emphasize providing information for landowners re: good stewardship since many long-term landowners already practice good stewardship.

11. Re: subdivision regulations

Bob S. noted that there needs to be an update to the town's Conservation subdivision language. He pointed out that the current regulation is too difficult to adhere to and this needs to be updated to make cluster development more realistic.

12. Re: abating sources of groundwater pollution

Bob S. pointed out that the town doesn't actually regulate sanitation or petroleum storage. Kelly will reword this item to emphasize that the town should work to minimize these hazards to groundwater through site planning.

**Next Steps:**

Kelly would like to keep all of the changes recommended in Chapter 5 visible in tracked changes since this chapter overlaps significantly with the Planning Board. Kelly suggests Chapter 6 is specific to the Conservation Commission so this draft will be presented as a clean copy. Ken suggests adding "Version 2022" to Chapter 6. Kelly will send out updated edited versions for review before our next meeting.

5. Property Management Projects for the Coming Year

Ken reviewed the 3 major projects for the coming year:

**1. Removal of the deteriorating boardwalk at the Riverland Conservation Area.** Bob S has asked the Police Chief if prisoners at the County House of Corrections could do the work. The Chief is bringing it up with Supervisors of the County House of Corrections. Bob will follow up to see if they have had a response.

**2. Removal of rocks from the Robert S. Fife Conservation Area.** Ken will look for a contractor willing to do the work. Bob F. suggested checking with the town highway department. Kelly mentioned that the highway department is currently short staffed so might not have time. She suggests looking for a contractor. Ken suggests making one rock pile in a corner of the property. Kelly suggested offering the rocks to anyone who might want them for landscaping purposes since leaving them on the property tends to

encourage invasive growth. Bob S knows of someone who might be interested.

3. **Signs at Riverland.** The area needs more consistent signage regarding rules, hours open, and a map of the area.

#### 6. Other Business

- A. Steve noted that HB307 was mentioned in the NHACC newsletter as a significant concern. The bill would prohibit local governments from banning shooting on public land. NHACC is not in favor of the bill. Bob S. stated that the Selectmen have already given their objection to this through the Municipal Committee. Kelly suggests that if the bill seems to have momentum the Conservation Commission may consider expressing official objection to it.
- B. A landowner on Harmony Lane would like to sell a parcel that is on a private road as a house lot. The owner is listing it as a buildable lot and has requested a road waiver from the Selectmen. The Planning Board has concluded that the area is steep, rocky and unsuitable for improvement, and recommended that the Select Board not grant the waiver. Kelly pointed out on the map that the Town has acquired several lots in the area which abut this property, and that the CCC has determined that this is an important Conservation area which should not be developed. This undeveloped area helps protect the water quality of Rocky Pond.

Ken moved that the CC send a letter to the Select Board stating opposition to the request for road waiver on Mountain road. Steve seconded. The motions passed with Bob S. abstaining from the vote. Ken will write the letter to the Select Board.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06pm; **Next meeting March 10.**

#### **To Do List:**

Kelly:

- Notify the Select Board that the Commission would like to start the approval process to add Audra as a member.
- Send survey results to the Regional Planning Commission for creating a new map
- Send survey results to CC members
- Send updated edits of Chapter 5 and 6 to members for review before next meeting

Ken:

- Letter to Select Board opposing road waiver
- Find number of acres under conservation and send to Kelly for Master Plan

Bob S.:

- Follow up with the Police Chief regarding his contact with the Supervisors of the County House of Corrections and possibly having prisoners help with Riverland cleanup.
- Check with contact re: whether they are interest in the rocks from the RSFCA.