

Canterbury Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes April 12, 2021
Via Zoom

Present:

Kelly Short (Moderator), Ken Stern (Chair), Steve Seron, Ashley Ruprecht, Teresa Wyman, Sara Riordan.
Lois Scribner (secretary)

Present on the phone:
Bob and Linda Fife

Kelly opened the meeting a little after 7pm.

Agenda:

1. Previous Minutes

The Minutes of March 8 were reviewed. Steve moved and Ken seconded. Linda Fife wanted to add at 3-2 'due to the pandemic'. Hearing no further corrections, all voted aye.

2. Items to review or discuss

· Sawyers Ferry Clean up

Diane Clough is willing to organize the event but is concerned about the cost of taking tires to the Dump. Ken suggested approaching the selectmen to accept them without a bill or bill the CCC for that. **Kelly will ask the Select Board about that. Someone should talk to the staff at the Dump too.**

· Hayward Brook culvert replacement

Ken's view was that this is a very worthwhile project. It is by the Morrill Mill Pond Fish and Game area. There are a couple of culverts that flood in

41 times of high water. It is laudable that the town is replacing this crossing. It
42 is a major stream and needs a bridge so this is the right thing to do.

43 Ashley believed that one copy of the report had to be retained on file for 7
44 years. She wondered if the town clerk was keeping a copy on file. **Kelly**
45 **said she would check with Sam Papps to see if he or Mandy keep**
46 **applications on file, or if we need to.**

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48 · [Planning Board wetlands setback and impervious surfaces](#)
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51 Greg Meeh has been elected to the Planning Board and told Kelly that one
52 thing they will work on is wetlands ordinances. The Board is inviting the
53 CCC to be part of this. Kelly offered that the CCC could provide information
54 about best practices. The Planning Board can see what other towns have
55 for ordinances.

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57 Ken elaborated on his own history with this issue going back to 2004 when
58 he was on the Planning Board. There had been research done on wetland
59 setbacks and a public meeting was held. Some residents were opposed
60 about how the ordinance might impact their own properties because there
61 are many wetlands, vernal pools and small streams in Canterbury. The
62 project was put on hold at that time. This would require a vote of Town
63 Meeting. **Ken agreed to share the material he had from that earlier**
64 **work with Greg Meeh for the Planning Board.**

65
66 Ashley spoke of her experience with wetland setbacks in Laconia and
67 research into other towns. Concord, for example, has a 50 foot wetland
68 buffer for wetlands over 3000 square feet. Ashley also explained that there
69 may be a larger setback for vernal pools than for wetlands in general
70 because of the sensitivity of the species who rely on the pools, such as
71 spotted salamanders and wood frogs.

72
73 **Ashley was willing to attend Planning Board meetings at a later date**
74 **to share in discussions about wetland setbacks. And Greg Meeh or**
75 **other Planning Board members could be invited to attend CCC**
76 **meetings.**

77
78 Kelly suggested the best approach when proposing new ordinances is to
79 provide plenty of public information, including public meetings where
80 proposals can be explained and questions can be answered. Having 2 or 3

of those meetings would facilitate people participating in the vote because they would feel informed. Possibly by August the two committees might have some information ready to share.

· [Conservation property priority process](#)

The first member survey had been a test and will be repeated. Kelly suggested that with the next survey members should look through all the criteria before filling it in, so they can think about relative importance of the different criteria. In the next survey, members will be asked what combination of multiple-value maps they want to include in their rankings. Possibilities include the NH Wildlife Action Plan, the CCC co-occurrence map and the Merrimack Conservation Plan. Some felt that there should be thought given to Canterbury specific values such as farmland and scenic views (Kelly confirmed that agriculture is already included and scenic views will be added). There was discussion about having historical value as one of the criteria as there is an Historic District Commission.

The Commission discussed their ranking system.

For the second round Kelly will put the collective mapping exercises in one section and the second part will be ranking individual items. **She would try to do that this week and then send it out in time for members to give feedback to the next meeting.**

· [CCC membership and officers](#)

Steve Seron had reached out to someone a second time with no response. Kelly again invited members to indicate if they were interested in serving in any officer's position. With no additional names offered, Ken made the motion for a slate that includes Ken Stern as chair (with ongoing assistance from Kelly); Sarah as secretary; Kelly as treasurer. Steve seconded. There was no discussion. All were in favor. The motion carried. The Vice chair position remains open.

· [Intent to cut filings](#)

There was one large filing for a 400-acre parcel off Bean Hill Road. Linda asked about the location and cost of the sale. Ken had suggested to Mandy that she should share this project with the Road agent, and the Police

department as there would be a lot of trucks. It might impact Shaker Village too.

- [Rock Removal in Robert S. Filfe Conservation Area](#)

Jim Lilly has said he was still interested in the rock removal project. Ken will follow up with him.

- [Conservation proposal](#)

Kelly reminded members of the proposal from a resident for a potential conservation project. Members discussed their interest in the project and ways to achieve conservation goals on a relatively small parcel

Related, Kelly suggested the CCC might consider designating a small portion of the LUCT funds for wildlife habitat conservation projects and look for matching funds to create a greater pool of resources.

Linda suggested it would be helpful to know what the landowner is proposing. **Kelly said she would circle back to see if he wanted to make a proposal and to discuss methods.**

- [Glines project](#)

The project is still on hold due to a drainage issue. The cows have to be kept out of the drainage.

- [Other business](#)

Bob Fife shared he had put the bird boxes back up in the RS Fife Conservation Area. He had not seen any activity there yet. Kelly thanked Bob for doing that.

Linda said she had spoken to Mark Stevens who had spoken to Harry Sargeant and he had no idea about the historical significance of the rocks in the field. They were also trying to get in touch with some other long time residents.

Ken had attended a couple of sessions of a virtual Saving Special Places conference but there was nothing specific to report. Kelly confirmed that

161 members could attend either Saving Special Places or the NH
162 Conservation Commission annual meeting and the CCC would pay their
163 fee, and then invite them to share information with members.

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165 Ken made motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm. All were in favor.

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167 Next meeting: May 10, 7 pm.

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169 Respectfully submitted,

170 Lois Scribner.