

1 Final Minutes

2 CANTERBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

3 December 13, 2021, Meeting House, 7 pm

4 Members Present

5 Kelly Short (Moderator) and Lois Scribner (for minutes)

6 Members absent

7 Bob and Linda Fife

8 Members attending remotely

9 Steve Seron, Bob Steenson (BOS rep), Ken Stern, Sara Riordan, Teresa Wyman

10 Agenda

11 1. Approve prior meeting Minutes.

12 Kelly Short opened the meeting around 7.20 pm following technical difficulties
13 with GoToMeeting. Ken Stern moved the November minutes and Sara Riordan
14 seconded. There being no discussion, all members voted aye to accept the
15 Minutes of November 8, 2021. Bob Steenson abstained because he was absent
16 that evening.

17 2. Master Plan Discussions

18 Master Plan and CCC priorities

19 Kelly invited Ken to introduce and give an overview. This evening's discussion was
20 for major ideas rather than wordsmithing the whole document.

21 Ken thought the Master Plan was in pretty good shape. He had read Chapters 5
22 and 6. They have accomplished a lot, some things have been done and he had
23 added some notes in the text relevant to updates that will be needed and new
24 initiatives such as broadband access and the changing nature of agricultural
25 activities in town. Everyone should read all through these two chapters. They
26 should also look at the Objectives and Recommended Actions. He hoped that the
27 Planning Board could accept more information from the Conservation

28 Commission. What role should the CCC have in ensuring the Planning Board is
29 appropriately informed?

30 There was some discussion about how agricultural lands are identified (by soil not
31 zones) and the definitions of what is agriculture. Does forestry count as
32 agriculture?

33 With regard to the separation of Agricultural and Conservation zones, Bob
34 suggested one solution might be to say that the Conservation district would be
35 based on its ecological nature and the agriculture zone would be seen as a land
36 use rather than a zone in its own right. Ken said that was a creative solution.
37 Agriculture is a land use that is scattered everywhere so the Table of Uses would
38 be amended to allow agriculture. Would the Planning Board like this idea as well?

39 The issue of harvesting forests, town forests and funds going to Conservation
40 from forest land sales was discussed. There was some editing needed of that
41 section.

42 Members went through the list of Objectives and discussed possible updates and
43 alterations. Kelly kept notes about specific tasks for each of these sections.

44 Ken asked if anyone had any particular thoughts. Bob commented that the focus
45 is generally on the ground rather than the sky. Should there be protection (Dark
46 Sky Protection) for the night sky? Currently there is no ordinance in town
47 regarding light pollution and the BOS often must adjudicate about light as a
48 nuisance. Members agreed that this was something to support.

49 Ken raised issue of how to avoid hard rock mining. It could be listed as a goal and
50 the state RSAs examined. Mining rights are governed by RSA 155E.

51 Ken is planning to go through Chapters 5 and 6 one more time and do some more
52 editing. Sara has agreed to help edit too. By next month they might have a version
53 including the updated sections.

54 Kelly suggested they could work on the editing as a shared Google Doc. Each
55 person could add comments and respond to questions. Sara was available to
56 coach anyone having difficulty with the technology. There is no need to add
57 anything if members agree with statements, but more that they should note
58 disagreements or questions.

It was also agreed that Climate Resilience should be included somewhere in the Master Plan. It is a relatively new concept but will grow in importance. It would need to be defined, climate resilient landscapes explained, action plans identified, and arguments made for the reduction in the use of fossil fuels for greater ecological health. Support for alternative energy could be added to the Master Plan as well. Perhaps these contemporary concerns should go in the section on 'New Challenges and Concerns'.

Members were also asked to consider the maps and corrections needed to update those. The issue of public water supplies might need checking with the Regional Planning office.

The issue of potentially advocating for a Trails Committee was raised again. It is not something that the CCC can take on but would like to encourage folks in town who use trails to take responsibility for. The question of what to recommend for protecting Class 6 roads as places for recreation was also discussed.

Ken asked that members do this work before January 1, so that comments on the Google document and maps is done in good time for the next meeting on January 10, 2022. Sara would undertake the cleanup of the shared document for that meeting. Overall, the CCC is looking to give direction to the Planning Board or Select Board and if actions are written in specific language, it may be more effective than language that is vague or permissive.

Kelly will get the Google document online so they can all read and respond. Bob asked that additions be in blue and strike outs in red.

3. Items to Review or Discuss

- a) Conservation Property Priority Process

Kelly is still working on that with Emily Preston. She will send everyone an Excel sheet. Steve has a Mac so Kelly will figure out how he can open it.

Related to this was the work with the CNHRPC maps which are now in the library **so members can go to the desk and ask for the Conservation Maps, take them into a Conference room and mark up legibly with sticky notes or markers in the margins.** It would be helpful if that is done before the January meeting too. Or the maps are online. **Kelly will send that link will be sent out again.**

90 • b) Easement monitoring 2021 review

91 Chris Kane finished easement reports. It was suggested the CCC might visit the
92 land David Day has down by the river. Chris Kane might need assistance in
93 contacting new landowners because he does not always have updated contact
94 information if the land has changed hands. Ken will work with Mandy to update
95 that information.

96 The files need cleaning out and Sara as secretary has offered to do this.

97 4. Other Business

98 (i) Ken reported that the Glines project has almost been completed. A
99 major part of the work is done so Five Rivers had said they should
100 go ahead with the payment.

101 (ii) Bob mentioned that River Dave had returned to the land he had
102 been on.

103 • Adjournment

104 Kelly moved to adjourn at 8.40. All members were in favor.

105 Respectfully submitted, Lois Scribner.