

1 Draft Minutes

2 CANTERBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

3 July 12, 2021

4 Meeting House, 7 pm

5 Members Present

6 Bob Steenson, Linda Fife, Bob Fife, Ashley Ruprecht, Steve Seron, Sara Riordan  
7 Kelly Short (Moderator), Ken Stern (Chair)

8 Agenda

9 1. Approve prior meeting Minutes.

10 Ken Stern moved to accept the Minutes of the June 14 meeting. Steve seconded.  
11 Linda Fife requested that Robert Fife be listed as absent that evening. All in favor  
12 so the Minutes were approved.

13 2. Items to review or discuss.

14  
15 • Conservation property priority process

16 Although one survey was still missing Kelly had crunched numbers and prepared  
17 an initial handout with a bar graph based on the CCC members' preferences for  
18 the 18 different categories used for evaluating conservation property in town.

19 Members discussed the handouts and the relative value of the 3 maps that had  
20 been used for the data. Kelly had not yet discussed the methodology for scoring  
21 conservation priorities with Emily Preston but intends to raise the issue of the  
22 maps and the potential for data to be covered twice.

23 At the end of discussion, **it was decided that Kelly will 1) check in with Emily**  
24 **Preston and 2) also with a friend who is a data expert and 3) call the Regional**  
25 **Planning Office (NHCRPC) to request they assist by making a test map using the**  
26 **data as it is currently.**

27                   • [Eversource tree clearing along power line.](#)

28  
29 Ken reported having walked with Eversource utility staff at the Sawyer's Ferry  
30 Forest. Eversource has asked to take down about 45 white pine trees that could  
31 fall on the wires. The trees left log lengths for the CCC to take away. There is a  
32 preference for maintaining "a hardwood buffer along power lines". Ken was  
33 seeking CCC agreement to this proposal. It was thought this was a remote part of  
34 town and not an overly aggressive proposal.

35  
36 **Bob Steenson made a motion to approve the Eversource tree cutting plan as**  
37 **discussed. Kelly seconded. Ashley Ruprecht recused herself. All members voting**  
38 **were in favor.** The motion was closed. Ken will let Eversource know.

39  
40                   • [Permits – wetlands permit/ intent to cut forms](#)

41           (i) Minimum Impact Wetlands Permit

42           The Wetlands Permit for the Stackhouse property on Rt 132 had been received  
43           by the Town from the DES. It included a request to put a driveway in with a  
44           culvert. It was expedited for the CCC to sign off. Members discussed the  
45           proposal. It was regarded as fairly small (300 sq. ft wetland) and benign given  
46           its location. **Members were in favor of the Chair signing the application form.**  
47           **Lois will deliver that to Sam Papps, Town Clerk.**

48           (ii) Intent to cut

49           Ken mentioned that Faith Berry filed an intent to cut for a skid road between  
50           Clough Tavern and Old Tilton Road and her property.

51                   • [Potential Conservation Proposal](#)

52           Kelly had talked to the property owner and let him know the CCC could not make  
53           it a fair financial deal for the property. It is likely the second lot will be sold.

54                   • [Planning Board wetland setbacks and impervious surfaces](#)  
55                   [update](#)

Bob Steenson will attend the Planning Board tomorrow night in place of Cheryl Gordon. He has talked with Kent Ruesswick, Chair. Kelly reminded members they had discussed the possibility of a stream buffer at the last meeting.

Ashley commented that delineation would still be needed, lines would have to be drawn, but overall streams and ponds might be easier to advocate for and for people to understand. Both were important ecologically. New Hampshire does not have the buffer zones that Massachusetts has to protect drinking water and wildlife. It was acknowledged that enforcement is an obstacle with the town only having a part time Building Inspector. It was also suggested that the Planning Board should research policies and solutions in other small towns in the state where there are similarly no full-time staff and inspection officers.

- Glines Conservation Easement – pending

Ken updated members on the project. Progress had been made with the conservation easement with Five Rivers. It would cover 37 of the 60 acres. On the remaining 20 acres there could be one house built. Although the zone was not commercial, events such as weddings were to be allowed at Sloping Acres Farm.

The cost of the project had risen over the years. The CCC had originally approved up to \$19,000 towards costs about 5 years ago and now it would cost more. The Glines and Five Rivers hoped to close in August.

Members recalled that the original vote was specific, allocating \$19,000 towards particular costs of the conservation stewardship. A check had been cut for \$12,500 and kept safe.

There was discussion about how best to deal with the changed costs. Members decided that a new vote was needed to show that they were supporting the project differently.

**Kelly then made a motion to vacate the original authorization of funds for the Glines project. Steve Seron seconded. All were in favor, there was no discussion and that motion carried.**

**Ken then moved that the CCC appropriate \$19,000 from the Land Use Change Fund to go to Five Rivers Conservation Trust to cover transaction costs for the conservation of the Glines Farm. Steve seconded and that new motion was**

open for discussion. Members leaned towards maintaining the same amount, \$19,000. Ken noted that a private fundraising effort in Canterbury had raised \$8,500 towards the project. **Kelly requested members vote and all were in favor of keeping the CCC contribution to \$19,000.**

**Ken will write to Five Rivers to confirm the contribution. Kelly will see the Town Accountant to have another check cut.** Ken shared that the drainage issue involving the cows will be remediated.

- **Other business**

(i) Bob Fife spoke about the 'beaver deceiver' dam at Kimball Pond. The dykes need mowing.

(ii) At the Robert S Fife Conservation Area the field needs mowing again following the other half being mowed last year. Kelly checked with members regarding the mowing – there is no need to seek any fresh bids for the work. **Ken will check in with Chris Aiken about mowing again this year. Bob also offered to eradicate Loose Strife round town if any should be seen. He hoped to cut the saplings along Kimball Pond Road too.**

(iii) Ashley is attending the AGM of the NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists later this week at Canterbury Shaker Village. **She will report back to members.** She is training to be a certified wetlands scientist. Ashley also shared that she had seen the new swimming life savers down at Riverland beach. And trash. It was suggested she obtain some of the blue bags from the Transfer Station that can be used for roadside trash disposal. The town beaches cannot be limited to Canterbury residents only, these are public beaches according to the Booth deeds and it would be impractical to enforce.

(iv) **Kelly will check in with Chris Kane, who monitors easements.** His report will need to be submitted before December so that the CCC can pay him.

(v) August meeting? **Members were in favor of forgoing the August meeting so long as the work with the Regional Planning office can continue. Also, Lois will check the mail at the Town Office.**

Bob Steenson moved to the meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm. All were in favor.

**The next meeting will be MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, at 7 pm, MEETING HOUSE.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois Scribner.