

1 Canterbury Conservation Commission

2 Canterbury, NH

3 Draft Minutes of April 11, 2024

4 Present: Kelly Short, Bob Steenson, Steve Seron, Lance Messinger and Ken Stern. Beth Blair joined as the
5 Select Board's representative.

6 Absent: Audra Klumb, Teresa Wyman

7 Kelly chaired the meeting and it was called to order at 7:00 PM.

8 1. **Approval of March 21, 2024 Minutes-** Draft minutes were circulated by email. Audra had a few
9 grammatical changes that Kelly will include. Upon motion by Steve, seconded by Lance, the
10 minutes were approved as amended.

11 2. **Role of Selectman's representative.** There was discussion as to whether Beth was a voting
12 member and, if not, whether she could also serve as an alternate member. This was unresolved
13 but we assumed she could not vote as the Commission already has 7 voting members.

14 **3. Conservation Projects:**

15 a. **Deepwood Forest Tour-** Kelly will be posting notices in the town newsletter and town email
16 about the upcoming property tour on May 4, 2024. Ken reported that the plan is to have
17 three options, one would be a 20 minute walk to the meadow and back which all guests
18 would participate in. A one hour walk would go to the beaver pond which Ken and Ilene will
19 lead. A two hour walk will go around the northwest loop trail and Sylvia Bates and Tom
20 Masland have agreed to lead. The notice should say bring water and wear sturdy shoes. The
21 event should be done by noon.

22 b. **Meadowsend Update-** Kelly reported we have had no update from Brian Hotz from the
23 Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests about the owner's response to our
24 position. Kelly will follow up with Brian.

25 c. **Other Potential Projects-** Kelly obtained a list of Canterbury land parcels/ownerships that
26 are more than 200 acres. Ken reviewed the list. Kelly will request a list of properties from
27 100 to 200 acres for our review. Ken will review this list as well. We will plan on setting aside
28 time at our May meeting to review these properties relative to our conservation goals and
29 decide whether to contact landowners to find out if they have any interest in conserving
30 their property.

31 **4. Conservation Easement Monitoring:**

32 Kelly and Ken reported that we have selected the team of Emily Landry and Pete Helm to
33 perform our easement monitoring. Kelly will coordinate with the town office to formalize
34 the agreement.

35 **5. Property Management**

36 a. **Kimball Pond-Beaver Deceiver**

37 Thanks were expressed to Steve, Lance and Ken for periodically going to the dam and pulling
38 the beaver debris from the spillway.

39 Kelly spoke with Bob Fife about the original installation. Bob was of the opinion that the
40 original box structure around the intake is not necessary and did not last. He suggested that
41 we need to stake the pipe to hold it securely. Ken will talk about this with Tom Osmer who
42 also was involved in the original installation.

43 Ken will communicate with John O’Conner, Ken Folsom and Bob Fife about arranging to
44 have the accumulated beaver debris removed from the top of the dam periodically.
45 We will need to develop a plan for reinstalling the pipe as soon as the water levels slow
46 down and the water warms up a bit.

47 Ken and Lance walked the trails around the property after inspecting the dam. Ken reported
48 that the snowmobile bridge across Burnham Brook was washed downstream by high water.
49 This was a major structure. Ken will reach out to the Snow Shakers to see if they have an
50 interest in rebuilding the bridge.

51 Lance expressed an interest in building a foot bridge across the outlet at the dam,
52 approximately 4 feet wide and 12 feet long. He mentioned that the Loudon trail crew has
53 been successful in building bridges. He offered a design that they developed and a rough
54 cost estimate. The commission requested that Lance contact John Messick, the Loudon
55 bridge designer, and have him come look at the site and revise the design to meet our
56 needs. Lance will then come up with a current estimate of the materials cost. There is an
57 open question as to whether the bridge will need a hand rail if we decide to build it.
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59 **b. Riverland-Signage Improvement Project**

60 Ken presented draft versions of two signs for the Riverland, one for the gate, the other for
61 the parking area. Some revisions were suggested. Ken will pass these by Lance and Audra
62 and then forward the suggestions to the Selectmen. Since daylight savings time ends
63 November 3rd it was agreed that we should close the parking area for the season on
64 November 1st . Ken will work with the CNHRPC to develop a site map. Once we have a draft
65 of the map and language, it will be presented to the Commission for further review.
66 There was some discussion about Safety Zone signs which will be continued later.

67 **Brush control and trail improvement.**

68 A trail enhancement and brush control date has been set for April 27th . This is a week later
69 than originally proposed due to limited attendance.

70 There was discussion about removal of the boardwalk. It was suggested that we talk with
71 the road agent about this effort. Ken will reach out to John O’Connor, the road agent about
72 doing this work later this summer once the area dries out a lot. We will most likely need a
73 dumpster to dispose of the material. It was suggested that we contract with Dumpster
74 Depot as they are right next door.
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76 **THE WORK DAY FOR RIVERLAND BRUSH REMOVAL WILL BE APRIL 27 FROM 9-12 NOON.**
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78 **c. Robert S. Fife Conservation Area-Brush Control Work Day**

79 The original workday schedule was discussed and it was decided to change the date to:
80 **APRIL 13TH 9:00-Noon.**

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6. **Permits-** There were no permit requests this month.

7. **Trails Committee-** The commission discussed ideas about formalizing a trails committee, including roles and responsibilities, work load and reporting. As the CCC has ongoing need of help with maintenance on town conservation land, Kelly suggested the possibility of a stewardship work crew. The commission will discuss further.

8. **Officers and Membership-**

Charlie Comey expressed interest in serving on the Conservation Commission as an Alternate Member. Kelly moved that the commission recommend Charlie to the Select Board for appointment as an alternate. Steve Seron seconded. Members agreed Charlie would be a welcome addition. All voted in favor.

Kelly reviewed current officer positions and invited anyone interested in filling an officer's job to make their interest known. Since no new nominees came forward, Kelly moved that the commission elect the following slate of officers:

- Chair - Ken Stern, two-year term. (this is his last term)
- Vice Chair – Kelly Short, one-year term.
- Treasurer – Lance Messinger, one-year term.

Steve seconded the slate. No further discussion. All voted in favor.

Secretary – no volunteers. Continue with rotation for minute taking.
The only member term for renewal was Steve Seron who was nominated for another three (3)-year term at the March meeting. The CCC will make this recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

9. **Website Update-** In a brief discussion, members discussed:

- a. adding maps, photos, videos to the site
- b. adding basic information about conserving land and whom to talk to
- c. the commission needs to check with town office regarding possible limits of storage.

10. **Other Business-**

- a. Kelly reported on the Planning Board public hearing on the Master Plan section on natural resources. Based upon comments at the hearing, some minor revisions are being proposed. The mention of invasive species as a problem to be addressed will be included. The Deepwood Forest will be added to the conservation lands map.
- b. Kelly continues to work on the survey of resource professionals for the co-occurrence mapping project.

120 Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM

121 Respectfully submitted by Ken Stern