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Canterbury Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes of June 13, 2024

Canterbury, NH

Present: Kelly Short (vice chair), Lance Messinger (treasurer), Steve Seron, Charlie Comey and Ken Stern (chair).

Absent: Bob Steenson, Audra Klumb, Teresa Wyman, Beth Blair (Select Board rep)

Guest: Bill Adams, Canterbury Historical Society

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Kelly chaired the meeting. With four voting members present, Kelly designated alternate Charlie Comey to act as a voting member for the meeting.

1. **Approval of May 9, 2024 Minutes-** Draft minutes were circulated by email. Upon motion by Steve, seconded by Lance, the minutes were approved with no changes.
2. **Cellar hole inventory.** Bill Adams reported on a project of the Historical Society to inventory old cellar holes and other "antique stone relics". Ken will be showing Bill the cellar holes on the Deepwood Forest. Bill mentioned their goal of producing a map showing these features. Kelly suggested they contact the Central NH Regional Planning Commission for help mapping. Kelly also explained that Mark Stevens had, several years ago, looked into the historic use of the RS Fife Conservation Area and had found no evidence that the rock piles in the field were related to previous building structures.
3. **Conservation Easement Monitoring:**
 - a. CE monitoring contract - Kelly has provided Emily Landry and Pete Helm with on-line access to the town's information on our conservation easements including prior monitoring reports.
 - b. Brookford Farm Easement. Brookford Farm has met with the Select Board to gain approval for holding a circus within the 19-acre portion of the property not included in the conservation easement.
 - c. Kimball Pond Easement – Ken met with Briana Belisle of the Forest Society for their ground monitoring visit of the easement on the property. He showed her where the snowmobile bridge was washed out and where the beaver deceiver pipe was washed downstream. They also toured a portion of the property.

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4. Property Management

- a. **Kimball Pond-Beaver Deceiver** – Ken reported that the pipe from the beaver deceiver is light enough that a group of people with rope slings would be able to move it into place. He also reported that there is abundant poison ivy at the dam spillway. Someone will need to go into the water to submerge the inlet end of the pipe.
- b. **RSFCA** – Ken mentioned that the conservation easement on the property may prohibit our removal of the piles of rocks which were previously discussed. We could bury them on site, which would be allowed. If we want to remove them, we will need to discuss this with the Forest Society and see if they might grant us “discretionary consent” to do so. It was affirmed that the Conservation Commission performed extensive research on the rock piles and confirmed that there is no evidence of an historic structure at this location. Ken will continue to seek a contractor willing to work on the project.
- c. **Riverland signage**- Kelly reported that she met with the Select Board about the proposed changes to the Riverland regulations. They agreed in principle and were going to seek input from the police chief. The sign committee can begin working on proposed language for the new signs.
- d. **Riverland maintenance.** –
 - 1. Ken reported that the town road crew removed the piles of brush from our prior work day. He also reported that they removed the “Wetland Walk” sign and the first section of the boardwalk.
 - 2. The commission discussed the frequency and extent of mowing to be performed by our contractor. It was agreed to have the parking area and walkway mowed once now and once in the fall. We will also plan on having the field mowed once in the fall. Kelly will inform Chris Aikens of Field Works.
 - 3. Ken reported that someone has been mowing the pathway to the beach.
 - 4. Ken also suggested we consider removing the large pine trees that were planted in the field years ago as a windbreak. They are no longer needed as a windbreak and now make field maintenance much more difficult due to the invasives growing on them. Ken will explore the possibility of removing them.

5. Conservation Projects:

Potential Projects- The commission continued evaluating potential conservation projects. They reviewed the co-occurrence methodology and map showing areas of high conservation value and looked for conservation opportunities based on co-occurrence scores and adjacency to existing conserved land. There was discussion about contacting landowners individually and possibly hosting a land conservation gathering in cooperation with a land trust to see who in town might be interested in conserving their property. Kelly will remind Mandy of our request for a list of properties over 100 acres.

- 6. **Permits**- There were no permit requests this month.
- 7. **Web site**- there was an on-line questionnaire circulated about suggested improvements to the web site. [Survey link](#). Deadline for input is July 1.

78 8. **Other Business**- The NH legislature passed, and the governor signed, HB 1302, amending the
79 statute on Conservation Commissions to allow for elected Conservation Commission members.

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81 Next meeting will be July 11th.

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83 Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM

84 Respectfully submitted by Ken Stern