

1 DRAFT MINUTES Conservation Commission Meeting Thursday, July 11, 2024

2

3 **Members Present:** Kelly Short, Ken Stern, Lance Messinger, Audra Klumb, Steve Seron,
4 Beth Blair (Bos Rep).

5 **Members Absent:** Robert Steenson, Theresa Wyman, Charles Comey (alternate)

6 **Meeting called to Order 7:03pm**

7

8 New item added to the agenda tonight: Ranking the Natural Features Chapter of the Master Plan.
9 (See Item 10.)

10

11 **Item 1: Approval of Minutes from Meeting 6/13/24**

12 Motion to accept the minutes of June 13th, 2024 with no changes. Steve so moves. Lance
13 seconds. Motion approved by voice vote. Audra and Beth abstain as they were not at the meeting
14 June 13.

15

16 **Item 2: Request for Camping on West Road**

17 Commission discussed the request from Andy Edwards and the Freemasons to camp on West
18 Road September 28th, 2024. (See letter Emailed to the Conservation Commission and Ken
19 Folsom on 6/27/24). The letter was read aloud. The committee then reviewed the West Road
20 beach access policy.

21 Concerns were expressed about setting a precedent for open campfires on that property and how
22 to deal with human waste from 15 campers. Discussion included these concerns, but also the
23 realization that there was something to be said about encouraging the responsible use of
24 conservation property.

25 Motion was made to recommend to the Board of Selectman to allow the camping with the
26 following stipulations: no open fire, camp stoves only, campers must pack out everything,
27 including human waste.

28 Steve Seron moved the motion. Audra Klumb seconded. No further discussion. Motion approved
29 by voice vote.

30 Note: Steve will check after the campers leave to make sure that they have cleaned
31 up the site as promised.

32

33 **Item 3: Right To Know Seminar Update**

34 Kelly reports on information learned at the Right to Know seminar hosted by the town that both
35 she and Audra attended.

36 Key points:

- 37 • It's important to remember that no discussions about matters before the committee
38 should be carried out in e-mails.
- 39 • Do not “reply all” to any texts or emails received as you may inadvertently start an “illegal
40 meeting.”
- 41 • The emergency meeting criteria that was in place during COVID has now been rescinded.
42 Committees can no longer meet exclusively by Zoom. You need a quorum of the
43 committee physically in the room. Any additional Committee members can Zoom in with
44 reason.
- 45 • Rules about going into non-public session were discussed.
- 46 • Draft minutes need to be available within 5 days of the meeting. Kelly suggests that
47 whoever is taking minutes have a draft done by Sunday noon. This leaves ample time for
48 input from the Committee Chairs before the 5-day deadline.

49

50 **Item 4: Riverland Tree Removal.**

51 (See Email on this topic of 6/21/24.)

52 Ken Stern met with Chuck Rose and discussed the best way to remove the trees in the field to
53 make mowing easier. Chuck suggested using an excavator instead of traditional chain sawing.
54 Chuck gave an estimate of \$2000 for the work and suggested that it might take two or three trailer
55 loads get the downed trees and debris off the property. Ken comments that while this is
56 expensive, it is worth it because of the future ease of mowing and the fact it will improve field
57 habitat.

58 Discussion followed about the budget and how much was available for this project. Kelly posited
59 that if this project was approved there would be no other money in the maintenance budget for
60 the year. Discussion followed about several maintenance projects that could be lessened or put
61 off to allow for the tree removal.

62 Discussion about letting the abutters know that tree work would be done. Note: The trees that are
63 directly on the fence/property line were not included in Chuck's estimate so as not to expand the
64 scope of the job. The Commission will continue work on removing invasives from these trees.

65 I time and money allow, and if there is room on the final trailer, Ken will see if Chuck can also
66 remove several additional trees from the southernmost corner of the field.

67 It was agreed that Ken will tell Chuck Rose that the Commission would like to do this project with
68 the following conditions: that Chuck submit a written scope of work and a written estimate. Ken
69 will also request that the work be scheduled after the beach is closed for the season, but before
70 Ken is out of town in November.

71

72 **Item 5: Wetland Buffer Letter**

73 (See letter from John Wiencek dated 6/13/24)

74 Kelly suggests inviting Mr. Wiencek to a future meeting and have a Planning Board representative
75 at the meeting as well. Discussion followed about the history of wetland management in
76 Canterbury. The Commission decided it would like further discussion with the Planning Board and
77 more information about the wetland buffer issue before inviting John Wiencek to a meeting.

78

79 **Item 6: Property Management**

80 a. Beaver Deceiver. Lance and Steve will organize a work day to install the beaver deceiver. Lance
81 will contact Tom Osmer for details about how the deceiver should be installed. Lance will discuss
82 the possible cost of material needed with Tom Osmer, and include Bob Fife in the process when
83 possible.

84

85 b. Riverland Signage

86 Police Department approved the wording on the signs. The committee now needs to decide what
87 kind of signs it wants and get an estimate of cost before October to get it in the budget for 2025.
88 The sign subcommittee of Ken, Lance and Audra will continue to work on this.

89

90 c. Riverland Brush Control.

91 First mowing of the season is done. The Commission would like a workday in the fall on the fence
92 line to continue to remove invasives.

93

94 d. Robert Fife Conservation Area.

95 The Commission wants to wait until fall to have another workday so it is easier due to less bugs.

96 Discussion continues about how to deal with the rock pile.

97

98 **Item 7: Permits**

99 No new permits have been filed at this time.

100

101 **Item 8. Conservation Projects**

102 Ken met with the Forest Society about a possible project on Welsh Rd. They will reach out to the
103 heirs for further discussion.

104

105 **Item 9: Website Update**

106 Nothing to report.

107

108 **Item 10: New business. Ranking the Natural Features Chapter of the Master Plan.**

109 The Planning Board submitted a “Plan For Tomorrow Implementation Priority List.” The PB has
110 ranked the items in this chapter from LOW to HIGH and wants the Conservation Commission to
111 weigh in on whether they would like to change any of the rankings.

112 There were only four points where the Commission decided they would like to change the ranking
113 assigned by the Planning Board.

- 114 - Under Objective 1: Evaluate Class VI roads to determine which should be converted to
115 Class A Trails... (change priority from MED to HIGH)
- 116 - Under Objective 2: Conserve large blocks of unfragmented land to support the multiple
117 beneficial roles they play... (change priority from MED to HIGH)
- 118 - Under Objective 4: Establish a Town Trail Committee... (add Conservation Commission in
119 the “Responsible for Action” column.)
- 120 - Under Objective 4: Encourage Landowner to arrange for permanent protection... (change
121 priority from MED to HIGH)

122 These recommendations will be sent to the Planning Board and the Regional Planning
123 Commission.

124

125 **Item 11: Other Business**

126 Steve related a conversation he had with Benjamin Nugent of Fish and Game concerning Forest
127 Pond and specifically the Forest Pond Brook area. It came up that in 2008 Fish and Game studied
128 Forest Pond Brook and found a significant population of native brook trout. This finding was
129 discussed with interest!

130

131 Meeting adjourned 8:39 pm.

DRAFT