

1 **Conservation Commission**

2 Minutes of Meeting Thursday, November 14, 2024

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4 **Members Present:** Kelly Short, Audra Klumb, Steve Seron, Theresa Wyman, Bob Steenson, Beth
5 Blair (BOS Rep); Ken Stern attended via video conference

6 **Members Absent:** Charlie Comey, Lance Messinger

7 **Guest(s):** None.

8 **Meeting called to Order 7 pm**

9 Kelly reminded the Commission that with Ken attending remotely for the winter season, it is more
10 difficult to have a quorum physically present and members should notify the chair early if they
11 cannot make it to a future meeting.

12 Kelly requests leave to take up agenda items slightly out of order to devote the early part of the
13 meeting to the larger topics.

14 **Agenda Item 1: Approval of Minutes from Meeting 10/10/24**

15 Motion to accept the minutes of October 10, 2024 by Steve. Second by Bob. Discussion of
16 grammatical edits/typos. Vote to approved minutes as amended. All in favor; one abstention (Beth).

17 **Agenda Item 3. Permits**

18 No permit applications received.

19 **Agenda Item 4. Easement Monitoring**

20 Easement monitors have completed their site work on schedule. Reports will be forthcoming.

21 **Agenda Item 7: Other Business**

- 22 a. The Commission has been notified of a Class VI Road Waiver Application for two lots on
23 Snowshoe Hill Road. The Planning Board is conducting a road walk and onsite review
24 Saturday, November 16 at 10:00am and has requested Conservation Commission
25 participation. Discussion ensued noting that most of Snowshoe Hill Road has previously
26 been considered by the CCC and BOS as unsuitable for development due to terrain and its
27 location bisecting large contiguous forest and conservation land. Bob noted that the
28 Gilmanton end of Snowshoe Hill at S Road/Rocky Pond access was reasonably improved
29 already. Kelly, Theresa and Bob will attend on Saturday.

30

- 31 b. The Forest Society wants to remove a collapsed culvert on the Class VI road on their
32 Stillhouse Property off Intervale Road. Discussion noted that there is no environmental
33 impact and in fact likely environmental improvements from a removal. The CCC has no
34 objections.

35 **Agenda Item 5. Conservation Projects**

36 The Commission reviewed the co-occurrence map and engaged in a wide-ranging discussion of
37 potential future conservation projects. The key criteria for assessing a parcel's overall
38 conservation benefit were generally agreed to include, in no particular order: existing farms,
39 contiguous to already conserved lands and unfragmented open space, water resources, parcel size.

40 Members agreed to plan a public information/outreach event for the spring to provide residents
41 with information about conserving property and also to reach out directly to some land owners.

42 Next steps:

- 43 a. Obtain copies of the book "Conserving Your Land" to give to land owners
44 b. Ken to draft an outreach letter for others to review.
45 c. Kelly to contact Five Rivers to see if they would participate in a public information meeting.
46 d. Ken to add topographic data to select areas of the co-occurrence map.

47 **Agenda Item 6: Web Site**

48 Kelly presented and the Commission approved the proposed structure and content for the CCCs
49 portion of the new Town website.

50 Lance and Steve to take new photographs for the website. Rather than leaving the website bereft
51 of photos waiting for the new ones, members should contribute any existing photographs they may
52 have. Kelly will circulate the CCC Dropbox link.

53 Side note: photographs are needed ASAP for the Master Plan report.

54 **Agenda Item 2: Property Management**

- 55 a. Riverland Signage – Kelly presented draft content and design for the new signs. Kelly will add
56 a public safety note that there are no lifeguards at the Riverland beaches. The Commission
57 thanked Kelly for the work and approved the signage.
- 58 b. Riverland Mowing – Oct 26 invasive removal work day successful. Mowing complete for this
59 year. Lance will spread the winter rye seed in the disturbed areas.

60 c. Robert S. Fife Conservation Area – Nov 9 work day productive, stone wall along road looks
61 good. Mowing is complete. Ken has received an acceptable proposal to bury the rocks. Kelly
62 to obtain contract for rock excavation by year end and request the BOS to encumber funds
63 from this year’s budget.

64 d. The commission discussed hunting on conservation lands in response to an incident at
65 Kimball Pond. It was noted that hunting is allowed on town-owned conservation land unless
66 posted otherwise and subject to all state safety laws. Kelly will review the Kimball
67 Pond/Robert S. Fife Land Management Plan for hunting related directives.

68

69 Meeting adjourned 9:14 pm.

70 Next meeting December 12th.

71 Respectfully submitted, Bob Steenson

DRAFT