

Canaan Conservation Commission

January 4, 2016

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Elizabeth Chabot, Mike Mezzacapo, Ashley Wojnarowski, Alice Schori, Noel Everts

Minutes- November 2015

The section regarding our discussion of the Mascoma watershed needs to be reworded to reflect that our discussion revolved around potential cost-sharing with down-stream towns that benefit from efforts Canaan makes to protect the watershed.

Alice moved that we approve the November minutes with correction, Mike seconded. All approved.

“The Bobcat Issue”

- The CCC received an email from the Stoddard Conservation Commission regarding opposition to opening a hunting/trapping season for Bobcat. We had good discussion, both pro and con regarding the issue. The information, as presented, clearly is biased in one direction and is likely incomplete. Noel made good points from the perspective of a hunter: there would be a small number of permits in relationship to a seemingly healthy population of cats. Culling of the cats could aid in the efforts to increase the population of the rabbit population, also of concern to conservationists. From an opposing point of view, the data is vague, including a lack of any genetic involvement and what the consequences of removing genetic diversity from a small population would be. Interestingly, Vermont allows trapping, but there is a large public outcry to Silvio Conte to not allow trapping on their properties, so if Bobcat hunting were to be allowed in New Hampshire, it's possible that the Robie Properties might be petitioned as well to forbid it.
- Bill moved that we support the Stoddard Conservation Commission on their efforts and sign the letter as presented as time does not permit us to craft and approve our own letter. Alice seconded the motion. There were four “Ayes” and one “Nay”. The Ayes have it, and the letter will be signed and forwarded.

McKee Parcel

- No updates on the status of the property or its sale.
- Border markings are fairly complete. We posted signs until we ran out.

Misc

- The Saving Special Places conference is April 9th. Mike and Bill are planning to attend. If anyone else is interested, let them know
- Earth day Clean up is scheduled for April 23 with a snow day of the 30th

Motion to adjourn made by Elizabeth, seconded by Ashley

Next meeting to be held on February 1, 2015 at the Senior Center