

Canaan Conservation Commission

January 5, 2009

Attendees: Kate Brooks, Bill Chabot, Aaron Allen, Alice Schori, Elizabeth Chabot

Nature Hut

- November 16th and December 12th were work days. The roof is complete, and the floor is installed. Walls are on hold until Spring
- The siding quote is approximately \$1200. There is no current action required.
- Future projects: Benches? Door, etc
- At one of the work days, Bill, Aaron and Len talked about hosting the annual talk at the Nature Hut. We should talk to the Canaan police in advance regarding parking and any other issues they could foresee.

McKee Parcel

- On October 31, 2008 our Town Attorney, Bernie Waugh, filed a "Petition in Equity to Enforce Conservation Restriction" on behalf of the Town of Canaan, the State of New Hampshire Council on Resources and Development and the State of New Hampshire, Attorney General Director of Charitable Trusts in Grafton County Superior Court.
In the filing the plaintiffs requested the following:
 - A. To declare the conveyance from Respondents Cynthia E. Raubens and Franceen A. Murphy to Respondent H&H Holdings, LLC by deed dated August 8, 2007 and recorded at Book 3437, Page 0742 constitutes a breach of the Conservation Easement held by the Town;
 - B. To declare the said conveyance referenced above is a breach of the charitable trust created by the terms of the Easement;
 - C. To declare the said conveyance to be null and void and contrary to the real estate interest held by the Town of Canaan;
 - D. To order the respondents to undertake whatever conveyances may be necessary to render the Property once again in single undivided ownership;
 - E. To grant the Town of Canaan its expenses, court costs and legal fees expended in bringing this Petition; and
 - F. To grant such further relief as may be just and equitable.
- No further updates have been received.

Misc

- We previously talked about getting more information about what the transfer station accepts. This information is actually posted on the town website.
- Bill needs to submit the annual report by the end of January
 - Roadside cleanup on Earthday
 - Nature Hut progress
 - Co-Sponsor of the watershed talk
 - Handed out pamphlets on Old Home day
 - Sponsored the Lake Host program for Goose Pond
- For the next meeting, we will review the current CCC member listing

Minutes

- There was no December meeting
- Bill moved to adjourn, Aaron seconded the motion, all approved.

Next Meeting Monday February 2, 2009 7:00

To be held at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

February 2, 2009

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Kate Brooks, Alice Schori, Elizabeth Chabot.

Earth Day

- Earth day is coming up. We tentatively set the 18th as our annual roadside clean up.

Risley Meeting

- Alice mentioned an upcoming meeting on the 9th regarding Grafton Pond and some issues surrounding its use. She is planning to attend.

Misc

- We can expect Goose Pond and Canaan Street Lakes to request support this summer. We need to decide how much money we have available to give this year.
- Bill submitted his annual report to the town and to UVLT
- There will be a meeting in March with the town lawyer. More info to come.

Minutes

- Minutes from November and January were presented
 - Alice moved to accept, Bill seconded. All approved
- Bill moved to adjourn, Alice seconded the motion, all approved.

Next Meeting Monday March 2, 2009 7:00

To be held at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

March 2, 2009

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Aaron Allen, Alice Schori, Elizabeth Chabot.

Prospective members: Laura, Noel and Andy

Conservation Commission Fee

- Traditionally, the \$200 dues for the NH Association of Conservation Commissions came from the \$700 budget line. This year, this budget line has been eliminated
- The current membership is \$225. Bill read the website for the Association and can't determine if we actually have to be a member to be a commission, if there are any legalities or any rights we would lose if we were not a member. He will look further into this matter further.
- If we decide to maintain our membership, we will pursue payment from the town. Apparently the town has violated our account and removed funds without Commission approval which is required.

Earth Day

- Annual roadside cleanup is scheduled for April 18th. The meeting place is at the Canaan Street Lake Beach- 9am.
- We need signs. Bill and Elizabeth to work on those.
- There may also be another opportunity to apply for two trees or another 600 daffodils

Community Forests and Open Space Conservation Program

- A questionnaire was sent regarding any interest or experience our commission has with easements and land protection. Bill will email everyone the questions. If everyone could please email your responses, he will collect them for a unified response.

Risley Meeting

- This meeting was held on February 9th- Alice attended. It included a variety of conservation groups
- A large part of the discussion centered on Grafton Pond being 'over loved'. There was talk about more emphasis on 'pack in, pack out' and leaving the loons alone.

Misc

- March 12 is a Q&A session with the town lawyer hosted by the planning board. It is a public event. Bill will email the time and place. Bernie Waugh to discuss the recently enacted laws and regulations.
- There was a question: can we put some of our commission money into CDs

New Members

- We had three prospective new members visit tonight. Laura Abbene agreed to become a full time member
 - Bill moved that we accept Laura as a new member, Aaron seconded, we all agreed.

Minutes

- There were no minutes from the February meeting for approval
- Aaron moved to adjourn, Bill seconded the motion, all approved.

Next Meeting Monday April 6, 2009 7:00

To be held at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

April 6, 2009

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Len Reitsma, Aaron Allen, Andy Mulligan, Kate Brooks, Elizabeth Chabot.

Goose Pond Lake Host Program

- Dave Barney personally presented his needs for the continuing lake host program at Goose Pond.
- Funding from the state has been reduced from \$3,000 to \$1,500. There is no money in the town budget
- Dave is requesting \$1000 from the Conservation Commission
 - Bill moved to support the Lake Host Program with the requested \$1,000.
 - Len Seconded, all approved
 - Bill to email Gloria for the check

Town Forest Easement

- Len to call UVLT for advice
- The 20 acre forest abuts another parcel that has just recently been placed under easement
- Bill to follow up on any legwork.

Earth Day

- Annual roadside cleanup is scheduled for April 18th.
- Signs will be ready tomorrow. Elizabeth to email the poster to Sharon to post on the website.
- Bill and Aaron to contact 4H and boy scouts

McKee Parcel

- The town filed a lawsuit- no new news.

Conservation Commission Funds

- Currently the funds are being held under the town umbrella. Do we want to move them into a separate account?
- Bill to look into other options at Mascoma.

Conservation Commission Members

- Currently listed as full time members are: Aaron and Bill as co-chairs, Kate as clerk, Elizabeth as secretary and Alice. Alternates are Len and Jamie.
 - Jamie needs to be removed from the rolls.
 - Laura needs to be added as a full-time member

Minutes

- Len requested that we note in the minutes that there appeared to be an unauthorized removal of funds from the Conservation account without Commission approval.
- Len moved to approve the March Minutes as amended
- Aaron seconded, all approved

Aaron moved to adjourn, Bill seconded the motion, all approved.

Next Meeting May 4, 2009 7:00

To be held at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

May 4, 2009

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Aaron Allen, Alice Schori, Elizabeth Chabot, Noel Everts, Len Reitsma, Kate Brooks, Laura Abbene, Andy Mulligan

Nature Hut (TREC)

- May 16th is slated for the next work day. Meet at the site at 9am.
 - Bring hammers, tape measurers, square. Bill to bring a generator.
- Aaron has ordered the wood for the siding. It costs approximately \$1800. We are under budget, so there is no need for additional approvals.

Summer CCC meetings

- Aaron has secured the use of the Meetinghouse for our summer meetings starting July 6th. Meetings will resume at the senior center October 5
 - Elizabeth to make a notice for Aaron to hang in the appropriate places
- September 7 is Labor Day. We will hold our September meeting on the 14th.

Earth Day

- Annual roadside cleanup was held April 18th. Approximately 25 bags were collected.
- Bill will submit the paperwork to the state for the daffodil bulbs. Aaron volunteered to hand them out at the transfer station.

McKee Parcel

- No change to the situation. Currently a trial is scheduled for spring of 2010.

Town Forest/Easement

- UVLT estimates \$8-10k for the easement
- Bill is following up with our Town Attorney to see if he has experience with easements Prior to any move forward with ULVT. We will present our intentions formally to the Select board.

Community Forests and Open Space Conservation Program

- We need to put a review of this program on the agenda for the June meeting

Annual Meeting

- Tentatively consider a September or October date
- Hold it at the Nature Hut (TREC)

Misc

- We sent the check to Dave Barney for the Goose Pond Lake Host program
- We will ask the Select board to official approve Laura's nomination to the Commission as a full member.

Minutes

- There were no minutes from the April meeting for approval
- Aaron moved to adjourn, Bill seconded the motion, all approved.

Next Meeting Monday June 1, 2009 7:00

To be held at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

June 1, 2009

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Aaron Allen, Elizabeth Chabot, Len Reitsma, Kate Brooks, Andy Mulligan

Earth Day Clean up

- Aaron will submit the forms to the select board for approval before sending them to the state. This is in regards to the reporting of the clean up and the state's program of sending trees or daffodils

Nature Hut (TREC)

- Next work day is June 6, 9:00 am.
- Current status: Siding is on sides. Back and front are scheduled next. Possibly we can start marking trails.
- Considering using the Nature Hut for our annual meeting, tentatively in October.
- We need to brainstorm some public uses for the structure.
- Also need to investigate where trails could go, Bear Pond? Len to talk to Mascoma to see if that would be a possibility. The town forest itself has a beautiful variety of nature. Any trails near swamp area would utilize boardwalks to minimize damage

Summer CCC meetings

- Elizabeth provided signs to Aaron to post for the summer meetings scheduled at the Meeting house (July-Sept)

Town Forest/Easement

- Bill received an email from the Town Attorney stating that it could be possible for a town selectboard to prevent an easement from being placed on town-owned property. Bill to clarify how this process would work.

Community Forests and Open Space Conservation Program

- Bill reviewed this program and stated that we are really not eligible for funding. It is a 50/50 federal matching program for threatened areas.

Minutes

- Bill made a move to accept the April and May minutes. Len Seconded, all approved.

Next Meeting Monday July 6, 2009 7:00

To be held at the Meeting House

Canaan Conservation Commission

August 3, 2009

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Aaron Allen, Elizabeth Chabot, Kate Brooks

Special Guests: Christine Walker of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission and Laura Weit of the NH DES

Special presentation

Christine and Laura appeared before the Commission to present and explain the Rivers management and Protection program. The Mascoma River, which flows through four municipalities, has been recommended a State Designation in this program. Once a designation takes place, a local advisory board is formed to review applications to the state. There are no new regulations as part of this designation, just local review. This helps create consistent policy along the length of a river.

Nomination process:

- The nomination form is due June 2, 2010, but the draft is due by April. This is submitted to the Commissioner of DES
 - This includes a description of the rivers values and characteristics
- The river is reviewed (field trips etc) and the commissioner then recommends to the House or Senate for inclusion, and they in turn write a bill in the fall.
- RSA43, the River Statute, is then amended to add the river.

Classifications

- There are four different river classifications. It is up to the nominator to select which is appropriate from the check sheet. Different laws apply for different classifications.

As a commission, we need to discuss this designation further and formulate a plan

Nature Hut (TREC)

- Next work day is August 16 at 8:30
 - The plan is to install windows and the doors (built during the last work day) and possibly start building steps

Annual talk

- Potential date: October 17th, which is the 3rd Saturday

Folding Sign

- Aaron has built the sign. Elizabeth needs to paint it with the chalkboard paint.

Bill made a motion to adjourn- Elizabeth seconded. All approved.

Next Meeting Monday September 14, 2009 7:00

To be held at the Meetinghouse

Canaan Conservation Commission

September 14, 2009

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Aaron Allen, Elizabeth Chabot, Kate Brooks, Len Reitsma

New Hampshire Rivers Management

We recapped last month's presentation for those not present. It sounds like a good program to be involved with, although we're not sure who has the time to devote to it. We need to keep this discussion on our agenda for follow up.

Nature Hut (TREC)

- Several windows and two doors have been installed
- Len will bring more windows
- At some point we need to have a more formal discussion about the trails- especially the one we talked about heading into the Bear Pond area
- Next work day to be in October- TBD
- Future parking: east on route 4. Perhaps we need a better marked path. Aaron to check with the state road agent.

Mrs Chalmers' property

- Mrs Chalmers is putting her property on Clark pond into access
- Aaron wondered if the property will have public access.

Annual Budget Committee Meeting

- Scheduled for October 1. The CCC has a slot at 8:30 for any presentation we would like to make. Bill and Aaron are out of town. Elizabeth said she would go and talk generally about some of the projects we've had in the past year.

Daffodils

- We have received the daffodils from the earth day clean up. Aaron will hand them out at the dump on September 26.

Misc

- There is a movement to reduce carbon levels to 350ppm. The website is 350.org. The question is: what could we do at a town level to make an impact? Len to investigate the details.
- There are new personnel at Plymouth State. Len thought there could be an opportunity in the spring for an interpretive talk by some of these people.

Minutes

- The minutes from June and August were reviewed. (there was no July meeting)
- Bill moved that the minutes should be accepted as written, Len seconded. All approved.

Len made a motion to adjourn- Aaron seconded. All approved.

Next Meeting Monday October 5, 2009 7:00

To be held at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

November 2, 2009

Attendees: Aaron Allen, Elizabeth Chabot, Kate Brooks, Len Reitsma, Noel Everts, Alice Schori

Special guests: Sara Coons, John Bergeron

New Hampshire Rivers Management

We recapped last month's presentation for those not present. It sounds like a good program to be involved with, although we're not sure who has the time to devote to it. We need to keep this discussion on our agenda for follow up.

Nature Hut (TREC)

- On hold until spring
- We need to build a ramp and stairs
- Len to supply 3 more windows if he has the larger size.

Mrs Chalmers' property

- The Conservation Commission would be willing to donate some money towards the cost of the easement provided that the easement permits public access to the land.
- Alice commented that the Mascoma watershed might be willing to contribute as well.

Annual Budget Committee Meeting

- The committee has 8:25 at their December 17th meeting reserved for the Conservation Commission

Upper Valley Trails Alliance

- The Upper Valley Trails Alliance advocates for the use, maintenance and development of trails in the region. Sara Coons joined our meeting tonight to present what the Alliance does, and offer support with the trails we have talked about creating around the Nature hut.
- The rail to trail path along route 4 is one corridor that UVTA is promoting, and the Nature Hut, being in close proximity to the path, would be a great 'destination' site.

Source Water Protection Committee

- This committee was formed to identify potential contamination sources to Canaan Street Lake, to develop specific recommendations to manage water quality threats, and to provide a meaningful foundation for decision-making regarding water sources in the town of Canaan.
- John Bergeron is looking for a replacement on this committee. There are no meetings until April, and then there is 1 meeting per month for 1 hour.

Daffodils

- The daffodils were handed out at the recycling center and were well received.

McKee Parcel

- Aaron walked the portion of the parcel open to public access. Logging is permitted every 10 years, so this spring Jim Burnett's management plan will be executed.
- Some conclusion to the easement issue is forthcoming

Misc

- Current balance on the CCC account is approximately \$34k
- In a previous meeting we had briefly mentioned the 350.org movement. The event is now over, but there may still be some town-wide carbon reduction action that could be promoted.
- Alice Schori has requested that she be made an alternate instead of full member of the Commission.

Minutes

- The minutes from September were reviewed.
- Aaron moved that they be approved, Len seconded.

Len made a motion to adjourn- Aaron seconded. All approved.

Next Meeting Monday December 7, 2009 7:00

To be held at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

December 7, 2009

Attendees: Kate Brooks, Bill Chabot, Noel Everts, Alice Schori. Aaron Allen, Elizabeth Chabot, Sara Coons

Guest: Dave Barney

Goose Pond Road Salt Issue- Dave Barney

- Dave presented a petition for a warrant article to eliminate the use of road salt around Goose Pond. High levels of phosphorus in Goose Pond seem to have contributed to cyanobacteria levels in the past.
- The town has an existing no-salt policy that has been violated (winter maintenance policy 2006)
- The Warrant specifies: low salt zone, appropriate signage and sweeping up the sand after the season.

Lake Host Funding

- Currently the town has funding for this program in the budget but Dave is unsure what will come from the state. He is not yet requesting support from the Conservation Commission.

Mascoma River Designation

- The petition is due in June
- To do:
 - Contact list of stakeholders as well as informal contacts
 - Organize Mascoma river walks

Mrs Chalmer's property

- The easement is complete and funded, no action requested of the CCC

Budget Committee

- The Budget Committee meeting is being held on Dec 17. The Conservation Commission has a slot at 8:25. Aaron will attend.

Upper Valley Trails Alliance

- Sara Coons is presenting a Trails Forum in Enfield on December 9 from 6:30-7:30. Bill and Aaron will attend and speak as needed. An Enfield trails map is being drafted.

Nature Hut

- Sara and Elizabeth will get together at some point to talk about trails at the Nature Hut. The thought is that we could snow shoe the property to begin the plan. Alice said she could supply the marking tape.
- We should include Len to whatever degree he would want to be included as he knows the property very well and could suggest some highlights.
- We are setting a goal to have some sort of trail system on the town forest property by next fall.

Minutes

- The November minutes were reviewed. Aaron moved to accept, Bill seconded. All approved.

Bill made a motion to adjourn- Aaron seconded. All approved.

Next Meeting Monday January 4, 2010 7:00

To be held at the Senior Center