

Canaan Conservation Commission

January 3, 2011

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Aaron Allen, Alice Schori, Noel Everts, Elizabeth Chabot, Julie Thomason

Nature Hut (TREC)

- January 8th: Trail Day at the hut. We will meet at the hut, weather permitting, to install the last window and resume trail work. Bill to meet at Aarons, everyone else at the hut at 9 am. Bring loppers and saws. If the weather is inclement as predicted, Bill will email cancelation

Commission- Goal setting

- Alice brought her copy of the blue book and gave it to Elizabeth to read through. Elizabeth will later present any points of interest with the goal of our Commission assessing its mission and setting goals. Target March for first review

Earth Day

- Earth Day is Friday April 22nd. We need to schedule our annual road clean up. With Easter being the 24th, we will likely schedule it for the weekend prior.

Misc

- Marcia has been following up on a few items of interest but has not been able to attend the last couple of meetings to update us. Bill to email her on the following:
 - The no-salt policy on Goose Pond as being discussed between the Selectboard and the road commission
 - Marcia's junky yard idea
 - Any updates on legal proceedings of regarding the sale of part of the McKee parcel that is under easement

Minutes

November 2010:

Aaron moved to approve the minutes

Bill seconded the motion

All approved

December 2010

Aaron moved to approve the minutes

Julie Seconded

All approved

Elizabeth moved to adjourn, Aaron seconded. All approved.

Next Meeting Monday February 7th, 2011 7:00

To be held at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

March 7, 2011

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Julie Thomason, Len Reitsma, Aaron Allen

McKee Property

- Aaron received word that the parcel sale was reversed and the property has been restored per easement mandate. However, expenses were incurred by the town because of this event that appear to be being absorbed by the town. The Commission is of the opinion that the tax payers should not have to bear this burden. Bill to write a letter to the town accordingly.
 - The Ms Raubens and Murphy did not notify the CCC of the pending sale
 - The Town approved the sale without researching the property
 - The Town did not notify the CCC of closure of the State's position and resolution

Misc

- Bill to Call NH Assoc of Conservation Commissions regarding an invoice we received. He is unsure what this is for.

Canaan Conservation Commission

April 4, 2011

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Alice Schori, Kate Brooks

EarthDay Cleanup

- Aaron to contact Skip regarding the Earth Day Clean up to determine if the 4H group would like to join the Commission for the clean up. He will advise potential dates

TREK (Nature Hut)

- Aaron to check his schedule and will coordinate with Bill for the next work day
- Discussion continues about approaching the selectboard regarding putting the town forest into easement.

McKee Property

- We received word from the town that the parcel sale was reversed and the property has been restored per easement mandate. However, expenses were incurred by the town because of this event that appear to be being absorbed by the town. The Commission is of the opinion that the tax payers should not have to bear this burden. Bill to write a letter to the town accordingly.

Misc

- The Commission has not held its annual talk/presentation for several years. If we are going to hold one this year, we need to formulate some ideas
- Elizabeth to review the "blue" conservation commission book. This Commission needs to re-vitalize itself and consider its mission. The Book may contain some guidance in this matter.
- Alice mentioned in the past the Commission sent out a flier to property owners trying to gauge interest in conserving land. We may want to consider outreach of some kind going forward.

Minutes

There were no minutes for approval. We will review the March and April minutes at the May meeting

Alice moved to adjourn

Kate seconded

Canaan Conservation Commission

May 2, 2011

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

Orange Conservation Commission

- Once again, the Orange CC is planting Trees on the deforested areas of Cardigan. They are looking for help this Saturday from 8:30. Meet at the Orange town hall.

Nature Hut (TREC)

- The next work day is June 25th at 8:00am. Meet at the hut. On the agenda is working on the trail system and installing the last window.

Annual roadside Cleanup

- Scheduled for May 21st. Meet at the Canaan Street Lake Beach at 8am.

New member

- Mandy Ruest has expressed an interest in becoming a full time Conservation Commission member.
 - Alice moved that we accept Mandy as a member of the Commission
 - Elizabeth seconded
 - All approved
- Mandy has assembled a very inclusive list of project ideas for the Commission. She will email a copy to the members. We will take these into consideration as we begin to set some goals.

McKee Parcel

- Marcia confirmed that the fees accumulated as part of the sale of the McKee parcel have not been addressed other than that the town absorbed them.

Minutes, March

- Aaron moved to accept the minute
- Bill seconded

Minutes, April

- Bill moved that we approve the minutes as submitted
- Alice seconded

Elizabeth moved to adjourn the meeting

Alice seconded

The next meeting will be Monday June 6th at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

June 6, 2011

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

Orange Conservation Commission

- The Orange Conservation Commission's tree planting was postponed. A new date has not yet been set. Bill will keep us advised

Nature Hut (TREC)

- The next work day is June 25th at 8:00am. Meet at the hut. On the agenda is working on the trail system and installing the last window.

Annual roadside Cleanup

- This years clean up was another success. Two busloads of Cardigan Mountain School students helped pick up trash along route 4. At least 60 bags were collected and taken to the dump

CCC Members

- Aaron will provide current member listing to Marcia for Selectboard approval

Minutes, May

- Aaron moved to accept the minute
- Kate seconded

As a note, the January minutes were never approved as there was no February meeting. We need to review at our next meeting

Misc

- Aaron will try to book the meetinghouse for our July-September meetings.

Marcia moved to adjourn the meeting

Kate seconded

The next meeting will be Monday July 11th . Location TBD

Canaan Conservation Commission

July 11, 2011

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Kate Brooks, Elizabeth Chabot, Aaron Allen, Marcia Wilson, Len Reitsma, Mandy Ruest

Orange Conservation Commission

- The Orange Conservation Commission's tree planting has already occurred. We were unable to assist as we were unaware of the rescheduled date.

The Nature Conservancy Presentation- *Mark Zangel, Deputy Director of the New Hampshire branch of TNC*

- Mark presented The Mascoma River Headwaters Forest Legacy Proposal to the Conservation Commission. This project will protect approximately 13,000 acres of land, which represents the largest un-fragmented forest block in New Hampshire south of the White Mountains. The lands will be open to the public for hunting, fishing, hiking, and other forms of low-impact recreation along 28 miles of woods roads & trails, including 1,000 acres previously posted against public hunting. The project also includes 25 miles of snowmobile trails currently available for public use.
- The plan is three-phases with one landowner
 - 8,750 acres in Canaan, Dorchester, Lyme, and Hanover will be permanently protected in two phases through the purchase of Forest Legacy or other conservation easements.
 - An additional 4,215 acres outright in Canaan and Dorchester will be permanently protected through outright acquisition and management as a nature preserve or wildlife refuge.
- The project connects and link up 7,300 acres of existing conservation land, creating a 20,000 acre block of protected land.
- The project is located within a Quabbin-to-Cardigan Collaborative priority focus area. 84% is within the core area and 16% is rated as supporting landscape
- The Nature Conservancy historically pays taxes despite the non-profit status
- TNC is planning to sell the 3,845 acres in Dorchester and Canaan that represent Working Forest to a like-minded buyer. If the easements are not in place at the time of sale, they will be added as a contingency.
- Len made a motion to draft a letter of support for this project to the Selectboard
- Bill seconded, all approved.

Nature Hut (TREK)

- In June, we installed two more windows and made progress on our first trail
- Next work date is August 20 at 8am

McKee Parcel

- There has been no movement on the town restoring the taxpayer money spent due to the violation of the easement. Currently there is a lien on the property because of the \$40,000 paid to the owners for the sale of the property that is not able to be returned to the buyer.

Commission Charter

- The NH Commission guide suggests a Natural Resource inventory be done to help a commission better understand what resources are available and may warrant protection. Len said this was never done, however an inventory of the wetlands has been completed and is documented at the town office.

Minutes,

January

- Aaron moved to accept the minutes
- Marsha seconded

June

- Bill moved to accept the minutes
- Aaron seconded
- All approved both sets of minutes.

Elizabeth moved to adjourn the meeting

Aaron seconded

The next meeting will be Monday August 1st .

Location: Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

August 1, 2011

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Elizabeth Chabot, Aaron Allen, Marcia Wilson, Len Reitsma, Mandy Ruest.

Guest: Michael Samson, Canaan town administrator

The McKee Property

- Mike joined the Commission to explain some of the decisions made during the protracted McKee parcel issue. In previous meetings the Commission had discussed why the taxpayers should be absorbing the fees accrued against the town for a legal matter not of our doing. During the proceedings, Mike's goal was to return the easement to its whole state. He recognized that resolving the issue prior to a court trial would help minimize costs. While his initial attempts at mediation were not successful, he was able to bring closure without astronomical expense. The reality is that the owner of the property has no money with which to reimburse the town for its expenses and Mike didn't see the need to further burden that person with additional financial hardship. The Commission appreciated Mike's time spent answering our questions and we consider this issue is closed.

The Nature Conservancy- Mascoma Headwaters Proposal

- Currently there is no agreement among the Selectboard to support the proposal. The Commission drafted a letter to both the Selectboard and the Division of Forests and Lands voicing support. The Selectboard had some concern that the letter of support to the State from the Commission could be misconstrued as Town or Selectboard support. The Commission re-read the letter and agreed that the wording is very clear that the letter is from the Commission. Also, Commission-specific support has precedence for being requested, an example would be our support of the Mascoma River Nomination Project last year.

Nature Hut

- Our next work day is August 20, 8am.

Minutes

- Aaron moved to accept the minutes
- Marcia seconded

Aaron moved to adjourn the meeting

Mandy seconded

The next meeting will be Monday September 5 at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

September 12, 2011

Attendees: Aaron Allen, Marcia Wilson Bill Chabot, Elizabeth Chabot, Len Reitsma, Mandy Ruest.

Guests: Noel Everts, Hillary Rogers

Misc

- In addition to other things, The Recreation Committee is working on a map of all public-access trails in Canaan. There is some debate what the restrictions are for Bear Pond. Marcia will investigate before including Bear Pond on the map

The Nature Conservancy- Mascoma Headwaters Proposal

- At our last meeting, we talked briefly about the Commission possibly making a donation towards the purchase of the property. Bill has done some investigating and read that we would need a warrant article and a public hearing to do so. We would need to submit the article by January for a March vote.

Nature Hut

- Bill stopped by to take some photos for a presentation he is making to the Canaan Bird & Garden Club on the 13th. He discovered that the area must've flooded during Hurricane Irene because the stairs and ramp appear to have floated some distance from the building. The Hut itself didn't appear to have sustained any damage. However, Aaron suggested that we strap the hut to the piers to ensure protection from future flooding.
- At the last work day, the ramp was added to the front steps and another window was installed. One loop trail is also marked with tapes to the west side of the hut. There are now two roughly marked trails at the site.
- Next work day- we're considering October 29th or 30th. To be confirmed via email

Minutes

- Will be approved at the October meeting

Aaron moved to adjourn the meeting

Marcia seconded

The next meeting will be Monday October 3rd at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

October 1, 2011

Attendees: Aaron Allen, Mandy Ruest, Alice Schori

This meeting was convened for the purpose of approving the August and September minutes. No other business discussed.

Aaron moved to approve the minutes from August and September 2011

Mandy seconded the motion.

The next meeting will be Monday November 7th at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

November 7, 2011

Attendees: Aaron Allen, Bill Chabot, Elizabeth Chabot, Len Reitsma, Mandy Ruest, Kate Brooks, Alice Schori

Guests: Noel Everts, Hillary Rogers, Michael Samson

Selectboard request

- Michael Samson attended the Conservation Commission meeting this evening to request, on behalf of members of the Selectboard, a report of the Role, Powers and Function of the Commission. One question in particular that was asked of us is “Why do we think we can speak for the town” to which our response is that we don’t and haven’t, we can only represent the Commission. We will pen a letter to the Selectboard, with the requested information. The Selectboard requests this letter by their next meeting on November 22nd for review.

Conservation fund

- It does not appear that any of the Current Use monies have been deposited into the Conservation Commission account yet this year. Aaron will follow up on this.

Nature Hut

- Next work day is December 10th at 8:00

Bird in Hand/Mckee Parcel

- The annual walk is due. Bill and Aaron will do this in the next month

Misc

- The Bird and Garden Club requested that one of our members attend a meeting and describe some of the activities in which we are engaged. Bill obliged and took some photos of the Nature Hut. (While at the hut he discovered that Hurricane Irene disturbed the steps/ramps and they need to be repositioned). The Garden Club gave a \$50 donation to the Commission.
- The Nature Conservancy project is currently on hold pending resolution on some details with the current land owner. This means they had to withdraw the grant request until next year.

Minutes

- There was a brief meeting in October whose purpose was only to approve minutes. Minutes will be approved at the December meeting

Aaron moved to adjourn the meeting

Len seconded

The next meeting will be Monday December 5th at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

December 5, 2011

Attendees: Aaron Allen, Bill Chabot, Elizabeth Chabot, Len Reitsma, Mandy Ruest, Kate Brooks, Marcia Wilson

Guests: Noel Everts, Hillary Rogers

Selectboard request

- The Report to the Selectboard of the Role and responsibilities of the Conservation Commission was submitted. Several commission members were present at the Selectboard meeting of November 22nd to respond to questions.

Nature Hut

- The ramps have been repositioned.
- The next work day is December 10th. Meet at 8:00 at the hut.
- We agreed that in the near future we should talk to the Select board about how the Hut should be 'advertised' or made available to the public.

Bird in Hand/Mckee Parcel

- The annual walk was performed on November 12th.

Conservation Commission Members

- Another request came from the Selectboard for the Commission to provide an accounting of its members and their terms. While we have records of voting to accept members or to change status or titles, the retention votes are not clear. We reviewed everyone's status based upon when they either joined the commission or changed status and agreed to the following which was provided to the Selectboard:

- Aaron Allen, Co-Chair, April 2014
- Bill Chabot, Co-Chair, April 2014
- Elizabeth Chabot, Secretary, April 2014
- Kate Brooks, January 2013
- Mandy Ruest, May 2014

ALTERNATES

- Len Reitsma
- Alice Shori

Bill moved that we accept the above, and Len seconded.

Additionally, Noel and Hillary have been regular guests for some time and they were invited to be Alternates.

- Aaron moved that Noel be accepted as an alternate, Len seconded
- Aaron moved that Hilary be accepted as an alternate, Mandy seconded.
- All approved the above.

Misc

- April 22nd 2012 is Earth Day. We agreed that the annual clean up would be April 21st. Bill to request that this be posted on the town website.
- We discussed having representation on the planning board. Marcia suggested that we be copied on the Agenda and decide if representation is needed at a particular meeting or not.
- The Nature Conservancy project remains on hold

Minutes

- October: Mandy moved that the minutes be accepted as presented, Aaron seconded, all approved
- November: The first paragraph notes that the Commission letter is due to the Select board September 22, the correct date is November 22. Bill moved that we accept the November minutes with this correction, Marcia seconded, all approved.

Len moved to adjourn the meeting

Bill seconded

The next meeting will be Monday January 2nd at the Senior Center