

Canaan Conservation Commission

January 12, 2012

Attendees: Noel Everts, Bill Chabot, Elizabeth Chabot, Hilary Rogers, Kate Brooks, Alice Schori

Selectboard request

- The select board has requested a listing of everyone's terms of office. Marcia had additional information she was going to present to the Commission, but she was unable to attend due to illness. We will need to communicate with her via email to determine what is required.

Nature Hut

- A preliminary trail was completed on December 10th. It is taped but will need a more permanent marking.
- We need to schedule a day to install the windows- will discuss at next meeting

Misc

- Consider digitizing the wetlands survey

Minutes

- December 2011: Alice moved to approve the minutes as presented, Bill Seconded, all approved.

Bill moved to adjourn the meeting

Alice seconded

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

Canaan Conservation Commission

February 6, 2012

Attendees: Noel Everts, Bill Chabot, Elizabeth Chabot, Hilary Rogers, Kate Brooks, Alice Schori, Mandy Ruest

Selectboard request

- The select board has requested a re-submission of the Commission members, indicating 1 member's term expiring per year, with all members expiring within 3. The latest submission is as follows:

Name:	Term ending date:
Kate Brooks	4/2012
Elizabeth Chabot	4/2013
Aaron Allen	4/2014
Bill Chabot	4/2014
Mandy Ruest	4/2013

- It is unclear how the members will be backfilled and if they can re-apply for their membership at the end of their term. We will ask Marcia for clarification.
- The selectboard has required the Commission officers to be sworn in at the Town Office. All officers have done so, except Kate as she is required to move off the Commission.

Nature Hut

- March 25th - 8:00am: Scheduled to install the last of the windows.
- Benches can be made at Aaron's shop at the next work day
- Possibly we can start mapping the trails. (Need a GPS)

Misc

- Consider digitizing the wetlands survey, but first it needs to be located.
- The 2010 Conservation funding has not been deposited, nor has the 2011.

Minutes

- January 2012: Aaron moved to approve the minutes as presented, Mandy Seconded, all approved.

Elizabeth moved to adjourn the meeting

Alice seconded

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

Canaan Conservation Commission

March 5, 2012

Attendees: Noel Everts, Bill Chabot, Elizabeth Chabot, Hilary Rogers, Kate Brooks, Alice Schori, Aaron Allen, Mandy Ruest, Marcia Wilson

Conservation Commission Member Terms

- The Selectboard is satisfied with the terms as presented (see minutes from February '12)
- We discussed with Marcia how to replace members as they roll off. She said that either we can propose an additional 3 year term for that member, or propose a new member as a replacement. This process is similar to that which we have been following, so no significant change.

Nature Hut

- March 25th - 8:00am: Scheduled to install the last of the windows.
- We briefly discussed with Marcia wanting to get feedback from the Selectboard regarding how they'd like to see the Nature Hut 'publicized' or introduced to the public
- Possibly an event can be scheduled to co-incide with the start of school in the fall

Annual Roadside Clean up

- Scheduled for April 21, 2012.
- Sign – up at the Canaan Street Lake Beach from 8am-noon
- Bill will contact the Cardigan Mountain school.

Misc

- Noel brought maps indicating wetlands, conserved lands, and other points of interest. Perhaps we can link these maps to the conservation commission portion of the Canaan website
- Marcia is working with a group to create a mapped local trail network.
- The 2010 Conservation funding has not been deposited. Aaron will follow up with Gloria.
- The Lebanon Lions Club is hosting a Mascoma River clean –up. More details to come, but it's currently slated for July 14

Minutes

- February 2012: Correction: Mandy's term expires April of 2013. The minutes reflect May of 2014
- Alice moved to approve the minutes with the above correction. Aaron seconded, all approved.

Aaron moved to adjourn the meeting.

Marcia seconded

The next meeting will be Monday April 2 at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

April 2, 2012

Attendees: Noel Everts, Bill Chabot, Elizabeth Chabot, Kate Brooks, Alice Schori, Mandy Ruest, Len Reitsma

Guest: Jackie Shibles

Nature Hut

- The March 25th date was rained out. We'll discuss options with Aaron and will email dates.
- No feedback yet from the Selectboard regarding any suggestions/thoughts they might have regarding how to launch the Nature hut
- Mandy suggested having some sort of 'lesson plan' available for teachers who want to bring their classes.
 - Consider having laminated tree identification charts or tags on certain trees along the path
 - Len suggested bringing a 'trial' group in June when there are plenty of birds
 - Bill to email Marcia to expedite any Selectboard feedback to allow us to pursue a June time frame
 - Len fine with any age group.
- Regarding access and trails in, Len suggested we look at the existing parking area and consider a 'bridge' over the swamp for easier access. A large beaver dam is on the way and would be a great thing for visitors to see.
- Len and Alice are working with the Bear Pond stewardship plan. Some trail maintenance is required. Also, there are some possibilities of linking the Bear Pond trails to a Nature Hut trail.

Annual Roadside Clean up

- Scheduled for April 21, 2012.
- Posters are available for hanging. The event is also on the town website
- The Cardigan Mountain School does not seem to be available to help this year

Misc

- Len does not have a copy of the Wetland survey. Elizabeth emailed Vicky McAlister who said we can look through the archives.
- Marcia sent an email about the Grade School planning a garden for the Spring of 2013. Perhaps the CCC can be involved in some meaningful way. More details to come.
- The 2010 Conservation funding for 2010 has been deposited.

- The Lebanon Lions Club is hosting a Mascoma River clean –up. The date will not be July 14th as planned due to the Prouty.
- Len, Alice, and Bill attended a meeting about the proposed Quabbin to Cardigan trail. A large section of the proposed trail already exists, the biggest open section is the Kearsarge to Cardigan portion. There will be two more upcoming meetings. Attendees included various trail groups, outdoor clubs, and Conservation commissions.

Minutes

- March 2012: Correction: Aaron was missing from the list of attendees.
- Alice moved to approve the minutes with the above correction. Bill seconded, all approved.

Elizabeth moved to adjourn the meeting.

Alice seconded

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

Canaan Conservation Commission

June 4, 2012

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Aaron Allen, Mandy Ruest, Len Reitsma, Hilary Rogers, Marcia Littlefield

Guest: Jackie Shibles

Reviewed minutes of meeting dated April 2nd, 2012. Aaron made motion to approve, seconded by Mandy, all voted in favor.

Nature Hut

- Len to lead a guided hike at 8am on Saturday June 16th. Bill to email town to add to calendar.
- Len to plot trail system with GPS.
- Marcia to provide Bill with a list of email addresses for teachers who may be interested in bringing a student group to the hut in the fall. Bill will email all an invitation.

Old Homes Day

- Bill to email John Bergeron to see if there is space available for display of pictures and hopefully a trail map of the Nature Hut & trail system.

Williams Field Playground

- Marcia asked for volunteers to help set up the new playground equipment on Saturday June 30th. The old equipment is to be moved to the beach on Canaan Lake.

Mascoma River Cleanup

- Bill asked for volunteers for the cleanup led by the Lebanon Rotary on July 7th. For more information on the event, the web site is <http://www.clubrunner.ca/Portal/Events/EventDetails.aspx?accountid=1423&eid=193870&tid=1> Life preserver, gloves, & proper footwear are required.

Marcia made a motion to dismiss, seconded by Len.

Next meeting to be held on July 2nd at the Senior Center.

Canaan Conservation Commission

August 8, 2012

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Mandy Ruest, Hilary Rogers, Elizabeth Chabot

Reviewed minutes of meeting dated June 4th, 2012. Hilary made motion to approve, seconded by Mandy, all voted in favor.

Nature Hut

- We will have a poster of Nature Hut photos at Old Homes day.
- Bill emailed the teachers on the list as provided by Marcia and to-date has received no response
- We noted that a sign for the Town Forest would be helpful for people looking for it. We will need to discuss with the Select board. Continue the discussion in the September meeting.
- Mandy provided some excellent lesson plans on disk for consideration
- Mandy had some other great suggestions for the Hut:
 - Picture post: A post with NSEW indicators for positioning a camera. Photos taken at different times of the year could be posted on the Canaan website and could be a fun activity for visiting students
 - Laminated sheets identifying trees, birds, other plants
 - Hang footprint casts
- Next Hut Day: Sept 9th
 - Benches
 - Clean up inside Hut
 - Install remaining window(s)
 - Mark Trails

Old Homes Day

- Bill to email John Bergeron to see if there is space available for display of pictures and hopefully a trail map of the Nature Hut & trail system.

Williams Field Playground

- The playground has officially opened

Mascoma River Cleanup

- Bill represented the Conservation Commission and noted that the cleanup went well.

Misc:

- Note: There was no July Meeting

Next meeting to be held on September 10th at the Senior Center.

Canaan Conservation Commission

September 10, 2012

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Mandy Ruest, Hilary Rogers, Noel Everts, Marcia Wilson, Aaron Allen

- Mike Samson presented the town plan for administering a new transfer station sticker program. Mike asked for volunteers to help register residents, and distribute stickers over the next two months. Several members volunteered to assist.
- Reviewed August minutes. Motion to approve by Marcia, seconded by Mandy, approved.

Nature Hut

- Work day was held on Sept 9th. The final two windows were installed, trails cleared and marked, and trail way-points were stored on a GPS for future map making.
- Bill to provide springs for doors.
- Open house scheduled for Saturday Oct 13th from 10-noon.
- Bill to resend email to Marcia for distribution to various educators to see if there is interest in a class trip to the hut.
- Bill to email Sharon Duffy with details for posting on the town web site.
- Marcia to ask Selectboard for approval to have a sign made & posted at the parking area of the town forest.

Motion to adjourn made by Aaron, seconded by Bill, approved.

Next meeting to be held on October 1st at the Senior Center.

Canaan Conservation Commission

October 1, 2012

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Hilary Rogers, Noel Everts, Marcia Wilson, Aaron Allen, Len Reitsma

Minutes

- Reviewed September minutes. Motion to approve by Elizabeth, seconded by Bill, approved.

Nature Hut

- Open house scheduled for Saturday Oct 13th from 10-noon.
- Trails are mostly marked and ready. We will meet at the hut on Saturday the 6th for any final clean up and prep work.
- Marcia to email teachers to see if there is any interest in bringing classes to the hut.

Property for Sale

Bill found an interesting piece of property for sale. It abuts the Bear Pond wilderness and could provide better access to the Wilderness. The Commission members were very receptive to gathering more information about this property and sale options. Bill to contact the realtor for more details

Motion to adjourn made by Len, seconded by Bill, approved.

Next meeting to be held on December 3rd at the Senior Center.

Canaan Conservation Commission

December 3, 2012

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Noel Everts, Elizabeth Chabot, Marcia Wilson, Aaron Allen

Minutes

- Reviewed November minutes. Motion to approve by Bill, seconded by Marcia, approved.

Nature Hut

- Len and Noel said they would coordinate some brush clearing around the beaver dam
- Aaron is checking into any issues around parking in the 'lot'
- We should post on the town website that the hut is Open
- We would like to approach the Selectboard regarding putting an easement on the town forest. We will ask Mike Samson how to write a warrant article for this to present to the select board.

McKee Parcel

- The property was sold approximately a year ago and the Commission was not notified which is in violation of the 10 day land change rule
- Logging has commenced in the 33 acre parcel without a permit. This is in violation of the existing timbering plan as well as in violation of river regulations.
- The state advised Bill today that this is a town matter and they will get involved only if the town cannot resolve the issue.
- Also, it was noted that the 2.9 acre parcel has a dump pile of furniture and trash on it.
- Bill will get in touch with Mike Samson as he is working with the new owners on these issues.
- Bill and Aaron will conduct the annual walk next week

Other Business

- Mandy tendered her resignation. The commission needs to review membership and increase the number of members. Possibly the town website would be a place to place a notice.
- The Annual report information will be due soon- Bill hasn't received any requests for this yet but will prepare the report.

Motion to adjourn made by Aaron, seconded by Marcia, approved.

Next meeting to be held on January 7, 2013 at the Senior Center.