

## **Canaan Conservation Commission**

January 6, 2014

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Alice Schori, Elizabeth Chabot, Dave McAlister, Noel Everts,

### **Town Forest- Easement**

- Mike Samson and Dave McAlister are actively writing the warrant article for the easement
- The Conservation Commission and the Selectboard will meet to review and agree on any needed changes.

### **McKee Property**

- Control of the property may be changing hands. The commission should stay alert for any real change.

### **Minutes**

- The December minutes were reviewed. Dave moved that they be approved, Elizabeth seconded the motion, all approved

### **Miscellany**

- The annual report was submitted to the town
- March 8: tentative snowshoe around the hut. Bill to ask Sharon to post on the website. 10:00 to noon
- Bill or Alice to report back to the Commission regarding a snow shoe to Bear Pond

Motion to adjourn made by Bill, seconded by Dave

**Next meeting to be held on January 6, 2014 at the Senior Center.**

## **Canaan Conservation Commission**

February 3, 2014

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Alice Schori, Elizabeth Chabot, Dave McAlister, Noel Everts, Aaron Allen, Hilary Rogers, Len Reitsma

Guests: Alan Strickland, Kurt Geotthardt

### **Enfield Reservoir**

- The Enfield reservoir is actually located on Canaan Property. Enfield no longer uses the reservoir for the town drinking water and it not interested in maintaining it. Alan and Kurt joined the Commission meeting to discuss the reservoir and any interest the town of Canaan might have in taking over the responsibility. The Canaan Selectboard has expressed that they are not interested in the dam.
- The reservoir sits on about 20 acres, and could qualify for a Great Pond
- Enfield only pays about \$25 in taxes to Canaan, but there could be 'hidden costs' such as liability insurance. Annual maintenance for the area around the dam is about \$1,200
- The dam is inspected every few years, the last inspection was December of 2011.
- Possibly the dam could be dismantled. The state has a procedure. It's not known to this group what the cost is.
- The Upper Valley Land Trust could be interested in preserving the land, but would need to better understand the liability.
- The Mascoma Watershed group could also have some interest. They will converse with the UVLT. Bill will email both groups to facilitate

### **Minutes**

- The January minutes were reviewed. Aaron moved that they be approved, Dave seconded the motion, all approved

### **Miscellany**

- Dave Roby to provide trail maps to the Conservation Commission of roadways in his woods.
- Earth Day clean up: April 19th, 9-noon.
- The Bear Pond snow shoe is this Sunday at 1:00 pm

Motion to adjourn made by Len, seconded by Dave

**Next meeting to be held on March 3, 2014 at the Senior Center.**

## **Canaan Conservation Commission**

March 3, 2014

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Alice Schori, Elizabeth Chabot, Dave McAlister, Noel Everts, Aaron Allen, Hilary Rogers, Len Reitsma

### **Minutes**

- The February minutes were reviewed. Dave moved that they be approved, Aaron seconded the motion, all approved

### **Earth Day**

- April 19<sup>th</sup>, 9-noon. Meet at the beach. Bill to email Sharon tomorrow about the date.

### **Mascome LAC**

- Summit
  - The summit, scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup> at Cardigan Mountain School from 9-2, is a gathering of conservation-minded groups, including two featured speakers discussing watershed and effluvial erosion.
  - Please reserve a spot if you're coming
- The LAC currently has an open position on the committee. They meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday.

### **Enfield Reservoir**

- Currently no update

### **Miscellany**

- The scheduled snowshoe at the Nature Hut will be postponed. There is currently too much snow and the parking area is not plowed.
- Plans for two culverts on Goose Pond were submitted to DES.

Motion to adjourn made by Aaron, seconded by Bill

**Next meeting to be held on April 7, 2014 at the Senior Center.**

## **Canaan Conservation Commission**

April 7, 2014

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Alice Schori, Elizabeth Chabot, Aaron Allen, Hilary Rogers, Len Reitsma

### **Minutes**

- The March minutes were reviewed. Len moved that they be approved, Aaron seconded the motion, all approved

### **Earth Day**

- April 19<sup>th</sup>, 9-noon. Meet at the beach.

### **Nature Hut**

- The town approved the warrant article to put the Town Forest under easement
  - Bill to contact Mike Samson for advise how to proceed
  - Possibly request funding support from the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership or the NorthEast Grassroots Environmental fund
  - Bill to present a plan to the CCC

### **Other**

- Alice suggested we should invite Warren Johnston of the UV Trails Alliance to attend a meeting to discuss what they're doing with the Rail Trail

Motion to adjourn made by Elizabeth, seconded by Aaron

**Next meeting to be held on May 5, 2014 at the Senior Center.**

## **Canaan Conservation Commission**

May 5, 2014

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Alice Schori, Elizabeth Chabot, Len Reitsma, Dave McAlister

Guest: Gary Wood

### **Guest Presentation: *Gary Wood, Friends of Canaan Village***

- Gary noted that he attended the recent presentation at Dartmouth about Building a Climate ready community. He found it very relevant to our current weather trends and what the Friends of Canaan have noticed down town with periodic flooding and changing water course
- The Friends invite the Conservation Commission to walk the down-town portion of the Indian River to observe the flow and some of the pilings that become obstructed. There is no real strategy for keeping these structures clear
- A walk is scheduled for this coming Sunday, May 11 at 10:30AM

### **April Minutes**

- The April minutes were reviewed. Alice made one amendment: She had suggested that we invite Warren Johnston, he did not invite himself. Len moved that the minutes be approved with amendment, Bill seconded the motion, all approved

### **Earth Day**

- Roadside clean-up went well. There is no count of bags for this year.

### **Nature Hut**

- Bill has emailed Mike Samson for advise how to proceed with the easement. The town attorney will be consulted.
- It's too late to request funding from the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership this year, but we should contact them about future funding opportunities.
- Bill to present a plan to the CCC

Motion to adjourn made by Elizabeth, seconded by Dave

**Next meeting to be held on June 2, 2014 at the Senior Center.**

## **Canaan Conservation Commission**

June 2, 2014

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

Guest: Gary Wood, Joanna Carr

### **Follow up discussion regarding flooding in Canaan: *Friends of Canaan Village***

- Several CCC members walked the downtown portion of the Indian River with the “Friends” in May to better understand the flooding issue. The downtown area has a history of flooding and at its worst, can flood to route 4 in front of, but not to, the library. Typically flooding recedes quickly which contributes to it not being considered a disaster. However, the flooding is a likely detractor from development or improvements in that area.
- It was noted that the DES is performing a fluvial erosion study to the south on the Mascoma River. Possibly funds could be raised to add to the study
- It was asked if there are any mitigating options
- Bill will drop a note to DES contacts that he met at the Cardigan program this past spring.
- Joanna suggested that perhaps grant money could be available to help fund a study.

### **May Minutes**

- The May minutes were reviewed. Len moved that the minutes be approved with amendment, Bill seconded the motion, all approved

### **Nature Hut**

- Bill to contact the Upper Valley Land Trust about options to proceed with the Forest Easement

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### **Misc**

- The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions offered to send a representative to the August meeting to present how they support local commissions.
  - Aaron to schedule the Meeting at the Meetinghouse
- The McKee walk needs to be scheduled
- Len wondered if there are any LCHIP funds available for property maintenance as the McKee parcel borders need remarking and in several areas, could use some clearing of downed trees and branches

Motion to adjourn made by Len, seconded by Aaron

**Next meeting to be held on July 7, 2014 at the Senior Center.**

## **Canaan Conservation Commission**

July 7, 2014

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Dave McAlister, Noel Everts, Elizabeth Chabot, Len Reitsma

Guest: Gary Wood

### **Follow up discussion regarding flooding in Canaan: Gary Wood**

- Several problem areas were discussed including where Orange Brook joins the Indian River.
- An existing old culvert that spills into the Indian River is a suspect in the Ballpark flooding. It is possible that there is an obstruction in the culvert. Before spending money on other options, such as studies, it makes sense to determine if there is blockage, and if so, to remove it.
- Gary will contact the fire company to determine if they can assist.
- Gary will also ask Ken Warren of the Rail Trails if they have a method of cleaning out culverts.
- Bill noted that a fluvial erosion study costs \$3,200 per mile.

### **June Minutes**

- The June minutes were reviewed. It was noted that “effluvial study” should be changed to “fluvial erosion study”. Bill moved that the minutes be approved with amendment, Dave seconded the motion, all approved

### **Nature Hut**

- Bill to contact the Upper Valley Land Trust about options to proceed with the Forest Easement

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### **Misc**

- Dave McAlister advised that the McKee parcel is currently slated for sheriff sale. The annual walk is on hold pending outcome.
- The New Hampshire Association of Conservation representative will attend the August meeting to present how they support local commissions. The meeting will be held at the Meetinghouse.
- Bill asked Steve Walker if there are LCHIP funds available for property maintenance. Waiting for response.

Motion to adjourn made by Elizabeth, seconded by Dave

**Next meeting to be held on August 4, 2014 at the Meetinghouse.**

## **Canaan Conservation Commission**

August 4, 2014

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Noel Everts, Elizabeth Chabot, Len Reitsma, Aaron Allen

Guests: Gary Wood, Nik Coates

### **Reintroduction to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC): *NikCoates***

- Town Dues fund:
  - Lobby
    - keeps power in communities & permits collaborations with land trusts
    - Protect our interests
  - Education
    - Annual meeting- First Saturday in November
  - Field Training
    - Free-to-public series June-October
      - Engages kids
      - Mobile mapping
      - 2 wetland sessions
  - Newsletter & monthly email
  - Technical assistance
- What Nik recommends to CCCs
  - Have a natural resource inventory
  - Have a conservation plan
  - Know what's important to the town
  - Active landowner relationships
  - A fund
  - Procedures
  - By-laws
  - Conflict of interest policy
- Len moved that we re-join the NH Association as full members, Aaron seconded. Motion passed.

### **Follow up discussion regarding flooding in Canaan: *Gary Wood***

- Gary reported that the old culvert was inspected and there are no obstructions.
- The gristmill bridge is slated for replacement in the early 2020s

### **July Minutes**

- Aaron moved that the minutes be approved, Bill seconded the motion, all approved

### **Nature Hut**

- Most trails are now open. Several need re-marking
- May be able to get help from the NHACC

### **McKee Parcel**

- The McKee parcel sale is off- taxes were paid
- Annual walk is due. We scheduled a maintenance day for Sept 13, starting at 8:30am



**Misc**

- Current account balance is \$47,000
- Steve Walker responded to Bill's inquiry into if there are LCHIP funds available for property maintenance. There are none.
- Years ago, our CCC petitioned the town for a small budget. We had a short discussion about requesting a warrant article asking for funding that would cover the NHACC dues and supplies for the annual clean up.

Motion to adjourn made by Elizabeth, seconded by Aaron

**Next meeting to be held on September 8, 2014 at the Senior Center**

## **Canaan Conservation Commission**

September 8, 2014

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Noel Everts, Len Reitsma, Aaron Allen, Dave McAlister

Guests: Mike, Ashley, Alan Strickland

### **August Minutes**

- Aaron moved that the minutes be approved, Dave seconded the motion, all approved

### **McKee Parcel**

- Work day and boundary walk is scheduled for Sept 13, starting at 8:30am
- Bill to email Steve Walker to request new markers to post on the boundaries as previous owner never posted the markers they were given by the CCC.

### **Harris Brook Recreation Area**

- Alan Strickland and the Enfield CC. is proposing to turn the Enfield Reservoir property in Canaan into the Harris Brook Recreation Area . They will be presenting their plan to the Enfield Selectboard in Sept
  - Aaron made a motion, seconded by Len to support the Enfield CC. if approved by the Enfield Selectboard.

Motion to adjourn made by Len, seconded by Dave

**Next meeting to be held on October 6, 2014 at the Senior Center**

## **Canaan Conservation Commission**

October 6 2014

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Noel Everts, Len Reitsma, Aaron Allen, Dave McAlister, Alice Schori, Elizabeth Chabot

Guests: Alan Strickland, Mike Mezzacapo, Ashley Wojnarowski

### **September Minutes**

- Aaron moved that the minutes be approved, Dave seconded the motion, all approved

### **McKee Parcel**

- Steve Walker sent new markers to post on the property boundaries
- The property walk occurred as planned last month. Despite several attempts to notify the owners, an unfriendly note was left on Aaron's windshield while the walk was in process. They have been re-minded of the town's rights and obligations.
- A majority of the boundary was walked.
- Marking with the new tags and additional flagging to be done in December. Date TBD

### **Harris Brook Recreation Area**

- Aaron is planning to attend the Enfield Conservation Commission meeting in November, first Thursday
- Abutters are to be notified in December

### **Town Forest Easement**

- There was discussion around an easement vs covenants due to cost
- Bill to invite ULVT to discuss their views on why property should be put into easement vs other options
- Bill to talk to Mike Samson about language around covenants for the property.
- The Town can't hold an easement
- **Goals:**
  - open for hunting & recreation to the public
  - trapping must be approved
  - unauthorized motorized vehicles prohibited
  - CCC maintains operational control of hut
  - tree cutting for maintaining trails and hut
  - no creating trails without CCC permission
  - no bikes
  - no fires
  - designated parking areas
  - dogs on leashes on trails unless actively engaged in hunting
  - no horses
  - Possibly leave additional area available near hut for additional building

**New Members**

Mike and Ashley expressed desire to join the Commission.

Len moved that we accept Mike Mezzacapo as a full-time member of the Commission, Aaron seconded the motion, all approved.

Elizabeth moved that we accept Ashley Wojnarowski as a full-time member of the Commission, Len seconded the motion, all approved.

Their terms are for 3 years, starting November 1 2014

Motion to adjourn made by Len, seconded by Elizabeth

**Next meeting to be held on November 3, 2014 at the Senior Center**

## **Canaan Conservation Commission**

November 3 2014

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Noel Everts, Len Reitsma, Aaron Allen, Alice Schori, Elizabeth Chabot, Mike Mezzacapo, Ashley Wojnarowski

Guest: Matt Oliveira

### **October Minutes**

- Len moved that the minutes be approved, Bill seconded the motion, all approved

### **Review of proposed Pole Installation on Potato Road**

- Matt Oliveira is an environmental engineer from TRC Environmental. The poles are being upgraded to reduce power outages from Canaan to Enfield and improve reliability.
- An application has been filed for an expedited dredge and fill for the pole installation on Potato Road
- Matt brought photos of the area for the new poles and information about how many new poles.
- Michael noted that there has been excessive tree clearing along Potato Road. This had not been approved by Matt, but possibly Liberty Utilities, who has been in contact with the Canaan road agent, received approval for the clearing.
- Bill moved that we accept and sign the proposal as presented, Aaron seconded, all approved. Motion passed.

### **Town Forest Easement**

- The selectboard reversed their support of an easement, moving towards covenants. Draft to come.
- Bill to ask Nik Coates if he has any experience with covenants on easements

Motion to adjourn made by Bill, seconded by Aaron

**Next meeting to be held on December 1, 2014 at the Senior Center**