

Canaan Conservation Commission

January 5, 2015

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

Guest: Tom Carr and Debra Ford

November Minutes

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

Review of Royal Road Relocation

- As part of the High School renovation, Royal Road is slated to be moved to align with the entrance to the high school
 - Proposed design will not necessarily improve flooding over the road, but should help it drain once if flows to the north side
 - The new location of the road will improve safe access between Royal Road and the school
 - Crosswalks will also be marked near the road crossing
 - Dave moved that Bill sign the documents as presented by Mr Carr, Bill seconded, all approved.

Review of Town Forest Covenants

- Dave suggested that the hunting buffer be changed from 1000 ft to 300 ft to be consistent with Fish & Game regulation
 - Fish & Game can provide signs for posting
- The Selectboard to make their final review at tomorrow's meeting and will sign.
- Bill made a motion to accept the covenants as presented with the corrected to the hunting buffer. Dave Seconded, all approved

Annual Roadside Clean up

- April 25, 9-noon
- Bill to contact Cardigan Mountain School for help

Motion to adjourn made by Elizabeth, seconded by Mike

Next meeting to be held on February 2, 2015 at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

March 2, 2015

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

Minutes

- No meeting was held in February
- The January 2015 minutes were reviewed. Dave moved to accept, Noel seconded, motion passed

New Business & misc discussion

- The CCC received an invoice from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions for our membership. Len moved that it be paid from the CCC fund, Ashley seconded, motion passed
- Saving Special Places conference will be held in Ware NH on April 11. The cost is \$60. Len moved that we pay for any attendees from the CCC fund. Bill seconded, the motion passed.
- Aaron Allen and Hilary Rogers officially resigned from the commission
- Dave M noted that there are 2,236 acres of Canaan in conservation. He will see if a map exists
- SB-83 is being debated: it prohibits members of municipal conservation commissions from entering public property not acquired by the conservation commission for the purposes of gathering data, without obtaining permission from the public owner. The bill is in response to dispute in Milford regarding a biologically sensitive property with ability to mine gravel.
- Wind Turbines
 - Alice and Noel attended a presentation on the proposal to install new turbines, several of which would be in Canaan. Alice noted there was very convincing discussion regarding why New England is not generally a good place for these installations.
 - Some discussion amongst the Commission regarding what would be good for Canaan: possibly a photo voltaic initiative. We should continue this discussion.

Annual Roadside Clean up

- April 25, 9-noon
- Bill to contact Cardigan Mountain School for help
- Bill has emailed Sharon to put the date on the town website

Motion to adjourn made by Bill, seconded by Dave

Next meeting to be held on April 6, 2015 at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

April 6, 2015

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Noel Everts, Alice Schori, Elizabeth Chabot, Len Reitsma

Minutes

- In March it was reported that Aaron and Hilary resigned from the commission. They have since clarified- they are only taking a temporary leave of absence and will return in a few months. The minutes will stand as-is because it wasn't an error, it was the understanding at the time.
- Alice moved that we accept the minutes, Len seconded, all approved.

Misc discussion

- Saving Special Places conference will be held in Weare NH on April 11. The cost is \$60. Len moved that we pay for any attendees from the CCC fund. Bill seconded, the motion passed.
- We have signs for posting the McKee parcel. We will schedule a day in late July
- Need to clean up Town forest trails- date to be set for after black fly season.

Term Vote

- Bill's term has expired. No new candidates have been brought forth.
- Elizabeth moved that Bill's term should be renewed for 3 years. Len Seconded the motion, all approved. Bill's term will end in April 2018.

Annual Roadside Clean up

- April 25, 9-noon
- Sharon to put the date on the town website
- Aaron will help with the pick- up.

Motion to adjourn made by Bill, seconded by Elizabeth

Next meeting to be held on May 4, 2015 at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

May 4, 2015

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

Minutes- April 2015

- Weare NH was misspelled
- The notes on Bill Chabot's re-election onto the commission were incomplete.
- Bill moved that the minutes be approved with corrections, Len seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Nature Hut

- Fish and Game is hesitant to post the town forest as the hut isn't occupied
- Bill will do some trail monitoring. Len will also check the status of the trails since he is frequently in the forest.
- Kevin Hurley and his Scouts made a sign for the firehouse. Possibly they could make one for the Town Forest entrance as well.

Annual Roadside Clean up

- Clean-up went well. It was noted that the Canaan Clean Can project seems to be helping a bit on Switch Road
- It was also noted that the free Advantage paper is a litter problem. They throw the paper and it ends up in ditches. Dave will contact the Valley News and ask them to either put it in the mailbox or not deliver it at all.

Motion to adjourn made by Alice, seconded by Elizabeth

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

Canaan Conservation Commission

June 1, 2015

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Alice Schori, Elizabeth Chabot, Mike Mezzacapo, Dave McAlister, Ashley Wojnarowski

Minutes- May 2015

- Deferred until July meeting

McKee Parcel

- The McKee parcel did not go to auction. There is no further information.
- July 25- walk the parcel

Nature Hut

- Fish and Game is hesitant to post the town forest as the hut isn't occupied
- Bill will do some trail monitoring. Len will also check the status of the trails since he is frequently in the forest.
- Kevin Hurley and his Scouts made a sign for the firehouse. Possibly they could make one for the Town Forest entrance as well.

Misc

- A wetlands permit for culvert and seasonal stream crossing was reviewed
- Gary Wood dropped by and would like to re-visit the town flooding issue next month. He and Mike Fogerty walked the length of the river and the current opinion is that the trouble is at the Gristmill Bridge.

Motion to adjourn made by Ashley, seconded by Elizabeth

Next meeting to be held on July 6, 2015 at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

July 6, 2015

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Alice Schori, Elizabeth Chabot, Mike Mezzacapo, Dave McAlister, Ashley Wojnarowski, Len Rietsma

Minutes- May & June 2015

- "Valley News" was missing from the minutes under the Roadside Clean up discussion on the May minutes. No corrections for June.
- Dave moved we accept the minutes with correction as noted, Len seconded, all approved.

McKee Parcel

- The annual walk is scheduled for July 25, 9:30
- We will bring tools to hang the new signs provided by the state
- Len says the northern boundary looks good
- Bill will notify the tenants

Nature Hut

- We decided that we should make a temporary sign for the Nature Hut/Town forest

Canaan Flooding Issue

- Gary Wood presented the packet of information he has assembled as a result of his research into the flooding issue in Canaan. The topic was also discussed at the Friends of Canaan Village annual meeting.
- The Conservation Commission advised Gary that flooding is not in a Commission's charter and recommended he contact the state for further guidance. If a plan is put forth, possibly there is funding available.

Misc

- Dave McAlister contacted the Valley News about the litter issue with the Advertising supplement. The VN responded that they would investigate
- The Conservation Commission Association annual meeting is the First Saturday in November

Motion to adjourn made by Elizabeth, seconded by Dave

Next meeting to be held on August 3, 2015 at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

September 21, 2015

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Elizabeth Chabot, Mike Mezzacapo, Dave McAlister, Ashley Wojnarowski, Len Rietsma

A special meeting was held to discuss Mike Mezzacapo's proposal to become involved with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary program

Mike is seeking support and sanctioning to have the town forest certified under the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program

- Audubon will provide assistance and education to help us improve
 - Outreach and education
 - Property/resource management
 - Assistance in meeting Forest goals such as;
 - Improved signage
 - Better trail maps
 - Walkways in wet areas
- The Canaan Town forest would be the first property in New Hampshire to be Certified (excluding golf courses)
- The town could use the certification as a promotional tool
- The Certifying agency is located in Troy New York
- Audubon does not require an Easement be on the property. The existing covenants should suffice
- No long term commitment
 - Annual dues of \$275
 - Certification renewal every 3 years

Dave noted that the proposal is acceptable with the select board as there are no restrictions

Bill moved that we vote to support the project and move forward. Len Seconded, all approved.

Additional information can be found here <http://www.auduboninternational.org/acsp>

Motion to adjourn made by Dave, seconded by Bill

Next meeting to be held on October 5, 2015 at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

October 5, 2015

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

Minutes- July 2015

Alice moved that we approve the July minutes, Noel seconded. All approved.

September 2015

Bill moved that we approve the September 21st minutes, Ashely seconded. All approved

McKee Parcel

- We will complete the border marking on November 15, 9:00 AM

Misc

We had a quick re-cap of the September 21st meeting where Mike Mezzacapo presented the plan for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program

Motion to adjourn made by Elizabeth, seconded by Bill

Next meeting to be held on November 2, 2015 at the Senior Center

Canaan Conservation Commission

November 2, 2015

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Elizabeth Chabot, Mike Mezzacapo, Ashley Wojnarowski, Len Rietsma, Alice Schori, Dave McAlister, Noel Everts

Minutes-

October 2015

It was noted that for the attendees, Len was not present, but Noel was. Len moved that we approve the October minutes with correction, Mike seconded. All approved.

McKee Parcel

- We will complete the border marking on November 15, 9:00 AM
- Bill already hung the State signs indicating the easement status
- The property was not purchased at the sale. The group wondered if the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership would be interested in loaning money to someone wanting to purchase the property since it's in their target area.

David Robie's conservation Parcel

- The Clark Pond to River Road section will be managed by Silvio Conte
- There is a feedback/comment period that closes the 17th
- Mike moved that the CCC email a letter to Silvio Conte in support, similar to the LAC letter, Ashley seconded. Dave McAlister voted nay, Noel and Alice abstained. All others approved. The motion passed. Bill will forward the letter.

Misc

- We had a brief conversation about the theoretical long-term cost of managing the Mascoma watershed areas and potential tax loss for any lands conserved for that purpose. The watershed located in Canaan has no direct impact on our drinking water, but directly affects Enfield and Lebanon's water. We may want to have future conversations about cost-sharing.
- Mike received the packet from Audubon and will commence with the Environmental assessment in January. Len will assist with the species list

Motion to adjourn made by Len, seconded by Mike

Next meeting to be held on December 7, 2015 at the Senior Center