

Canaan Conservation Commission

January 4, 2016

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

Minutes- November 2015

The section regarding our discussion of the Mascoma watershed needs to be reworded to reflect that our discussion revolved around potential cost-sharing with down-stream towns that benefit from efforts Canaan makes to protect the watershed.

Alice moved that we approve the November minutes with correction, Mike seconded. All approved.

“The Bobcat Issue”

- The CCC received an email from the Stoddard Conservation Commission regarding opposition to opening a hunting/trapping season for Bobcat. We had good discussion, both pro and con regarding the issue. The information, as presented, clearly is biased in one direction and is likely incomplete. Noel made good points from the perspective of a hunter: there would be a small number of permits in relationship to a seemingly healthy population of cats. Culling of the cats could aid in the efforts to increase the population of the rabbit population, also of concern to conservationists. From an opposing point of view, the data is vague, including a lack of any genetic involvement and what the consequences of removing genetic diversity from a small population would be. Interestingly, Vermont allows trapping, but there is a large public outcry to Silvio Conte to not allow trapping on their properties, so if Bobcat hunting were to be allowed in New Hampshire, it's possible that the Robie Properties might be petitioned as well to forbid it.
- Bill moved that we support the Stoddard Conservation Commission on their efforts and sign the letter as presented as time does not permit us to craft and approve our own letter. Alice seconded the motion. There were four “Ayes” and one “Nay”. The Ayes have it, and the letter will be signed and forwarded.

McKee Parcel

- No updates on the status of the property or its sale.
- Border markings are fairly complete. We posted signs until we ran out.

Misc

- The Saving Special Places conference is April 9th. Mike and Bill are planning to attend. If anyone else is interested, let them know
- Earth day Clean up is scheduled for April 23 with a snow day of the 30th

Motion to adjourn made by Elizabeth, seconded by Ashley

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

Canaan Conservation Commission

March 7, 2016

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

Minutes- January 2016

One correction to the January minutes: The "Saving Special Places" conference is April 9th, not February 9th.

Len moved that we approve the November minutes with correction, Dave seconded. All approved.

McKee Parcel

- Len completed the border marking along the rail trail.
- There have been no updates on the sale of the property. The Commission wondered if any of the local conservation-minded agencies, like MWCC, could be interested in the purchase of the property. Its proximity to the Bear Pond Natural Area and the conserved Town forest could be attractive. Also, the Quabbin to Cardigan organization could be interested as well since the location is directly in line with their area of interest. Bill will contact Kurt at the MWCC to gauge interest as well as Mascoma Bank, who holds the mortgage, to discuss what they need out of the property.

Earth Day Cleanup

- Earth day Clean up is scheduled for April 23 with a snow day of the 30th
- Elizabeth will make fliers
- Bill will email Sharon so the event will be included on a *FLASH EMAIL*!
- Meet at the beach 8:30-9 to sign up. Gloves/bags provided.

Town Forest

- Mike spoke with Dave Shinlinger. His class is designing and building signage for the Town Forest.
- Adding some gravel to make the parking look legitimate would be nice. Dave suggested we wait until summer when spring clean up and expenses are complete. The state will need to be notified.
- Mike is working on the mammal and plant survey, using information provided by Alice.

Energy Efficiency

- The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is funding programs related to energy saving. There may be financing available for local programs such as solar installations, which is something the Selectboard and Mike Samson have investigated in the past. Dave will forward any information that Mike has received regarding effort and cost to install solar panels in town.

Misc

- The Saving Special Places conference is April 9th. Mike and Bill are planning to attend. If anyone else is interested, let them know

Motion to adjourn made by Len, seconded by Dave

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

Canaan Conservation Commission

April 4, 2016

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

Minutes- March 2016

Correction to the March Minutes: the correct name is Bear Pond Natural Area. Also, Beach was misspelled as Beech.

Dave moved that we approve the March minutes with correction, Mike seconded. All approved.

McKee Parcel

- The MWCC is interested in purchasing the parcel
- Bill has been in touch with the bank- they are willing to work with MWCC
- The MWCC voted to issue \$500 towards the deposit amount of \$1,000 required by the bank, with hopes that the CCC would vote a matching amount.
- The CCC members discussed that we could approve the \$500 without a warrant article, but anything more substantial would require a vote which cannot happen until next March, much too late for this project. We also confirmed that we cannot own land, and know that the town has no appetite for owning land, that this would be a MWCC purchase
- Dave voiced concerns from the stand point of tax revenue about possible reduced taxes if the house and other structures are razed.
- It was also mentioned that moving the easement from the town to a conservation organization like UVLT as part of this project would be viewed favorably
- Bill moved that the CCC offer the matching \$500 towards the deposit amount. Mike seconded the motion. Noel exercised his right as an alternate to vote affirmatively. Dave voted no as he would prefer to see the MWCC handle the whole thing. Alice abstained due to a conflict of interest (She is on MWCC's board). The Ayes passed the vote. Bill will contact Gloria about issuing a check.
- Friends of Mascoma Watershed are issuing a letter of support as well as the Broken Prop RC Club

Earth Day Cleanup

- Earth day Clean up is scheduled for April 23
- Elizabeth brought a sample flyer. The text will be cleaned up a little, and then sent to Sharon to post and they will be posted around town as well.
- Meet at the beach 8:30-9 to sign up. Gloves/bags provided.

Town Forest

- Mike spoke with Dave Shinlinger. The CCC still has some funds left over from the Hut, so they can be put toward paying for any materials.

CCC Current membership

- Elizabeth Chabot's term is up this month. As there are no new people volunteering for the position, Dave moved that she accept another 3 year term, Bill seconded. All approved.

Public Information Session- Conte National Wildlife Refuge Conservation Plan

- May 3rd 5-8:00pm, Kilton Library, West Leb

Representatives from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will present the draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Silvio O. Conte Refuge, answer questions, and engage in dialogue with those in attendance.

Misc

- The Saving Special Places conference is April 9th. Mike and Bill are planning to attend.
- NHACC annual fee of \$296 is due. Mike moved that we continue our membership and pay the dues, Dave seconded. Bill will email Gloria to request the check.
- Sharon Duffy asked if we would like any changes to the webpage. We will collect some photos for her to post, including Earth Day clean up, the hut and forest, and the Canaan Clean Can project.

Motion to adjourn made by Elizabeth, seconded by Mike

Next meeting to be held on May 2, 2016 at the Senior Center

Conservation Commission Members

Full-Time:

Bill Chabot: Chair, 3 year term,
ending April 30, 2018

Elizabeth Chabot: Secretary, 3 year term,
ending April 30, 2019

Len Reitsma: 3 year term,
ending August 31, 2016

Mike Mezzacapo: 3 year term,
ending Oct 31, 2017

Ashley Wojnarowski: 3 year term,
ending Oct 31, 2017

Alternates:

Alice Schori

Noel Everts

Canaan Conservation Commission

May 2, 2016

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

Special Guest: Mike Samson

Minutes- April 2016

Len moved that we approve the April minutes, Bill seconded. All approved.

Town Forest/McKee Parcel/Conservation in general

- Mike Samson joined the Commission for this meeting to review, discuss, and clarify some discussion points from the previous Commission meeting.
- On the topic of the unapproved logging: apparently a plan had been submitted, but it was not signed/approved. The logging effort commenced anyway until it was noticed and halted. The town feels there isn't much more that they could've done from a legal standpoint.
- On the topic of the Stewardship Agreement on the McKee parcel: The town holds the easement, it's the job of the CCC to monitor the property, and report any issues to the state. Mike S. noted that transferring the easement from the Town to some other entity such as the UVLT is NOT desired by the selectboard as previously believed, good to know.
- On the topic of accessibility, using Bear Pond Natural Area as an example: BPNA is not viewed as being welcoming to the public. There is an ugly, chained gate at one entrance, and there is no signage. BPNA is intended to be a wildlife refuge rather than promoted as recreational, however hiking on the trails is permissible. Discussion continued around how this area could be made more inviting to walkers and the MWCC will continue the conversation on how to create better access for walkers while still protecting against ATVs/snowmobiles which have been a problem in the past.
- Accessibility is an important topic for Mike S because of a number of opportunities the Town currently has, including the Roby property as well as the town forest, and the McKee parcel. These properties, if managed well, could attract visitors for recreation, education, and other activities such as geocaching. Mike had some good ideas about increasing visibility on the website (we will work with Sharon to add more photos). Mike S is also a strong proponent of involving the community as much as possible. If the community cares, the work will be done.
- Future educational topics could include water/wells/upland protection. Where does water come from? Water is going to be an increasingly important topic.
- Len is going to head up some educational walks through the schools- he is working with Coby to schedule.
- Alice and Len have a walk scheduled for May 21st, 9:30 am, at the McKee Parcel
- Town Forest trail marking: June 18th, 9:00am

Old Home Day

- This year is August 5-7. The CCC should be a presence.

Roadside Cleanup

- Thank you to everyone who helped clean up Canaan's roadsides, and to the town road crew for picking up the bags!

Motion to adjourn made by Elizabeth, seconded by Dave

Next meeting to be held on June 6, 2016 at the Senior Center

Conservation Commission Members

Full-Time:

Bill Chabot: Chair, 3 year term,
ending April 30, 2018

Elizabeth Chabot: Secretary, 3 year term,
ending April 30, 2019

Len Reitsma: 3 year term,
ending August 31, 2016

Mike Mezzacapo: 3 year term,
ending Oct 31, 2017

Ashley Wojnarowski: 3 year term,
ending Oct 31, 2017

Alternates:

Alice Schori

Noel Everts

Canaan Conservation Commission

June 6, 2016

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

Minutes- May 2016

Review postponed until July meeting

Town Forest

- Work day scheduled for the 18th for trail marking
- Mike priced a sign for the forest- \$426.00 for a 9x47" carved and painted sign. Bill made a motion to purchase the sign using remaining Nature Hut funds. Noel seconded, motion passed.
- The kiosk previously discussed will be built separately in the future
- Len, Koby, and one of Len's students, Christian, led several groups of K-4th graders on a wetland upland walk with creature stations and life cycle discussions held in the hut. It was a great success! The kids asked lots of questions. The school has asked for reimbursement for the bussing, \$400. Mike moved we issue a check to the school to cover the bussing, Elizabeth seconded, motion passed.

McKee Parcel

- The MWCC and Mike Fogerty are scheduled to hold a walk on Father's day. This will be posted on the town email after it is confirmed.

Motion to adjourn made by Mike, seconded by Noel

Next meeting to be held on July 11th, 2016 at the Senior Center

Conservation Commission Members

Full-Time:

Bill Chabot: Chair, 3 year term,
ending April 30, 2018

Elizabeth Chabot: Secretary, 3 year term,
ending April 30, 2019

Len Reitsma: 3 year term,
ending August 31, 2016

Mike Mezzacapo: 3 year term,
ending Oct 31, 2017

Ashley Wojnarowski: 3 year term,
ending Oct 31, 2017

Alternates:

Alice Schori

Noel Everts

Canaan Conservation Commission

July 11, 2016

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Elizabeth Chabot, Mike Mezzacapo, Noel Everts, Ashley Wojnarowski, Len Reitsma

Special Guest: Bob Angler

Minutes

May 2016

No Discussion. Mike moved we accept the minutes as presented, Ashley seconded. Motion passed

June 2016

No Discussion. Ashley moved we accept the minutes as presented, Bill seconded. Motion passed

Town Forest/Nature Hut

- Additional tours of the Town Forest were led just before school let out for the summer. Students up to the 6th grade participated bringing the total to about 230 students. Teachers continued to be enthusiastic.
- The Sign should be done shortly. Mike has the invoice. Bill will forward it to Gloria so Mike will have the check when he picks up the sign
- Bill has been marking trails and plans to finish them this weekend. Some need some weed whacking.
- Target July 24 at 9am for a trail day.
- Mike is going to investigate plastic trail markers that expand with tree growth as an alternative to the paint we've been using to mark the trails.

Old Homes Day

- First weekend in August. We agreed that we need to have a presence, possibly combine with John Bergeron and the MWCC. Bill will email Kurt of the MWCC to see what maps exist.

Commission Members

- Len Reitsma's term expires in August. As there are no other candidates volunteering, Len agreed to another 3 year term, to expire August of 2019.
- Elizabeth moved that we vote Len into another 3 year term, Mike seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn made by Mike, seconded by Ashley

Next meeting to be held on August 1st, 2016 at the Senior Center

Conservation Commission Members

Full-Time:

Bill Chabot: Chair, 3 year term,
ending April 30, 2018

Elizabeth Chabot: Secretary, 3 year term,
ending April 30, 2019

Len Reitsma: 3 year term,
ending August 31, 2019

Mike Mezzacapo: 3 year term,
ending Oct 31, 2017

Ashley Wojnarowski: 3 year term,
ending Oct 31, 2017

Alternates:

Alice Schori
Noel Everts

Canaan Conservation Commission

August 1, 2016

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

Minutes

July 2016

No Discussion. Bill moved we accept the minutes as presented, Alice seconded. Motion passed

Old Homes Day- August 5-7

- Bill is picking up boards and maps from Kurt and will man the booth on Saturday morning.

Design and installation of Town Forest sign

- The sign is complete. We will meet at Len's on Thursday the 4th to build the kiosk
- Everything will be taken to the Town Forest for installation next week or the week after

Motion to adjourn made by Len, seconded by Elizabeth

Next meeting to be held on September 12, 2016 at the Senior Center

Conservation Commission Members

Full-Time:

Bill Chabot: Chair, 3 year term,
ending April 30, 2018

Elizabeth Chabot: Secretary, 3 year term,
ending April 30, 2019

Len Reitsma: 3 year term,
ending August 31, 2019

Mike Mezzacapo: 3 year term,
ending Oct 31, 2017

Ashley Wojnarowski: 3 year term,
ending Oct 31, 2017

Alternates:

Alice Schori
Noel Everts

Canaan Conservation Commission

September 12, 2016

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Mike Mezzacapo, Ashley Wojnarowski, Len Reitsma, Noel Everts

Minutes

Deferred

Town Forest/Nature Hut

- Audubon accepted our environmental planning. Mike to speak to someone to regarding a third party certifier. Once done, the CCC should be certified. Timing anticipated to be year-end
- Mike forwarded to the town a press release of our accomplishments to-date for approval and publication
- Mike to check if labels are available for marking trees/species
- Mike and Len to schedule Kiosk work next Tuesday (Sept 19). Mike will ask Canaan Hardware for form holders

Motion to adjourn made by Bill, seconded by Ashley

Next meeting to be held on October 3, 2016 at the Senior Center

Conservation Commission Members

Full-Time:

Bill Chabot: Chair, 3 year term,
ending April 30, 2018

Elizabeth Chabot: Secretary, 3 year term,
ending April 30, 2019

Len Reitsma: 3 year term,
ending August 31, 2019

Mike Mezzacapo: 3 year term,
ending Oct 31, 2017

Ashley Wojnarowski: 3 year term,
ending Oct 31, 2017

Alternates:

Alice Schori
Noel Everts

Canaan Conservation Commission

November 7, 2016

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

Minutes ~September

Len Moved to accept the minutes as presented, Dave seconded. All approved

Cell Tower

- Original site was in view of the Canaan Street Beach. Current location proposed is on Grist Mill Road. The new location will still cover the town, which is the main objective, but won't cover North Canaan towards Lyme. It will cover part of 118 and Grafton.
- Verizon proposed the sites, based on coverage and access
- Bill moved that we issue a letter of support for the tower to the Selectboard. Ashley seconded. Motion passed unanimously
- Bill will write the letter.

MWCC and Bird in Hand

- The MWCC failed to raise enough money to purchase the Bird in Hand property.
- Alice made a motion that we request our donation back from the MWCC, Len seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Forest

- The new sign has been installed. Mike added the maps, copies of the Covenants and Audubon certification information
- Len said the Hut's journal reflects visitors that hiked into the forest because of the new sign
- Canaan Hardware donated the plexiglass for the project.
- Dave noted that the new sign look great!
- The green trail needs to be re-marked but it can wait until spring. Mike also investigating alternative trail markers.

Bird in Hand

- The annual monitoring of the property is due. A majority of the property has been walked over the course of the year except one small section. Scheduled for Sunday the 18th at 9:00. The public to be invited.
- Bird in hand will presumably be going back up for auction. We discussed talking to the state about updating the easement and adding more protections due to past history.

Motion to adjourn made by Dave, seconded by Len

Next meeting to be held on December 5, 2016 at the Senior Center

Conservation Commission Members

Full-Time:

Bill Chabot: Chair, 3 year term,
ending April 30, 2018

Elizabeth Chabot: Secretary, 3 year term,
ending April 30, 2019

Len Reitsma: 3 year term,
ending August 31, 2019

Mike Mezzacapo: 3 year term,
ending Oct 31, 2017

Ashley Wojnarowski: 3 year term,
ending Oct 31, 2017

Alternates:

Alice Schori
Noel Everts