

Canaan Conservation Commission

Minutes

May 3, 2021

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Elizabeth Chabot, Len Reitsma, Thomas Oppel, Cody Hussey, Alice Schori

Absent: Noel Everts, Dave McAlister

Special Guest: Marcello Shelzi

Minutes

Cody moved we accept the April minutes, Alice seconded the motion, all approved.

The Kate Brooks Memorial

Elizabeth contacted Gardener's supply who said they will start receiving trees mid-May. Len said his daughter's business has an account with Gardener's supply and perhaps she can help us purchase at a discounted rate

There will be significant donations in Kate's memory that require a plan. We still really like the idea of creating more of a garden and with the town hall in flux or at least somewhat in the future, perhaps we can do something around the meetinghouse. There were suggestions of benches and picnic tables which could also be useful for weddings and other events. Elizabeth will contact Mike Samson to find out who to talk to about this.

CCC: Land conservation Goals and discussion

Cody proposed referring to this project as a Property Index which seems to be correct terminology.

Cody also investigated ArcGIS more closely, and it actually costs \$500 per year. The town uses, Avitar Associates for mapping. It does not easily allow data export into other programs but it could be a useful tool to start.

Short term: Continue to contribute to the index. Take a pause on ArcGIS and see what we can do with Avitar. We might need to purchase a short term, or extension to the license.

Additionally, we need to understand what we are asking for. What are the conservation options, what funding streams are available. What approvals would the CCC need to assist in funding.

Cody is interested in the actual funding sources available in NH. Will report back on LWCF and RTP Funding. (Chart at right gives an idea of what these two orgs fund)

What we can fund?

	LWCF	RTP
Acquisition of Land	●	■
Trail Development	●	●
Trail Maintenance	■	●
Playgrounds	●	■
Sports Facilities (ie. Ballfields)	●	■
Boating Facilities	●	●
Educational projects	■	●
Planning Projects (DNCR Only)	●	■
Equipment (trail maintenance)	■	●

Commission Members

Bill Chabot: Chair,
3 year term ending
April 30, 2024

Len Reitsma:
3 year term ending
August 31, 2022

Elizabeth Chabot:
Secretary,
3 year term ending
April 30, 2022

Thomas Oppel: 3
year term ending
January 2024

Cody Hussey:
3 year term ending
January 2024

Alternates:

Alice Schori

Noel Everts

Selectboard Representative:

Dave McAlister

Town Forest

- Bill walked some of the forest trails after the Roadside Cleanup. The white/pink trail could use a chainsaw visit, as could a couple spots on the yellow trail. Len volunteered to take care of this
- Future project for discussion: The walkway over the beaver dam needs to be replaced. It should be a proper boardwalk, a little higher and more stable. Len volunteered to spearhead this. Cody volunteered to assist. He and Len will coordinate a walk about.

New Funding for Forest Conservation- Future discussion

At previous meetings, we discussed potentially applying for funding available with a mid-April deadline. Cody and Thomas investigated, and below is an update from Cody. To be discussed further. . .

*I just got off the phone with Jennifer of OSI. At this time, we would **not** be eligible for applying to the ALPF since we do not meet the [prerequisites outlined here](#). That being said, she alluded to another application round in the fall. I do believe if we work diligently, we'll have what it takes to apply at that time.*

A proposed agenda item for our May call. I can review the basics of what's required for application to ALPF. From there we can formulate a timeline and action plan.

Misc

- Earth Day Cleanup was very successful! We had the most sign ups ever- over 20, and many more folks cleaned up the streets on their own. Thank you!!!!
- Bill suggested we donate \$50 to Friends of Canaan and the same to Friends of Mascoma
 - Len moved we make these two donations, Cody seconded, motion passed.
- We had an interesting conversation regarding the Freight Shed and the work that the MVP is doing. Cody mentioned that the goal would be to restore the Shed to its former glory. He shared a photo and it was, indeed, glorious. It could make a great overnight spot for people using the rail trail for long distance cycling. Cody also mentioned that there are some interesting funding streams that perhaps we could also tap into.

Motion to adjourn made by Len, seconded by Elizabeth

Next Meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Chabot