

Canaan Conservation Commission

Minutes

January 4, 2021

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

Absent: Dave McAlister, Noel Everts

Special guests: Thomas Opper, Cody Hussey

Minutes

May, November, and December 2021 minutes were reviewed

Corrections:

May: "Bear Creek" conservancy should be Bear Hill Conservancy

November: The word "Plate" should be replaced with "Place" in the notes about the Kate Brooks Memorial Tree

Alice moved we accept the minutes with corrections, Len seconded the motion, all approved.

Nomination of new members

Elizabeth moved the CCC accept Thomas Opper and Cody Hussey as new members with three year terms, Bill seconded the motion. All approved. Welcome Thomas and Cody!

As a note- we will send notice to the Selectboard of the new members.

The Kate Brooks Memorial

Due to the pandemic, we postponed any movement on planting a tree for Kate on the Canaan green. As noted in a previous meeting, traffic at this summer's market was busy and the proposed location of the tree would've taken several of the stall spaces. We need to rethink the location of a tree.

Additionally, Kate's daughter Margaret reached out to Len after Kate's passing and indicated that the family would like to direct any donations to the CCC. We should reconsider our thoughts regarding the memorial as this generous gift takes shape.

Upper Valley Land Trust and Connecticut River Conservancy – Proposed donations

Bill asked the commission if we would like to make a donation to both of these organizations. A little background information about them was provided for Cody and Thomas's benefit. Len proposed we donate \$200 to each group. Bill second the motion which passed unanimously.

Commission Members

Bill Chabot: Chair,
3 year term ending
April 30, 2021

Len Reitsma:
3 year term ending
August 31, 2022

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

Thomas Opper: 3
year term ending
January 2024

Cody Hussey:
3 year term ending
January 2024

Two open seats

Alternates:

Alice Schori

Noel Everts

Selectboard Representative:

Dave McAlister

CCC: Land conservation Goals and discussion

The discussion began with a question from Bill regarding what we see as our goal for conservation: Land near water? Contiguous parcels? Something else? Also, how do we see ourselves going about identifying those parcels.

Alice reminded us of the project from 2003 with the MWCC that resulted in the co-occurrence map that indicated that the northwest area of Canaan would be of value to conserve. Alice did some research into some of the parcels in the area and found some interesting information that we can independently dig into over the next month. We all agreed that this seemed like a good place to start.

Additionally, Bill will be reaching out to Jason at UVLT to see if they have a larger scheme that perhaps we can help realize.

We had a brief discussion about the CCC's inability to hold land. We are unclear if that is non-negotiable, or if it can be changed by warrant article or some other method. We will check in with Dave.

Future Events:

- Earth Day Clean up: April 22, 2021 with Rain/snow date of April 25th.

Annual talk

The CCC would like to hold a talk this year- it's debatable if it can be held in person, but we should decide who we would like as a speaker and determine later if the venue is zoom, outside, or inside the meetinghouse.

Homework: Review the tax maps- see if any parcels make sense to possibly target for sensible conservation.

Motion to adjourn made by Elizabeth, seconded by Bill

Next Meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Chabot