



Canterbury Conservation Commission
Canterbury, NH 03224

Minutes

February 14, 2011

Present: Jen Taylor, Tom Osmer, Fred Ficken, Jim Bassett, Kelly Short, Bob and Linda Fife, Galen Beale

Absent: Dan Sperduto, Teresa Wyman, Ken Stern

1. Hildreth Field Renaming.

With Bob absent, the Commission discussed the renaming of the Hildreth Field.

While the Commission hopes the long term goal will be to combine this property with the Kinter property and the Kimball Pond Conservation Area, that project needs more work. It was decided to put up another sign and dedicate the Hildreth Field to Bob Fife.

Motion by Jen, seconded by Fred that we dedicate the land known as Hildreth Field in honor of Bob Fife and that it be known in the future as the Robert S. Fife Conservation Area.

2. Sod Farm Update

Jen and other members of the Commission will attend the February 21, 2011 Selectmen's meeting to discuss the lease on the Sod Farm. The Commission came to several conclusions tonight:

That the Selectmen should appoint a committee to deal specifically with the Sod Farm

The Commission supports the idea of a meeting with the Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission and a business Lawyer.

The Conservation Commission's role in any discussions is to help ensure the Easement is not violated and to promote best practices and multiple conservation goals, such as Wildlife habitat, recreation, etc.

The Commission will continue to actively look at all possible uses for the land that would create an income stream to defray the bond expenses.

The Commission supports the idea of putting the Lease out to bid. The Commission also supports other uses for the land and other tenants.

The Commission does not think that the land swap idea is a viable one because of the Easement language.

3. Land Use Change Tax Update

The Town Office is working on transferring the Change of use Tax monies into the Commission's account.

4. Riverland Update and Discussion re: gate

Galen brought the continuing problem of locking the Riverland gate to the Commission once again. This is an ongoing problem which prevents access to this Conservation land which in turn creates parking problems on the road. Each time a Town lock is put on the gate, it is removed and a new one is put on, preventing the Town from accessing this land. Galen reported discussions with the Highway Department and the Police and possible solutions. However, the Commission members felt that this is destruction of Town property and the police department should be urged to address this problem.

5. Northern Pass

Jen distributed some information from UMERLAC on the upcoming hearings on the Northern Pass transmission lines which will run through parts of Canterbury. There is both a proposed line and an alternate route laid out. The new lines will run along the existing power lines, on larger poles. This is a multiyear project and the Commission members decided to highlight this issue in the next Newsletter to help raise awareness about this power line.

6. Quabbin to Cardigan Grants

This grant opportunity will not help us as the Merrimack River is the border of the area covered on the grant application.

7. Stewardship Update

Tom is going to send the minutes out to everyone and next month we will discuss this item.

8. Minutes

Tom amended the Minutes to more accurately reflect the Gold Star Sod Farm acreage. The approximate total sod farm is 614 acres with 318 currently in agriculture

Motion by Jim, Seconded by Fred, all voted to accept the January 10, 2011 minutes with corrections.

9. Other Business

Jen will start a list of monthly walks for next year. A point person will be identified who will take responsibility for each walk.

Bob noted some extensive cutting on Shaker Road by Uplands Farm. Jen had seen the intent to cut, and noted that while this is a high visibility cut, the owner is reclaiming his field. There was another Intent to Cut on Baptist Road.

Jen will drop Gail Deary a note thanking her for attending last month.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00

Motion: by Jim, seconded by Kelly. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Galen Beale, Acting Secretary