



Canterbury Conservation Commission
Canterbury, NH 03224

Minutes of the Meeting, July 11, 2011

Present: Galen Beale, Jen Taylor and Bob and Linda Fife, Kelly Short, Fred Ficken, Tom Osmer, Theresa Wyman, Ken Stern

Absent: Jim Bassett

Guests: George Glines, Steve Soren

Stewardship Report - Tom

At the August stewardship meeting 29th, members will work on deeds.

New Map - Jen

Vanessa Gould of the Central NH Regional Planning Commission has developed a Conservation Layer map. Ken Stern has reviewed this map and suggested a missing property. Ken is not clear about some lands around Rocky Pond, whether they are conservation lands or not. Jen asks for additional suggestions and will send the draft map around. Galen asked who asked the Regional Planning Commission to make this map, it was unclear, apparently it was a Current Use Map first which has been adapted.

Gold Star Sod Farm - George Glines

George Glines told the Commission that lands on the Sod Farm has been leased to two farmer this season: himself [65 acres of corn] and the Crete family in Boscawen [100 acres of corn].

George brought in some examples of live corn growing beside the road and one from the middle of his field. The stalk growing within 10' feet of the road, grew in good soil and was tall, the stalk from the interior was stunted because the topsoil was gone and it is mainly sand now.

Wayne Mann did an extensive soil test and sent it to the Cornell lab. The results are not in as yet. In an earlier test the soils tested at 1.5% organic matter, far short of what is needed to grow good crops.

George and the Crete family agree that in order to grow anything on this land, it must be heavily manured. It may have been excellent farmland once, but the sold farm operation has removed almost all the topsoil. There is a study by UNH of the soil loss from sod farming which says the loss will be minimal, but that is not the case here. So much has to do with the sod farm operator and in Canterbury they have cut the sod much too deeply. The existing easement required the sod farm to spread 8 tons of manure a year, but that is not nearly enough for that kind of use. George uses 20 tons of manure on his corn lands currently.

George proposed that the Planning Board create an ordinance that said that sod farming was not an allowable use on this land.

George proposed using bio-solids on the land as the most cost effective way to raise the quality of the soil. If Class A solids were used - those that had been composted already - there would be no need for public hearings.

The Commission discussed whether a farmer leasing the land would do right by the property. George suggested that they would tend the land better if then had an option to purchase the land. His family is interested in such an arrangement.

George leaves at 8:35 He can be contacted at s.glines@comcast.net.

The Commission discussed that this news of farmers working the Gold Star property this year had not been discussed with them earlier. Jen said she would see that the Conservation Commission got the soil test results. We are very interested in this property and want to be part of the discussion. Jen will tell the Selectmen and the Agricultural Committee that we wish to be included in all future public discussions and we wish to receive all minutes related to this subject. As Gold Star is a conservation property we feel we should be included in any discussion about future farmers, what they grown and what practices they use. We would like advance notice of such meetings so we could attend.

The Commission briefly discussed the pro and cons of bio-solids and the heavy use of manure along the River. UMERLAC would not be receptive to sludge and the Chesapeake Bay is an example of overuse of manures. Ken said that if sludge is gotten from Concord there are no heavy industrial chemicals because it is pretreated.

Ken asked if we could get the County Forester to look at the woods on the property, although he did not feel they were very valuable.

The Planning Board is having a meeting to discuss moving a building on the sod farm. We will try to go.

Wayne Mann asked the Conservation Commission to suggest a name for the Gold Star property. The old name of "Kadockity" was suggested.

Fiddler's Picnic

The current date is August 7th, but the Commission has not done any advertising and so it was suggested that the date be changed to September 11th. Teresa will check that date and get back to the Commission.

Town Elm

Bob Fife reported that he has gotten a bid from a licensed arborist for \$470 to treat and fertilize the elm tree. After this treatment, they will be \$380.00 a year.

Kimball Pond

Bob reported that he put a cable up across the road to Kimball Pond but it was taken down. He said that the Fire Department plans to put in a hydrant for the Pond, and at that point we will be able to put back the large rocks that block the access to the Pond.

Fred and Tom reported that they are still working on collecting the materials to building the Beaver Deceiver. The pipe has been purchased.

Fife Field

Bob Fife asked the Commission for \$100.00 to spray for poison ivy along the access to the field. He would like to mow a path down the field where the snowmobile trail currently is. The field will be mowed this fall. Bob estimated it will cost \$1,000.00 for him to remove the rocks affecting the mowing.

Minutes

The June minutes were approved on a motion by Teresa and seconded by Kelly. All voted in approval.

The May minutes were approved with corrections.. All voted in approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45

Respectfully submitted,

Galen Beale, Acting Secretary

Jen Taylor, scribe