



**Canterbury Conservation Commission**  
Canterbury, NH 03224

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Minutes of the Meeting  
March 12, 2012

Present: Bob and Linda Fife, Jen Taylor, Fred Ficken, Ken Stern, Kelly Short, Jim Bassett, Teresa Wyman, Tom Osmer

Absent: Galen Beale

Guest: Steve Seron, Faith Berry, Bob Steenson, Mindy Beltramo, Steve Cochran, Cindy Baily, Lily Berry, Robert and Linda Poitras

**1. Public Input on Signage Alternatives for Fife Conservation Area**

Jen Taylor thanked the guest for coming to the meeting and invited guests to speak. Steve Cochran presented a petition that was made available at the town store. Steve explained that 70 people signed the petition and do not want a sign on the property. He did not see why a sign was needed and asked questions about the timing and scope of work that occurred on the property. Cindy Bailey, Lily Berry, Robert and Linda Poitras expressed that they did not want to have a sign on the property.

The Chairwoman asked if there were constructive alternatives that could be considered. Ken Stern proposed a bolder with a bronze plate. It would require no maintenance and would not impact the view. Bob Steenson offered up that perhaps the sign placement could be reconsidered. Robert Poitras asked if we had considered a bench.

Kelly posed a series of questions. If part of the purpose for acquiring the property was its scenic quality, will any sign detract from the scenic quality? Could we consider a smaller trail head sign that would lead to a nature walk on the property? Could we incorporate the previously proposed sign into the Wilbur Thompson sign?

Jim expressed it was appropriate to recognize Bob's contributions to the Town. He was concerned that the posts were not in the right place. The bench suggestion was a good idea. The process to follow would be to recommend Selectmen the eventual sign/bench/plaque.

Fred thought the setback of the post was ok. The view opens up further up the hill. The Wilbur Thompson sign is a good sign. An interactive / informational sign with a trail map is a good idea.

If a bench were put on the property, Faith offered a granite post to tie up a horse or dog while people rested on the bench. Faith liked the idea of an educational table. Kelly has experience with these tables and they are expensive to do well because they need to hold up to the elements. Linda suggested that if a stone bench is considered, a polished one holds up better and reduces lichens.

Theresa inquired what percentage of the town population do the 70 signatures represent? Kelly read comments that were emailed in. Kelly thought it was appropriate to write another newsletter article.

Tom is comfortable with a bench, plaque, or other form of sign. Tom suggested the very top of the hill can be problematic due to parking and that we consider a bottom corner location. Theresa would like the parking for the property to be better defined.

*As a result of the public feedback and subsequent discussion, other alternative commemorative opportunities will be explored and a newsletter article will be drafted.*

## **2. Granit Submission - Ken**

Ken has prepared two submissions for the Granit database conservation layer. These include a Spendor Meadow piece that was taken for back taxes and abuts existing land locked conservation property. The second is a town owned property that was sold to the Dubois family some years ago and, as part of that sale, has a conservation easement on the property.

## **3. 4-H Proposal for Kimball Pond - Jen**

Donna Miller and Emily Brunkhurst have proposed making the Kimball Pond Quest a more permanent feature on the property. They are requesting permission to erect a box to hold the quest information. The box will be approximately the size of a blue bird nesting box.

We endorse the 4-H proposal to put the quest information on the Kimball Pond property.  
Jen moved and Theresa seconded. Vote 7-0 Alternates voting were Theresa and Linda

## **4. Finalize Membership**

Ken moved and Linda second that we recommend to the selectmen the following adjustments to the membership: Galen Beale and Jim Bassett as full members with terms to expire in 2015. Steve Seron and Faith Berry with terms to expire in 2015.

## **5. Milfoil Follow-Up discussion**

Kelly moved that *the Commission recommends to the selectmen that it is worth trying this new milfoil treatment provided the Rocky Pond Association can get the adjacent towns to match the funds.*  
Passed unanimously.

## **6. Pasturing follow-up discussion**

Jen has contacted Brett Belise, Miles Smith Farm, and George Glines and asked that they schedule time on the Selectmen's agenda if they would like to use the field. Jen has forwarded on the Commission's views about snow mobile trail access, visitor access, water quality, and the conservation goals of the property mentioned in the management plan to the Selectmen. They will decide how to proceed from here.

Kelly asked how can runoff be prevented from entering the wet area? Ken asked about how much of the field has been pastured in the past (did it extend as far back as the row of trees). Bob said the pasturing did go as far back as the row of trees, but that Edi Posselt once had cattle stuck in that wet area that needed assistance to get out.

**7. Town Meeting** - There are no preparations needed by the Commission prior to Town Meeting.

**8. Open Space follow-up discussion** – Postponed until next month

## **9. Approve February Minutes**

Galen was absent from the February meeting and as such should be added as absent.  
Ken moved and Kelly seconded that the minutes as amended be approved. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm on a motion by Kelly and seconded by Fred.  
Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Taylor, Chair