



**Canterbury Conservation Commission**  
Canterbury, NH 03224

Minutes of the Meeting

July 8, 2013

Present: Kelly Short, Galen Beale, Jen Taylor, Tom Osmer, Steve Seron, Teresa Wyman, Bob Fife, Linda Fife, Ken Stern, Chris Blair

Absent: Fred Ficken, Faith Berry

1. Possible set-back or allowed use for sidewalk and utility improvements within the RS Fife Conservation Area easement (pending).

The Board of Selectmen had suggested that the proposed easement allow for potential future sidewalk along Kimball Pond Road, and other possible changes such as moving the utility poles further from the road. A sidewalk from the center could improve access to the field.

Ken Stern and Kelly Short had walked the frontage on the RSFCA to take rough measurements as a starting point for discussion; they suggested the possibility of allowing a sidewalk and better set-back from the road within a 12-foot distance from the current edge of the pavement. This could allow 1 foot from current edge of pavement to sidewalk, 4 feet for sidewalk, 1 foot for utility pole setback, and 6 feet to rebuild the stone wall and a retaining stone wall below road grade in the field. Chris Blair suggested 15 feet. The Commission will get more information on the sizes of sidewalks and bike paths. An accessible path to an accessible viewing area was discussed and whether the Easement would allow it.

The Commission also considered the possibility of a bike/walking path in the field.

Galen thought the Commission should get some input from the townspeople. Ken suggested we decide what we want first and then have a public information session. Ken described two different views of "outdoor recreation". Some people enjoy exploring new places with no paths and others need sidewalks to feel safe. We will find both opinions at a public meeting.

Tom's the easement language should be broad enough to allow for improved safety, access and scenic viewing quality.

Kelly asked for a non-binding vote on whether the Commission would prefer the property be 100% eased or whether to allow a modest reserved safety/access/scenic viewing area. The majority preferred the latter solution. At Sunday's Work Day we will further explore the possibilities of a path.

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2. Proposed distillery on the Meeh easement.

Kelly had had several conversations with other conservation experts since our last meeting. The Commission again discussed the request for a distillery on the Meeh easement. The Commission decided to write a Letter of Interpretation to be signed by the CCC. Kelly will write the letter and give it to the Selectmen who will decide whether there is a need for a legal opinion.

2. Monitoring proposals for easement properties.

The Commission reviewed two monitoring proposals submitted, one from Dan Spurduto and the other from Chris Kane. The Commission felt both proposals were excellent and both men very well qualified for the work. The proposals are for creating a baseline and files on the private properties on which the Town holds an Easement. Tom and Ken discussed the work to be done and it was felt that the work should focus on the basic requirements necessary to defend the easement in court.

3. Reports on property visits.

Jen, working with Tom and Bob has visited several properties which have not been visited recently. Because of time constraints, she will give her report at the next meeting.

4. Scheduling for additional property visits and RSFCA field work

There will be a work day from 9-12 on July 14, at the RSFCA field. Bring protective clothing we are going to work on clearing the wall.

5. Cutting of trees for Utility lines.

Unitil is proposing to remove some of the trees around the cemetery in the Center. The Commission wishes to go on record as wishing to save these trees for their shade and scenic values.

6. Approval minutes of April and June meetings

The April 2013 Minutes were approved as written on a Motion by Ken Stern and seconded by Bob Fife.

After discussion and corrections the June 2013 Minutes were approved on a Motion by Ken and seconded by Tom

7. Vote on officers for the year (VP, Secretary and Treasurer)

On a Motion by Kelly, seconded by Galen the Commission unanimously voted in favor of the proposed Commission Officers: Jen Taylor as vice chair; Galen Beale as secretary; and Fred Ficken as treasurer.

## 8. Updates/Announcements

Kelly reviewed the recent ZBA decision re: drug rehab program at former Horizon's Edge/Odyssey House property. Because the ZBA reversed its original decision and approved the requested special exception, the applicants tabled their request for a special use variance. Because the request was tabled, the CCC did not testify at the hearing regarding the value of continued public access to the adjacent properties.

The Commission meeting closed at 9:30

Respectfully submitted,

Galen Beale, Secretary