

# **Canaan Conservation Commission**

August 1, 2011

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Elizabeth Chabot, Aaron Allen, Marcia Wilson, Len Reitsma, Mandy Ruest.

Guest: Michael Samson, Canaan town administrator

## **The McKee Property**

- Mike joined the Commission to explain some of the decisions made during the protracted McKee parcel issue. In previous meetings the Commission had discussed why the taxpayers should be absorbing the fees accrued against the town for a legal matter not of our doing. During the proceedings, Mike's goal was to return the easement to its whole state. He recognized that resolving the issue prior to a court trial would help minimize costs. While his initial attempts at mediation were not successful, he was able to bring closure without astronomical expense. The reality is that the owner of the property has no money with which to reimburse the town for its expenses and Mike didn't see the need to further burden that person with additional financial hardship. The Commission appreciated Mike's time spent answering our questions and we consider this issue is closed.

## **The Nature Conservancy- Mascoma Headwaters Proposal**

- Currently there is no agreement among the Selectboard to support the proposal. The Commission drafted a letter to both the Selectboard and the Division of Forests and Lands voicing support. The Selectboard had some concern that the letter of support to the State from the Commission could be misconstrued as Town or Selectboard support. The Commission re-read the letter and agreed that the wording is very clear that the letter is from the Commission. Also, Commission-specific support has precedence for being requested, an example would be our support of the Mascoma River Nomination Project last year.

## **Nature Hut**

- Our next work day is August 20, 8am.

## **Minutes**

- Aaron moved to accept the minutes
- Marcia seconded

Aaron moved to adjourn the meeting

Mandy seconded

**The next meeting will be Monday September 5 at the Senior Center**