

## **Canaan Conservation Commission**

May 2, 2016

Attendees: Bill Chabot, Elizabeth Chabot, Mike Mezzacapo, Alice Schori, Noel Everts, Dave McAlister, Len Reitsma

Special Guest: Mike Samson

### **Minutes- April 2016**

Len moved that we approve the April minutes, Bill seconded. All approved.

#### **Town Forest/McKee Parcel/Conservation in general**

- Mike Samson joined the Commission for this meeting to review, discuss, and clarify some discussion points from the previous Commission meeting.
- On the topic of the unapproved logging: apparently a plan had been submitted, but it was not signed/approved. The logging effort commenced anyway until it was noticed and halted. The town feels there isn't much more that they could've done from a legal standpoint.
- On the topic of the Stewardship Agreement on the McKee parcel: The town holds the easement, it's the job of the CCC to monitor the property, and report any issues to the state. Mike S. noted that transferring the easement from the Town to some other entity such as the UVLT is NOT desired by the selectboard as previously believed, good to know.
- On the topic of accessibility, using Bear Pond Natural Area as an example: BPNA is not viewed as being welcoming to the public. There is an ugly, chained gate at one entrance, and there is no signage. BPNA is intended to be a wildlife refuge rather than promoted as recreational, however hiking on the trails is permissible. Discussion continued around how this area could be made more inviting to walkers and the MWCC will continue the conversation on how to create better access for walkers while still protecting against ATVs/snowmobiles which have been a problem in the past.
- Accessibility is an important topic for Mike S because of a number of opportunities the Town currently has, including the Roby property as well as the town forest, and the McKee parcel. These properties, if managed well, could attract visitors for recreation, education, and other activities such as geocaching. Mike had some good ideas about increasing visibility on the website (we will work with Sharon to add more photos). Mike S is also a strong proponent of involving the community as much as possible. If the community cares, the work will be done.
- Future educational topics could include water/wells/upland protection. Where does water come from? Water is going to be an increasingly important topic.
- Len is going to head up some educational walks through the schools- he is working with Coby to schedule.
- Alice and Len have a walk scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 am, at the McKee Parcel
- Town Forest trail marking: June 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am

### **Old Home Day**

- This year is August 5-7. The CCC should be a presence.

### **Roadside Cleanup**

- Thank you to everyone who helped clean up Canaan's roadsides, and to the town road crew for picking up the bags!

Motion to adjourn made by Elizabeth, seconded by Dave

**Next meeting to be held on June 6, 2016 at the Senior Center**

### **Conservation Commission Members**

#### **Full-Time:**

Bill Chabot: Chair, 3 year term,  
ending April 30, 2018

Elizabeth Chabot: Secretary, 3 year term,  
ending April 30, 2019

Len Reitsma: 3 year term,  
ending August 31, 2016

Mike Mezzacapo: 3 year term,  
ending Oct 31, 2017

Ashley Wojnarowski: 3 year term,  
ending Oct 31, 2017

#### **Alternates:**

Alice Schori

Noel Everts