

# Canaan Conservation Commission

July 11, 2011

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

## Orange Conservation Commission

- The Orange Conservation Commission's tree planting has already occurred. We were unable to assist as we were unaware of the rescheduled date.

## The Nature Conservancy Presentation- *Mark Zangel, Deputy Director of the New Hampshire branch of TNC*

- Mark presented The Mascoma River Headwaters Forest Legacy Proposal to the Conservation Commission. This project will protect approximately 13,000 acres of land, which represents the largest un-fragmented forest block in New Hampshire south of the White Mountains. The lands will be open to the public for hunting, fishing, hiking, and other forms of low-impact recreation along 28 miles of woods roads & trails, including 1,000 acres previously posted against public hunting. The project also includes 25 miles of snowmobile trails currently available for public use.
- The plan is three-phases with one landowner
  - 8,750 acres in Canaan, Dorchester, Lyme, and Hanover will be permanently protected in two phases through the purchase of Forest Legacy or other conservation easements.
  - An additional 4,215 acres outright in Canaan and Dorchester will be permanently protected through outright acquisition and management as a nature preserve or wildlife refuge.
- The project connects and link up 7,300 acres of existing conservation land, creating a 20,000 acre block of protected land.
- The project is located within a Quabbin-to-Cardigan Collaborative priority focus area. 84% is within the core area and 16% is rated as supporting landscape
- The Nature Conservancy historically pays taxes despite the non-profit status
- TNC is planning to sell the 3,845 acres in Dorchester and Canaan that represent Working Forest to a like-minded buyer. If the easements are not in place at the time of sale, they will be added as a contingency.
- Len made a motion to draft a letter of support for this project to the Selectboard
- Bill seconded, all approved.

## Nature Hut (TREK)

- In June, we installed two more windows and made progress on our first trail
- Next work date is August 20 at 8am

## McKee Parcel

- There has been no movement on the town restoring the taxpayer money spent due to the violation of the easement. Currently there is a lien on the property because of the \$40,000 paid to the owners for the sale of the property that is not able to be returned to the buyer.

## **Commission Charter**

- The NH Commission guide suggests a Natural Resource inventory be done to help a commission better understand what resources are available and may warrant protection. Len said this was never done, however an inventory of the wetlands has been completed and is documented at the town office.

## **Minutes,**

### *January*

- Aaron moved to accept the minutes
- Marsha seconded

### *June*

- Bill moved to accept the minutes
- Aaron seconded
- All approved both sets of minutes.

Elizabeth moved to adjourn the meeting

Aaron seconded

**The next meeting will be Monday August 1st .**

**Location: Senior Center**