

## **Cornish Conservation Commission**

Minutes of Wednesday, March 28, 2007, Unapproved

**Present:** Linda Fuerst, Bill Gallagher, John Hammond, Mariet Jaarsma, Betty Miller, Rickey Poor, Gabe Zoerheide (Chair) and guests Jon Woodhull and Steve Jameson

**Minutes:** Bill moved to approve the minutes of January 24, Linda seconded, and the motion passed. Bill moved to approve the minutes of February 28, Mariet seconded, and the motion passed.

### **Mail and Updates:**

- Information about meetings, workshops, publications, and other mail was shared.
- Bill spoke about an UVLT report on activities of various towns' conservation commissions.
- John will have some tree and brush cutting done to restore a hay field and is looking into practices that allow more cutting than 50% of basal density.
- Saving Special Places takes place April 14.
- Gabe signed up for UVLT's workshop on monitoring properties.

**Conservation Plan:** Bill's revisions were distributed prior to the meeting and the Commission reviewed the latest draft. Rickey suggested further changes which will be incorporated in the next version.

**Query from Guest:** Steve Jameson would like to buy property from his neighbor and is looking into an easement. A 99-year lease was also discussed.

**Easements:** Gabe provided updates on three pending conservation easements.

**DES Dredge and Fill Permit:** The Town plans to install wire cages and rock to keep a bank from eroding along West Pass Road. The Commission wishes a more aesthetically pleasing repair was proposed.

**Intent to Cut:** John passed on Leo Maslan's comments about learning of covenants on property after he'd already started a forestry project. Leo would like to find some way to be informed ahead of time. It's the owner's responsibility to inform Leo of any restrictions and the Commission suggests that Leo have property owners sign a form, created by him, indicating any restrictions. The Commission maintains a list of conservation easements in town but there are

far more other deed restrictions. The list would also have to be continually updated. It's possible that Heidi Jaarsma has such a list.

**Oil Spill:** DES was at the Meetinghouse today investigating a possible spill from the oil tank.

**Membership:** The Commission regretfully accepted the resignation of Mary Beth Heiskell. The Commission will recommend the Selectboard appoint Jon Woodhull to complete Mary Beth's term.

**CREA Property:** Linda expressed a number of ideas about using the CREA land more effectively (including developing a trail across the wetlands, community garden, water studies, and other projects with Cornish students and Student Conservation Corps volunteers). More discussion on this topic will be forthcoming. A subcommittee might be an effective way to work on CREA property projects.

**Value of Open Land:** The Commission reflected on discussion at Town Meeting.

**Adjournment:** Bill made a motion to adjourn at 9:30. Jon seconded and the vote passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Miller