

Cornish Conservation Commission
Minutes of Wednesday, June 27, 2007, Unapproved

Present: Jim Barker, Linda Fuerst, Bill Gallagher, John Hammond, Mariet Jaarsma, Betty Miller, Don Snowden, Gabe Zoerheide (Chair) and guest Dan Flynn

Minutes: Jim moved to approve the minutes of May 23, Bill seconded, and the motion passed.

Reflections: The Commission recognized the passing of Mike Yatsevitch and spent some time reminiscing about its leader and mentor who had been a founding member in 1973 and served ever since. Jim made a motion to change the name of the Conservation Award to the Michael Yatsevitch Conservation Award. Bill seconded and the vote was affirmative. Don nominated Jim Barker (currently an alternate) to fill Mike's position. John seconded and the motion passed.

DES permits: DES has requested additional information on both of the town's applications – on Center Road and on West Pass Road. The need for wetlands scientist was discussed as well as the impact of waiting another year for these projects. Gabe offered to call DES and try to get a sense of their needs.

Pending easement: Gabe, Don, Betty, Jim, and Jon visited Anne Tracy and walked around her property. The 36 acres, including fields and forests, are in agricultural use and have beautiful views. It's been in the Tracy family since the late 1700's and is vulnerable to development. Jim made a motion that the Commission contribute \$5,000 to the Upper Valley Land Trust to support the legal and stewardship costs of Anne Tracy's donated easement on Lang Road. Jon seconded and the vote passed.

CREA land: Linda approached the Student Conservation Corps about a project in Cornish. The reception was positive and Bob Coates will come walk the CREA property and meet with interested parties. Topics for discussion include the bridge, a new path, and funding. A town-wide trails brochure and beaver committee were also mentioned. The beavers have been building in the pond to the left of the road to the field. Dan's crew fixed the road and at some point will take gravel from the barn area to build up the road. Don mentioned that the barn will soon be getting a new standing seam roof.

Water ordinance: Bill plans to contact those who came to the Thomas Linzey talk and organize future meetings to draft an ordinance to protect aquifers in town. Barnstead will be a good model to follow and adapt, including an educational campaign prior to a vote at town meeting. Bill also distributed handouts about bottled water.

Conservation guide: The Commission agreed to disseminate the guide to Consider This, UVLT, NHACC, and SPNHF. Betty will do this. The Commission will also consider including it in a town-wide mailing later in the year.

Easement monitoring: Don, Mariet, Betty, and Jim joined Jay Waldner in the annual monitoring of several conservation easements (Barker/Lenz, White Swan, Neidecker, Shurcliff). There are still a few properties to inspect.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Miller