

Cornish Conservation Commission

Minutes of Wednesday, December 17, 2008, Unapproved

Present: Jim Barker, Loel Callahan, Linda Fuerst, Bill Gallagher (Chair), Mariet Jaarsma, Betty Miller, Rickey Poor, Don Snowden, Jon Woodhull and guests Irmi Snowden, Betty and Bill Caterino, Peg Merrens and Sara Cavin (Upper Valley Land Trust)

Minutes: Jim moved to approve the minutes of November 12, Linda seconded and the vote was in the affirmative.

Budget: Bill described some changes that have been made in expenditure allocations and distributed a list showing that the annual conservation budget has been over-spent by \$69.90. Don made a motion that the Conservation Commission agrees with the tally of 2008 expenditures, Linda seconded, and the vote was in the affirmative.

DES Application: The Commission received notice that a standard dredge and fill application has been received by DES for the Cole-Hier culvert on East Road. No action required.

Barker Fund: The donation of \$500 from the Barker Fund to help purchase the Clark property has now been passed on to the Town. Nancy Newbold is still an authorized signer on this account and has agreed to continue. She also expressed interest in being an alternate again. The Commission decided to continue the plan as previously voted for new signers but would welcome Nancy back as an alternate.

Funding Request: Linda's grant request to the Tasker Fund for a CREA project was declined. After discussion, Linda made a motion to spend \$300 from the CREA Fund to hire Lew Shelley of the Student Conservation Association to develop a plan for additional trails and a viewing platform on the CREA property. Jim seconded the motion and it was approved.

Visit of UVLT: Peg Merrens and Sara Cavin presented a slide show (much of which was presented to LCHIP) on the importance of the Fitch easement. Since their last visit, the finances have been worked out and the outstanding amount needed (after funds from LCHIP, the Fitches, and the Upper Valley Land Trust) is \$75,513. The benefits of conserving these two properties include preservation of a working farm (which has been in the same family since the 1770's), a sustainably managed working forest, spectacular scenery, public access, wildlife habitat, water quality, soil protection, and a link to other conserved lands (together these properties will comprise a greenway of more than 2000 acres from the Yatsevitch Forest to the Connecticut River). Betty made a motion that the Cornish Conservation Commission withdraw \$75,513 from the Conservation Fund and donate said amount to the Upper Valley Land Trust for the joint purpose of securing a conservation easement on the Fitch Farm and the East Woods parcel, said easements to be held by the Upper Valley Land Trust. Jon seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Adjournment: John moved to adjourn at 8:40. Loel seconded and the motion passed. Next meeting is January 28.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Miller