

Cornish, NH

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION. April 26 meeting (unapproved minutes):**

**Present:** Mike Yatsevitch, Rickey Poor, Betty Miller, Don Snowden, and John Hammond

John Hammond was welcomed to his first meeting with the Commission as new Selectperson.

**Open Space:** Recent land transfers, new conservation easements in process, and potential conservation easements on various properties in Cornish were discussed. John Hammond stated that at the recent seminar for new Selectpersons throughout New Hampshire, a study was presented which clearly demonstrated how open space helped keep the taxes of New Hampshire towns lower. The Town of Lee has approximately 33% of their land under conservation protection, which has served them well in a highly developed region of the State. A suggested goal for all towns is 25% to be maintained as perpetual open space.

**Town owned Properties:** A committee of Mike, Rickey and Don was established to look at the boundaries of the CREA and surrounding properties as they relate to each other. Don will review other town owned properties and provide a general report regarding the size, location, and resources of each.

**Lands presently protected:** Don will present to the Commission at the next meeting, a list of all properties now under conservation protection. Bill Gallagher will be asked to compile a list of all those properties having deed restrictions. Both lists shall be used to assist the Select Board in dealing with issues of land use change.

**New Terms:** Mike Yatsevitch and Don Snowden were sworn in for new 3 year terms as members of the Commission with terms to expire in 2009. Bill Gallagher will also be sworn in for a three year term and Nancy Newbold for a three year term as an alternate. Other terms were adjusted to reflect an even distribution of term expiration dates to be as follows; Betty Miller, Gabe Zoerhiede, Loel Callahan, Mariet Jaarsma 2007; Rickey Poor, Mary Beth Heiskell 2008; Mike Yatsevitch, Bill Gallagher, Don Snowden, Nancy Newbold 2009

**May 24th Meeting:** The Commission will continue work on the Conservation Plan to help guide us achieve our land conservation goals.

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Minutes: Mike moved to approve the minutes of March 22 as written.

Rickey seconded and the motion passed.

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:50.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Snowden