

Cornish Conservation Commission
Minutes of Wednesday, April 22, 2009, Unapproved

Present: Loel Callahan, Betty Caterino, Bill Gallagher (Chair), John Hammond, Michael Meeks, Betty Miller, Frank Parks, Rickey Poor, and guest Peg Merrens

UVLT Presentation: Peg Merrens provided background information and an update on the National Scenic Byways conservation easement projects (North Star Livery and King Elm Farm). These projects have been developing since the 2003 grant application up to signing of the contract with the state (federal funds are managed by the DOT) a month ago. Both projects meet federal requirements, regional priorities, and local criteria. More than one mile of riverfront will be protected. This encompasses almost a mile along a very scenic portion of Route 12A and includes New England Central Railroad. 125 acres of working farm and forest (including 68 acres of prime agricultural soils) will be protected. The scenic working land combines a commercial recreational activity. Amtrak and Mt. Ascutney enhance the visitor experience. Peg outlined the various costs (conservation easement purchase, project management, legal/title, stewardship) by percentage expected from each party (Byways, landowner, local match). Actual costs won't be known until the appraisals are complete, hopefully at the end of May, but Peg projects the local match requirement to be \$40-80,000.

Minutes: Frank asked about use of equipment at the Furgat property. Loel asked how much he could spend on trees for the Orion/Wightman conservation award. Frank made a motion to approve the minutes of March 25 as written. Mike seconded and the vote was in the affirmative.

Educational Materials: Loel presented a number of brochures that he has gathered from the Extension Service and other organizations. He will get multiple copies and look into leaving them at the local stores plus perhaps the library and school.

Conservation Award: Rickey described what needs to be done to finish up the totem pole project (plaques with recipient names, notebook of info on each award). She also asked folks to think throughout the year about nominees and awards. A Kathy Welker painted photo of a Cornish scene would make a nice award.

NH Arborists Association Award: John announced that Cornish will receive a community beautification award at a ceremony with the Governor on May 1. John submitted the application a while back; he has also applied for more lilacs, wildflower seeds, bulbs, an elm tree, and other trees.

CREA: The CREA Committee met last week and discussed needed drainage work at the baseball field, soccer field, and near the barn. After looking at maps and discussing estimated costs, Rickey moved to authorize up to \$1,000 to be spent from the CREA Fund to work on drainage around the soccer field. Frank seconded and the vote was in the affirmative. Linda, Dan, and a wetlands scientist walked the land and determined that none of the work will require a permit (so long as it's done during the dry season).

Adjournment: Frank moved to adjourn at 9:05, Loel seconded and the motion passed. Next meeting is May 20 (note that this is a week earlier than the regularly scheduled date).

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Miller