

**CORNISH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm.

Attendees: Jim Barker, Chair, Bill Gallagher, Patrick Pinkson-Burke, Rickey Poor, Dale Rook, Steve Wilke, and Rebekah Thomas.

Guests: Marilyn Ray, new volunteer for the CCC

Dale Rook made a motion to accept the November minutes, seconded by Bill. Unanimously approved.

Jim mentioned again that Marilyn had approached us in the past summer about joining the CCC, but because the Municipal Center said she was a legal resident of Claremont that she could not be a regular member. Her property does exist in both Claremont and Cornish but her legal address says Claremont. So she will be happy to be a volunteer.

Jim received a nice letter from Paul Gagnon from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Paul indicated he had taken a walk through the town forest and had nothing but wonderful things to say about the property and indicated that there would be no issues with the deed restrictions and thanked us for being such good stewards. Jim will send the letter on to the selectmen and to Jenny.

Jim wanted to approve payment to Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission in the amount of \$3960, out of the Conservation Fund, for the completion of the NRI; Dale motioned for approval, and Rickey seconded. Motion approved. Another invoice for dues to New Hampshire Timberland Owners association in the amount of \$25 was discussed; Dale moved to approve payment of the dues, Rickey seconded. Motion approved. Another invoice for \$55 to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests dues was discussed, Rickey motioned to approve payment, Dale seconded. Motion approved.

Jim initiated a discussion regarding this year's Conservation Commission's annual award. Names were thrown into the hat and a discussion ensued regarding the nominees and also as to what qualifies a person or group for receiving the award. An awardee was agreed upon and a discussion ensued regarding how to contact the awardee so that the awardee will be present at the Town meeting. A subsequent discussion regarding what to give to the recipient occurred and a general agreement was reached.

Bill wants to know if anyone has a stack of old newspapers he can use to light his kindling. He's run out, it's colder and he wants some. A few people indicated they might be able to help.

That initiated a discussion about news articles that could go into the scrapbook, reminding everyone that if they find articles about the CCC or conservation in the Town to get them and bring them to the meetings so we can include them in “the book.”

CREA: Jim sent out via email two CREA management documents initially sent to him by Linda Feurst for input from the CCC. Jim indicated that other than the activities listed the rest read like a to do list and all agreed that specific names should not be included in the documents. Rickey had a question about the road that leads out to the back field, and whether it should be designated a wetland and whether or not the filling of it violates the surrounding wetlands. Dale indicates that he thinks the road should be maintained, and all agreed, but perhaps we should be more diligent to make sure its maintained properly with regards to the surrounding lands.

Town meeting: Rickey cannot attend but suggested that the CCC should have an NRI display. Jim indicated he'd like to display some of the bigger maps, and if we have a price for a print or electronic copy of the NRI, we might have enough interest for get to sign up for ordering one.

Patrick mentioned that the Cornish Energy Committee is working with Plainfield and have a Solarize/Vital Communities grant to help people get solar panels on their homes/properties. He indicated that more information would be forth coming. Patrick indicated for sure it would involve photo-voltaic panels and maybe hot water.

NRI follow up on education, on water, and on scenic roads. Everyone attending this meeting has signed up for one of these areas. Jim is on the scenic roads sub-committee and they have met and have mapped out a plan and will be presenting petitions at the next (not the upcoming) Town meeting for three roads to be designated. Jim circulated a list of potential roads (generated by the scenic roads subcommittee) for the whole Committee to decide on. The list is West Pass, Mill Village, Root Hill, Dingleton Hill, Squag City, Mace, Gap, Burr, and Sunrise Hill. Put a 3 for first choice, 2 for second, and 1 for third choice. Bill indicated that residents of Paget Rd have started a petition to have the road designated as scenic. Votes were cast and given to Jim.

Water subcommittee – Jim would like a chair person designated and then to start a discussion on objectives and goals for that subcommittee (members of the subcommittee include Rickey, Rebekah, Dale, Bill, Steve, Patrick, and Marilyn); Patrick was designated as Chair. Goals and objectives discussed included: protection of water resources and waterways, and promoting appropriate use of the resources and waterways. Rivers, ponds, aquifers, wetlands, floodplains, etc., should all be included. It was suggested that monitoring be a part of the plan and that education should be part of the plan. Also identification of potential threats to the resources and waterways should be a priority. The subcommittee discussed its number one priority and Bill indicated that commercial extraction is the biggest threat. The Flat is a big recharge zone and there may be issues regarding protection of the recharge zone that should be discussed and decisions for protection made.

Marilynn suggested we could look at other Commissions in other towns to see their approach regarding best management practices. Jim will provide Patrick with a list of Commissions who have this kind of thing “on the books.” It was generally agreed to focus first on threats, threats to both aquifers and ground water. Jim indicated that the audience for this would be the Selectmen and Town Planning Board. These would be logical, as they would have the authority to implement any plan of action proposed. Patrick will look at what other towns are doing and then contact the subcommittee for another meeting. Jim indicated that the NRI follow-up subcommittees should have time at the regular CCC monthly meetings to do some work.

Marilyn asked how to get a CCC handbook. It was indicated that maybe Linda would have a copy for her (give up her copy since she is no longer a CCC member). Marilyn thought she would just order one or get an online copy/access from the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions.

Motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm made by Rickey, seconded by Dale. Unanimously approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rebekah Thomas.