

**CORNISH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

Attendees: Jim Barker, Chair, John Berry, Paul Dunne, Bill Gallagher, Buz Lord, Frank Parks, Patrick Pinkson-Burke, Rickey Poor, Marilyn Ray, Dale Rook, Steve Wilke, and Rebekah Thomas.

Guests: Bob Bulkely, Patrick Clancy, Linda Fuerst, and Heidi Jaarsma

Patrick Pinkson-Burke made a motion to accept the February, 26 minutes, seconded by Dale Rook. Unanimously approved.

Financial report: Heidi went over the Conservation Fund spread sheets (handouts were given to the CCC members).

Jim Barker indicated that Rebekah's term was up and asked her if she would agree to another 3-year term, she agreed. Jim Barker was nominated to be Chair of CCC for another year, Rickey Poor was nominated for Vice Chair, Rebekah Thomas was nominated for Secretary. Patrick Pinkson-Burke moved to accept all as nominated, Steve Wilke seconded the motion, and the officers were unanimously approved as nominated.

Linda Fuerst presented a lot of information she had acquired over the year to the Commission, including articles about water, articles on conservation and biodiversity, conservation in general, CCC procedure information, State information, monitoring procedures and spreadsheets, easements, blank monitoring forms, deed restrictions, etc. She went through everything she provided and members of the CCC gave her thanks for her hard work.

Jim wanted to approve payment to New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commission dues out of the Operating Fund in the amount of \$220. Rickey Poor made a motion for approval and Dale Rook seconded. Motion was approved. Jim asked that \$90 be paid out of the Operating Fund for New Hampshire Conservation Commission Handbooks. Dale Rook made a motion to approve and Patrick Pinkson-Burke seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Jim asked to approve reimbursement of \$90 for the plaque he purchased and presented to the UVLT at town meeting. Patrick Pinkson-Burke made a motion to approve the reimbursement and Rickey Poor seconded the motion. The motion passed. Patrick Pinkson-Burke requested reimbursement for \$6 for a book he purchased about protecting New Hampshire water. Rickey Poor made a motion to approve this reimbursement and Bill Gallagher seconded. The motion was approved.

Jim initiated a discussion regarding changing the structure of the CCC as there are so many members at this point. He would like to form standing sub-committees so that

at monthly meetings the CCC could have a general meeting and then break up into sub-committee meetings. A lot of the work of the CCC could be accomplished through the sub-committees and then they could present monthly reports. Jim also indicated that the CCC has no By-Laws and he feels as though the CCC should have By-Laws and so he suggested that one standing sub-committee be established to develop By-Laws. Five standing committees are proposed: Water Protection, Scenic Roads, Monitoring and Logistics, Education and By-Laws. Dale Rook made a motion that those five standing committees be established and Steve Wilke seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The Selectmen are seeking input regarding allowing hunting on CREA land (70-80 acres) and Jim was wondering if the CCC should send an opinion to the Selectmen, if we can reach a consensus. Jim read a statement from Lois Fitz that said that she would be in favor of limited access to hunting on CREA, including the possibility of a lottery for Town residents and guests. Buz indicated that as a responsible hunter, if the CREA land is mainly for education of young people, then it should be left to that. Frank was asked to speak, and his understanding was that this issue has come up due to the origin of money used to purchase the land and who should have access and who should be denied because of the source of funds used to acquire CREA lands. Frank also indicated that the CREA land is not really a go-to place for hunting so maybe it's not a big deal to allow or deny? State law says hunting areas have to be at least 500 feet away from any land that children have access to and use (such as schools). Frank and Dale recommended that the CCC stay out of this as it is going to be a very sticky problem for someone and we shouldn't (potentially) make it worse by "taking a side." General consensus seems to be to stay away from giving a collective opinion on this issue but Jim did encourage everyone to give their personal opinion to the Selectmen.

Steve Wilke brought up the issue of Vermont allowing land trusts to change land use after long periods of time and wonders if we should take a proactive position on this kind of thing. As it stands when NH land goes in use it's in use in perpetuity. No changes can be made. 7-8 years ago in New Hampshire a guy from New Jersey bought some land with an easement and wanted to build a house on the easement part and he started to build the house but was eventually told to stop building. Then a guy named Darby (in Vermont) said that situations like this call for a change in the law so that a new owner such as this should be allowed to pull his land out of easement in exchange for other (potentially more valuable) land so that he can do what he wants. This issue went to the Senate in Vermont and passed, it then went to the House and has been batted around but has gotten bad publicity so it's tabled for now. What can we do to prevent this from happening in New Hampshire? How can we proactively prevent this from getting a foothold here?

Bill Gallagher is concerned that the Town report came out just before the School and Town meetings. He is concerned that the Selectmen had not included any money for the Regional Planning Commission and was sure that if we had had more time we would have noticed this and done something about. He is also upset about the road policy the Selectmen put in that had no public input.

Jim gave Bob Bulkely and Patrick Clancy some information on the recently completed NRI, the already in place sub-committees, and the monitoring of the Town's land trusts. Jim asked if Bob or Patrick C. had questions for us. Patrick Pinkson-Burke made a motion to present Bob Bulkely to the Selectmen to be approved as an alternate. Rickey Poor seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Jim read the names of the members of the sub-committees and their chairs.

Motion to adjourn at 8:56 pm made by Dale Rook, seconded by Patrick Pinkson-Burke. Unanimously approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rebekah Thomas (with help from Frank Parks and Dale Rook).