

**CORNISH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES (Revised)
OCTOBER 23, 2013**

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

Attendees: Jim Barker, Chair, John Berry, Dale Rook, and Rebekah Thomas.

Guests: Steve Wilke

Dale Rook made a motion to accept the September minutes, seconded by Rebekah. Unanimously approved.

Steven Wilke is present as he is interested in becoming a CCC member. Jim started with introductions and began with himself, gave a little background. John and Dale know Steve. Rebekah introduced herself. Steve indicated he had moved to the family acreage to take care of Dad, work the land. He has a long running interest in conservation, worked on the CREA barn, and his mother had been a science teacher and instilled an interest in nature in him. Steve is generally interested in what the Commission is involved in. Jim gave info as to what the Commission is about: its composition, voting members and alternate members; the recent wrap up of a ~ 2-year project of revising the Natural Resources Inventory; the main focus of the Commission is to increase conserved land, to get conservation easements by working with landowners and organizations (Upper Valley Land Trust, Society for the Conservation of New Hampshire Forests); CCC gets money from the Town, and 60% of the tax penalty when a landowner pulls land out of use (used to be 100%, voluntarily gave up 40% to the general fund due to economic downturn, but will likely go back to 100% this year or next); Jim discussed some recent acquisitions (Hammond property for example) and the Commission's contribution to putting the land into trust, some people donate the land, some are paid; couple of properties that are looking at putting land into trust; Jim told Steve about the six properties in town where the Town of Cornish is the primary conservation holder which entails annual trips to the properties and checking for violations or misuse of the property; the CCC is now looking to develop management plans (the next project since completion of the NRI), which will involve breaking into teams to develop these plans; annual conservation award. Jim indicated that the time required to serve on the CCC would be the monthly meetings and then group meetings in between, plus walking the properties. Steve indicated he has the ability to use GPS and that he has experience mapping. A discussion broke out about the GPS Jim ordered and that he was going to put out a message on Connect Cornish for a computer donation but then Steve mentioned that we could store our maps on the Cloud, which would preclude the need for a computer. Rebekah indicated that we could purchase a Terabyte external hard drive for a secondary backup that would be much less expensive than a computer. [Jim discussed issues with the Neidecker property and a missing pin and a possible shed that's on the land that's not supposed to be on the land and violation of the set-back law, etc.]

Frank Parks has elected to become an alternate because of his travel schedule which results in his missing most meetings. So he will do that until his travel schedule changes at which time he'd like to go back to being a voting member. Rickey Poor has volunteered to move from an alternate to a voting member in Frank's stead. She has also agreed to be Vice Chair. A motion was made by Dale to accept Rickey as a voting member and as Vice Chair, this was seconded by John and approved unanimously. If Rickey is on CREA, we will ask her to be our representative to CREA as Linda Fuerst will no longer be on CCC and can no longer be the CCC's rep to CREA. Linda was also CCC's rep to the Town Forest Committee so we need to replace her on that. Steve expressed interest in that so we'll put it on hold until we see if he's going to be on the CCC.

The other need is a secretary. What are the duties of the secretary? It is likely to involve putting minutes on the website, maybe being primary on the monthly minutes. Let's put this on hold and discuss this when more people are here and we can discuss duties and ask CCC members who would like to be the secretary.

Discussion of Conservation Plan projects will be put on hold until attendance is better.

Linda put out the monitoring schedule so all that can come should come.

Membership update: Steve Wilke and Marilyn Ray have both expressed interest. Jim will be speaking with Marilyn over the weekend, she could not attend tonight's meeting.

Jim made a motion to pay \$350.00 to Corey Fitch out of the Conservation Fund for the cover of the NRI. Approved unanimously.

Dale made a motion, John seconded, to pay \$349.99 to Jim Barker out of the Conservation Fund for reimbursement for purchase of the GPS. Approved unanimously.

Jim made a motion, Rebekah seconded, to pay dues of \$25 to the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association out of the Operating Budget. Approved unanimously.

Jim made a motion to move the November meeting to the third Wednesday instead of the fourth Wednesday. Dale seconded. Approved unanimously so the next meeting will be November 20th.

****It was generally agreed that if we can get a large number of members present at the November meeting to discuss the Conservation Management Plan discussion groups, membership and secretary issues, etc., then we can seriously consider cancelling December's meeting**.**

Jim asked Steve if he was still interested in joining the CCC, he indicated that he was and agreed to be present at the November meeting. He also indicated that he did

not have a preference as to whether he is a voting member or an alternate. Jim indicated that Steve would make a good addition so we can vote on him in November.

Motion to adjourn at 7:58 pm made by Dale, seconded by John. Unanimously approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rebekah Thomas.