

Cornish Conservation Minutes for November 20, 2013

Present: Jim Barker, Mariet Jaarsma, Rebekah Thomas, Dale Rook, Steve Wilkie, Jenny Schad, John Hammond, Rickey Poor

The meeting was called to order by Jim Barker, Chair at 7:05 PM

Dale moved and Rickey seconded to accept the minutes of the October meeting. It was noted that the money for the Timberland Owners membership should come from the operating budget not the Conservation Fund. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Jim clarified that the Select Board appoints members to the Conservation Commission including those moving from an alternate position to a full position. He asked that there be a motion to recommend to the Select Board to have Rickey Poor be appointed a full member to take Frank Park's place. Dale moved and Rebekah seconded. It was passed unanimously. Frank will become an alternate.

Jim asked for a motion to recommend to the Select Board have Steve Wilkie be appointed a full member. Dale moved and Rebekah seconded. It was passed unanimously.

Marilyn Roy is a Claremont resident but owns land in Cornish. She is interested in being on the Commission in some capacity but since she is not a resident she cannot be an official member. It was suggested she be advised that she is welcome to attend meetings and volunteer to assist even if she is not a member.

Names of other people were who might be interested in being members were discussed.

Representatives on various committees were reviewed. Steve Wilkie will be on the Town Forest Committee, Jim will represent us on the CREA Committee, Rickey and Jenny will head up the Land Monitoring. Rebekah Thomas was nominated for Secretary. Rickey moved and Jenny seconded the nomination and it was approved unanimously.

Mariet Jaarsma announced she will resign the Commission in March 2014.

Jim and Dale returned the the Neidecker property to locate boundary pins and check on a barn/shed that might have been infringing on the Neidecker property. It was determined there was not a problem with the barn. Additional pins were located.

Financial report:

Conservation Fund -	\$85,391.31
CREA Fund -	\$6,752.30
Palmer Fund -	\$14,698.12
Barker Fund -	\$2,458.70

The Commission will request a \$750 operating budget for next year.

The Conservation Fund was reviewed and the possibility of returning to an annual appropriation of \$6,000 as well as a return to 100% of the change of use tax. There are additional projects that we are aware of that could require our support and we do not want to be caught short. There have been few if

any monies coming from the change of use tax in the past three or four years.

With the "Natural Resource Inventory" finished the Commission needs to develop a Conservation Plan. Jim presented a list of possible projects that were compiled at an earlier meeting. After much discussion it was decided to have three focuses.

**Education:** The full Commission will work on this goal. It will include invasive species, water quality, herbicides, wildlife management, "Information Box" updates, talks/walks and other pertinent information the Commission feels important.

**Water:** This Committee will focus its work at gathering information on the Town watersheds, pollution concerns, aquifers etc. with the goal of developing a plan to manage and protect our water resources.

Members: Rickey, Rebekah, Dale, Bill, and Steve

**Scenic Roads:** This Committee will focus its work on identifying roads the meet the standards of "scenic roads" and getting them certified as such.

Members: Jim, John Hammond, Jenny and Mariet

John brought up the fire pond next to the fire station. It has been invaded by beavers. Is was asked that nothing be done (other than insuring the safety of the Police Station) without checking with the school as classes have been visiting the pond to study what is happening there. John will ask the Town's wetlands/wildlife committee for their input.

It was agreed that there would be no December meeting as our Dec. meeting falls on Christmas Day. Our next meeting will be January 22. Please be thinking about possible Conservation Award nominations.

Rebekah moved and Dale seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:03.

Respectfully submitted,

Herrika Poor  
Conservation Commission member