

**CORNISH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES (Revised)
JUNE 26, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Attendees: Jim Barker, Chair, Linda Fuerst, Bill Gallagher, Mariet Jaarsma, Patrick Pinkson-Burke, Rickey Poor, Dale Rook, Jenny Schad, and Rebekah Thomas.

Guests: Rachel Ruppel

Approval of meeting minutes from May 22, 2013: There was a request that a change be made to include Jim in the section stating that Linda was using a GPS to monitor easements. Jenny asked about the patches for the Boy Scouts and suggested a place in Lebanon. Jim had already contacted that place and indicated that they would charge \$12 per patch and required a minimum 50-patch order. Rickey then indicated that the patch should just say Cornish Conservation Commission, as others may want the patches. In this case the Boy Scouts could be given a patch and a certificate that is more detailed regarding their receipt of the CCC's annual conservation award. Jim indicated his plan was to have the person who made the plaque provide the CCC's logo to him electronically and that he would send off an order to an online company. Bill moved to accept the minutes with the change to add Jim, Dale seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Blow-Me-Down Management Plan: Jim indicated that the BMD management plan had been posted by the federal government and that he had distributed the plan to the CCC members. Jim asked if there were any concerns. Linda indicated a concern that there was a large emphasis on fund raising and not enough funds already available and Jim indicated that the fund raising would/should have a large scope including philanthropic foundations and would not be limited to raising local funds. Jenny indicated a concern that the plan should remain as it was, that adding the farm requires a heavier financial burden. She indicated that she would like to see more funds for maintaining the trails as there is currently not enough funds and that in general the condition of the National Parks is not good due to funding deficits. Further discussion regarding the National Park system ensued and it was generally agreed that the CCC would just sit tight. Linda thought the environmental components of the management plan were fine.

Natural Resources Inventory: Rachel had two objectives, the first was to answer any general questions regarding the NRI and to go over any additional informational edits that needed to be made; the second objective was to go over the next steps and timeline. Rachel indicated that she was impressed with the improvements made to the NRI and said that its narrative was well done and flowed well. She wanted to make sure that CCC members saw no gaps and that there was no missing information. Jim asked Rachel how she would like to handle further edits and she indicated that they be sent directly to her. Jim indicated that Patrick's name be listed as Patrick rather than Pat and that John Berry had one sentence he wanted added to

the snowmobile club portion. Linda indicated that she had done quite a bit of research on public lands and has quite a bit on Federal, State and Town lands to add into an appendix of the NRI. Rickey had sent Jim and Rachel some additional information on rare, endangered, and invasive species and Jim asked Rebekah if she would edit it. Rebekah agreed. Rickey asked Rachel if Rachel thought there was anything missing and Rachel indicated that she thought the document was comprehensive. Linda indicated that she was concerned about the extent to which Bill Lipfert's part had been condensed and that she will contact Bill to see if there is something that should be put back in. Bill Gallagher indicated that Bill Lipfert should be listed as the Chair of the Planning Board not the Zoning Board. Jim requested that Betty Catalino be taken off. Rachel noted that she needed to correct the spelling of Linda's last name and Rickey inquired as to whether her first name was spelled correctly. Bill requested that someone make sure Mary's title is listed properly. Jenny indicated that she had a problem with the Artist Colony section, specifically with the Song Garden Section. Jenny indicated that it seemed to contain a lot of specific information that was inappropriate for the document. It was generally agreed that she was correct and that this part should be taken out of the NRI. Linda had extensive specific page-by-page edits. Heidi is supposed to provide a chart to be included in an appendix. The chart should include specific land use and whether or not there is a management plan for each plot of land included. At this point the changes to the NRI will be completed and sent by Rachel to the CCC prior to the July meeting so that we have an opportunity to discuss next steps in preparation for Rachel's next meeting with us in August.

Conservation Planning Primer: Rachel provided a 1-page handout to show the CCC members where we've been and where we need to go. She indicated that we should be proud of the NRI and that the conservation plan outlines our next steps: recommendations; and, action plan. We need to have these complete for the August meeting. We need to have a general idea of the most important things to do in the next couple of years, but without hard deadlines. Year-by-year schedules are difficult to manage and sometimes things take more time than expected. Rachel indicated that the CCC needs to focus on three things: 1) increasing land conservation; 2) improving land management; and, 3) expanding knowledge of Town resources. A discussion ensued regarding CCC input about new housing developments that occur on large areas of land, that they should be zoned so that there are large open areas left. Jim indicated that he wants to have time to send the NRI to the Planning Board approximately 2 weeks prior to the CCC meeting where the final NRI is discussed. It was generally agreed that that should take place in July so that we would then next meet with Rachel in August. In August Rachel would then be able to facilitate the discussion and finalization of the recommendations (one of our next steps). Then we can put our action plan together. Linda suggested that the NRI working groups could come up with potential recommendations based on the specific content areas to which they were assigned. It was agreed that CCC working groups or members send their recommendations to Rachel prior to the August meeting so that Rachel can distill them into a few for our general discussion.

Jim's recap of the NRI and next steps:

- Public lands section (Linda) and Rickey's piece should be sent to Rebekah for editing
- Rickey should send her chart of land use plots to Linda
- Linda should contact Heidi for her chart; Jim indicated he would contact her also as the chart is needed ASAP
- Final NRI will be ready approximately two weeks prior to the July meeting
- Jim will contact the Lipfert's to postpone to August (Rickey indicated that the August meeting is usually too close to time for the fair and that that might be a bad time to do this; Dale indicated that the fair was further from the August meeting than usual, but it was still suggested that we might consider having an additional meeting the second week of September; Rachel cannot make that meeting so it was agreed to keep everything set for the usual August meeting)

Summer monitoring: Jim wants CCC members to work with Linda for the summer monitoring. He does not want Linda to do this alone and he wants the members to step up and put their names on the schedule. Linda will coordinate the scheduling so she will send out an email to all CCC members who can then sign up for specific for helping Linda with the calling, filling out the forms, and walking the properties. Jim urged everyone to realize that we all need to help with this and that Linda is not to be left on her own to do it all.

GPS training: Linda has contacted Steve Walker who indicated that Tuesdays and Wednesdays are best, particularly July 16th or 17th or 23rd or 24th. Many CCC members indicated they would not be able to attend on the 23rd or 24th so it was generally agreed that Linda would set something up for the 16th or 17th. Steve can accommodate up to 6 people so if 6 CCC members want to attend that would be great. If less than 6 attend Steve will fill the slots with his own people.

Connecticut River Watershed Council: Jim indicated that the Council had contacted us indicating they had not heard from us in a long time. Linda looked in the previous minutes and found that we had written a \$35 check to the Council on October 6, 2011. Jim is going to verify that with Heidi.

University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension: Jim has information and applications for two programs being offered. One is a 3.5 day training for people interested in habitat values, wildlife species, and conservation in the State. This is taking place in Greenfield. The other program is Field Trip 101 Workshop at the Concord Conservation Center. This workshop teaches skills for leading walks on conservation properties.

Motion to adjourn at 8:54 pm made by Dale, seconded by Bill.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rebekah Thomas.