

Cornish Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2013

Attendees: Jim Barker, Mariet Jaarsma, Bill Gallagher, Dale Rook, Frank Parks, Pat Pinkson Burke, John Berry, Rebekah Thomas, John Hammond and Rickey Poor

Guest: Rachel Ruppel

The meeting began at 7:00PM. Pat made a motion to accept the minutes from July 23, 2013. Dale seconded. The motion passed.

Jim reported that the four-hour GPS training for several members of the commission, with Steve Walker in Concord, was very good. Jim recommended that the commission buy a GPS along with mapping software. It was suggested that we talk to UVLT about what we should purchase. It was also suggested that we purchase a used laptop to be stored in our file with the GPS. Pat made a motion to reimburse Jim \$45.30 from the Barker Fund for dinner for the group who attended. Frank seconded. The motion passed.

Rickey mentioned that due to the fact that the Cornish General Store is closing, we should think about another place to put our information box.

Rachel Ruppel was in attendance to hear of any final changes to the NRI and to help to facilitate brainstorming ideas for our next steps i.e. our Conservation Plan. There were just a few proofreading changes and edits. Rachel will find out the miles of Class VI roads. It was suggested that we contact Corey Fitch and Deanna Meadow to help us to design a cover with photos. Rachel suggested that we not have more than four or five. Dale made a motion to approve the NRI as edited. Rebekah seconded. The motion carried. We will receive from the Planning Commission 3-5 copies and a disc. The published NRI will go to the Selectmen, Planning Board, George Stowell Library, and 2 for the commission. Several commission members said that they would like to have their own copies printed.

The brainstorming session for the Conservation Plan was organized around the main areas of Land Management and Land Conservation. Jim will send a list of our ideas as well as the final draft of the NRI to Bill Lipfert before the commission's joint meeting with the Planning Board that has been rescheduled to September 19th.

Concerning land management goals, John H. said that he called Steve Taylor to get ideas for how to educate people about how livestock can affect water. Steve said that there is a booklet put out by the Dept. of Agriculture that would be a helpful reference. John also mentioned that the Town no longer has a cost effective source for gravel in Cornish and that it is important that we learn more about how to obtain, in a responsible way, this natural resource. It was mentioned that the Dept. of Forestry also has a best management booklet. Rachel said that the Granite State Guide to Forestry has been recently updated. These resources could be used to educate the public and ourselves about good land management practices.

There was discussion about the management of land along roadways, the railroad and the power lines. There is a need to look at how water runs off and into increasingly bigger ditches and the mowing of invasives along the roadways, which could potentially help to spread them. Another discussion was about the importance of knowing about pesticides that might be used by the railroad and power company, which could run off into water and people's lands.

John mentioned the importance of having the Town develop a road plan to guide the Highway Department.

Several members mentioned the importance of water resource management in order to protect water quality. There was discussion of monitoring i.e. collecting and studying water over a period of time to assure that it remains of high quality. Then it would be important to educate ourselves and the public about ways to prevent contamination.

Concerning the goal of increasing land conservation, it was suggested that we look closely at the Town's most important resources in order to be able to know where to focus our efforts. One example that was discussed was the importance of maintaining large unfragmented lands or corridors for wildlife as well as smaller and often more rare natural communities like grasslands that also support wildlife. There was discussion of current zoning laws which may encourage houses being more spread out on five acre parcels, and thereby potentially decreasing the size of undeveloped open space.

There was discussion of possibly identifying more roads to become classified as scenic.

Concerning monitoring of easements this fall, Linda will send out a tentative schedule for the weeks in which they will be monitored. Jim asked every member who is able to contact her to help with at least one. Jim will help to monitor all of them.

She distributed the final draft of a spreadsheet, which has all of the easements in Cornish listed with detailed data and information about each one. This spreadsheet will be updated every year and be stored in the CCC files. The CCC is only responsible for monitoring the first page. For those easements where there is a **, the Town of Cornish (CCC's Conservation Fund) has contributed funds, and therefore the Town of Cornish is considered a secondary holder or has a secondary interest. In every one of those UVLT is the primary holder. If we would like copies of UVLT's monitoring reports we will may request them. Then they will send them to us to file in the folders that have been set up in the CCC file.

Concerning CREA, Linda said that she would be meeting with the selectmen this week to get their input on what has been written to date for the CREA Management Plan. Since all of the other parties who are actively involved with CREA have already given their input, she hopes to finalize this plan to present at a CREA Committee meeting to be held late in September.

On September 28th, Linda will meet with Erin Amadon, who grew up in Cornish and is has been one of SCA's leadership trainers. Erin will look at ways to replace the boardwalk on CREA that leads from the bridge to the barn. Colleen O'Neill has agreed to transfer any money left over from her donation to the bridge project to the boardwalk project.

Linda suggested that now that the Town website is up and running and the CCC minutes can be posted, there is no need to email the approved minutes to a larger group mailing. Everyone agreed that it was no longer necessary to send the minutes to them. Linda will email them to explain.

Frank made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 PM. Rebekah seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted
Linda Fuerst