

**CORNISH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 28, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

Attendees: Jim Barker, Chair, Bob Bulkeley, Patrick Clancy, Paul Dunne, Bill Gallagher, Buz Lord, Frank Parks, Rickey Poor, Dale Rook, Steve Wilkie, and Rebekah Thomas.

Dale Rook made a motion to accept the April 23, 2014 minutes, seconded by Steve Wilkie.

Dale Rook moved, Bill Gallagher seconded to send Patrick Clancy's name forward to the Selectboard for membership on the CCC. Jim provided details to Patrick, Paul and Bob about how to go about getting sworn in by the Selectboard.

Jim received the quarterly report from Heidi. The CCC is at \$101,502 in the Conservation Fund. CREA development fund is \$6752, Palmer Fund is \$14,699, Barker Fund is \$2459, and CREA Bridge (created last year when the Scouts re-did the CREA with left over funds donated by Colleen O'Neal) is at \$1554. Regarding the operating funds, we are \$63 short from the NRI that people have ordered, so Jim will contact people who have not paid for theirs to recuperate the money.

November's meeting will be on November 19th, and December's will be December 17th. So for those two months we will meet on the third Wednesday of the month.

Steve updated us on the digital storage idea. The idea that the Town itself obtain this for all of the Town boards, commissions, etc., to use should be pursued. An organization can have a master account and then set up five separate accounts. So Steve's idea is to have the Town do this and set up all five accounts with Carbonite for \$300 per year. It would be \$900 per year for Drop Box. Steve feels that everything is at risk regarding the Town's information and he feels that that would be the best option for the Town and for the Commission. It was suggested that maybe the Town should hire an IT person; Jim and Paul are going to meet with the Selectboard regarding the Town website, so they will discuss the idea of the Town buying digital storage also.

Cornish groundwater protection – Bill made copies of material that was used in another New Hampshire town (Barnstead) regarding a groundwater protection information push and how they pursued and passed an ordinance for water rights and local self-government rights. Bill is asking the Commission to consider drafting an ordinance, but not now. He wants people to look this over and discuss it at the June meeting.

Town forest report – Steve indicated that he met with Glenn (Dode) Gladders to discuss invasive species such as buckthorn. The buckthorn is particularly tenacious

(although not so much in the Town forest) and some methods used to remove it have actually worsened the problem. Unfortunately, the best methods are chemical. Besides chemical, the best methods involve digging it up and then going back frequently to make sure it's not growing back. Logging can make the problem worse so there needs to be some oversight regarding that, to make sure invasive species are not inadvertently spread. Steve recommends a lot of education for the Town's people to help them fight the invasive species. Steve also indicated that Dode showed him how to inventory the Town forest, as the Town plans on doing an inventory.

Wetland and Wildlife – Frank recently received a call from someone who lives near the fire pond. This person is concerned that the beavers are causing a problem, and has been concerned for the last few years. They have previously taken out their dams, but that doesn't work for long. Frank indicated that the wetland and wildlife committee plans to go over and look at what's going on. He also indicated that the baffle they put in a few years ago on the CREA property is working well and he suggested that this person look into this, but they indicated that they do not want to incur any costs. Their overall concern is that the water will encroach on the road.

Jim indicated that it was time to break into standing committees for discussion. The Education Committee and the By-Laws Committee met with those members of each that were present, and Rickey asked for time to read up on stuff for the Monitoring and Logistics committee.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm was made by Dale Rook, seconded by Buz Lord. Unanimously approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rebekah Thomas.