

Conservation Minutes for December 17, 2014 (corrected 1/28/2015)

Present: Jim Barker, Chair, Bill Gallagher, Dale Rook, Bob Bulkeley, Frank Parks, Buz Lord, Jen Schad, Paul Dunne, John Berry, Steve Wilkie, Rickey Poor

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by Jim Barker, Chair

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dale Rook and seconded by Steve Wilkie. The minutes were approved as presented.

A motion was made to give Patrick Clancy a four month leave of absence from the Commission. It was moved by Bob Bulkeley and seconded by Bill Gallagher that the leave be granted. The motion passed.

Jim brought up that there was discussion at the last meeting about whether members of the Commission needed to be US citizens. As the Select Board makes the appointments to the Commission it is their determination as to who is appointed. The By-Laws will remain unchanged.

The Putman Farm on Rt 120. has received a grant to help with preserving the farm with an easement. The UVLT is involved. The Conservation Commission may be asked to assist with financial support for this easement.

Tim Schad has been working on an easement for property he has purchased. He may ask for assistance with the survey costs. It was also reported that he may have sold the property. Clarification is needed.

Conn. River Watershed Joint Commissions has a Mt. Ascutney sub-committee for this area of the Conn. River. They are looking for a new member from this area and wondered if a member of the Commission was interested in serving on the committee. Steve Wilkie expressed interest but wants more information.

Cornish Conservation Award was discussed and nominees were presented. Paul Dunne made a motion with a named candidate and Frank Parks seconded it. The nomination passed. The award will be presented at Town Meeting. The design of the award was also discussed.

Jim asked for input for the Commission's annual report to the Town. A number of suggestions were made. Jim will write the report.

John Hammond indicated that it would be nice if the Commission's budget reached the Select Board by Jan 1. The Commission is asking to be level funded.

Operating budget -\$750

Conservation Fund - \$4500

Keep the 40/60 Town/ Commission split on change of use tax.

Scenic Roads. Jenny Schad has started work on designating Gap Rd as a scenic at the 2015 Town Meeting.

Land Monitoring – Rickey reported that she and her husband Dan had walked on snow shoes

a section of Peggy and Joe Mayette's property on RT 120. A letter to them needs to be written and reports to the state completed. Brian Mayette's property has not been walked yet this year.

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Wildlife Committee – Frank Parks spoke with Mrs Dean in Cornish Flat who has a “beaver problem”. He gave her the names of a couple of trappers and she will contact them.

GPS - Steve Wilkie handed out directions for the Conservation Commission's GPS unit. The Commission is interested in learning more but more equipment is needed to successful teach such a large group. Frank suggested that some vendors might be willing to assist with discounts on units . It was suggested that I-Phones can also be used but battery life can be an issue.

There are a number of standing committees two of which, the water committee and the education committee, will meet regularly (time permitting) following each of the the Commission's business meetings. The land monitoring committee will occasionally meet at this time as well. Jim asked that the education committee set goals for 2015 and that the water committee prepare a “goals statement”.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Jenny Schad and seconded by Steve Wilkie. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.

Respectively submitted,
Rickey Poor

corrected emails:

Frank Parks – flparksfam@gmail.com

Paul Dunne – grosbeak64@outlook.com