

Conservation Minutes for January 28, 2015 (Unapproved)

Present: Jim Barker, Chairman, Rickey Poor, Dale Rook, Steven Wilkie, Bob Bulkeley, Bill Gallagher, Paul Dunne and Heidi Jaarsma, Town Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Jim Barker, Chair

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dale Rook and seconded by Bill Gallagher. The spelling of two names and a couple of typos were corrected. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Heidi Jaarsma, Town Treasurer, explained the different funds that are under the Conservation Commission's control and their present balances. As the present interest rate is very low she explained that some of the Palmer Fund and the Town's Conservation Fund could be put into a CD with a higher interest rate. She suggested that the Commission invest \$60,000 of the Conservation Fund and \$10,000 in two Certificate of Deposits with the Claremont Savings Bank. The APY would be .45% rather than the present .01%. Should the Commission need the funds the Town would be able to cover the expense until the CD became due.

A motion was made by Steve Wilkie with a second by Paul Dunne to move \$60,000 from the Conservation Fund into a one year CD at the Claremont Savings Bank and \$10,000 from the Palmer Fund into a 1 year CD also with the Claremont Savings Bank. The motion passed unanimously.

Conservation Award – Final confirmation, clarification and wording of the 2014 Conservation Award was made. Steve Wilkie and Jim Barker will work on it.

Wildlife – Bill Gallagher reported that two bobcats have been killed on local roads. The resurgence in the bobcat population appears to include the Town of Cornish. There are local reports of the return of the snowshoe hare population. Bill also reported on some information he had learned about the coyote behavior from a presentation by Christine Schadler, science adviser for the North East wolf Coalition.

Friends of Mt. Sunapee – Bill passed out some information about the planned extension of the Mount Sunapee Ski resort and development area. He encouraged people to let the decision makers know your views.

Digital Tax Maps of the town of Cornish – It was asked how do we access the online maps. It was suggested one check the Planning Board's page on the Town's web site.

Timber Harvesting – Concern was expressed about the effects of a court ruling concerning timber harvest in the Town of Hampton. The ruling removes the right of local control from Town boards in restricting timber harvests. Some timber harvesters are not as concerned about protecting wetlands, vernal pools etc and this ruling may make it more difficult to protect these wetlands.

It was suggested that perhaps we have a public program about what a good timber harvest should look like and what steps a landowner should take if planning a timber harvest.

Town Meeting – Paul Dunne will pull together information to display at Town Meeting. Copies of the IRA will be available.

A motion to renew our membership to NHPNHF for \$25 was made by Dale Rook and seconded by Bob Bulkeley. Motion passed.

There are two properties in town in the process of having conservation easements placed on them. It is not clear yet what support may be needed from the Commission to secure these easements.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dale Rook and seconded by Bob Bulkeley . The meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM .

Respectively submitted,
Rickey Poor