

## Conservation Minutes for December 18, 2015

Present: Jim Barker, Chairman, Rickey Poor, Dale Rook, Bob Bulkeley, Bill Gallagher, John Berry, Jenny Schad, Corey Fitch, Deanna Fitch

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Jim Barker, Chair

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dale Rook and seconded by John Berry . The section about CREA maintenance was clarified and Jim corrected the groups and individuals involved with the meeting at the Saint Gauden's dam site, Jim will make the corrections.

The minutes were approved as amended.

CREA – Linda Fuerst was at CREA and reported to Jim that the road between the soccer field area and the back fields was awash from the wetlands overflowing from beaver activity. She was concerned that the road was going to be washed out. Jim checked it out and found “the beavers were again trying to baffle us”. The road crew has been working on the area, without major equipment, and has been cleaning out the culvert regularly. The beaver baffle may also be blocked. The road is OK but it is muddy. The beaver have been particularly active at this time.

The possible need to manage the beaver was discussed. The Town Wildlife Management Committee has recently been notified. Corey will discuss the issue with Jim Fitch, who is a member of that Committee.

Conservation Award – The 2016 Conservation Award was discussed and selected. An appropriate award was discussed.

Town Meeting – If we want special warrant articles for Town Meeting they need to be in by early February. Jen Schad is working on scenic roads and plans on having a warrant article for Gap RD.

Possible topics for “table displays” at Town Meeting were reviewed. Invasive plants and ticks were suggested as well as a sign up for future topics for presentations.

Conservation Commission membership was reviewed and possible new members and/or alternates were considered.

Bill Gallagher introduced the Commission to “Valley Green Journal”, a paper that focuses on the conservation of the areas of Vermont and New Hampshire along the Connecticut River. It is published by Jan Lambert. [www.valleygreenjournal.com](http://www.valleygreenjournal.com)

Bill also pointed out that last Sunday's Valley News had an article about agricultural practices and their effect on climate change.

Bill also mentioned that Cedar Circle Farm has an interesting blog. You can get to it through their web site.

Water testing - Corey reported the Volunteer River Assessment Program, a New Hampshire

Department of the Environmental Services program that aims to educate people about river and stream water quality and ecology and to improve water quality monitoring coverage for the protection of water resources might have equipment and expertise we could use to monitor selected brooks/streams. We could also do our own testing. Grants might available through the Department of Environmental Services.

Jim mentioned the Water Resource Research Center where one can collect samples and they would test them at \$60 per sample.

We need to get a price list from Endine.

Figuring out the best and most cost effective solution needs more exploration.

There was an initial discussion as to what stream/brooks should be tested. Blow-me-Down, Center Brook and CREA were mentioned.

It was brought up that Leo Maslan and also KUA have done some studies about water in the Cornish Flat area. Jen and Jim will work at following up on this.

Jen was wondering about an educational talk this winter. The Fish and Game Wildlife Management Plan, the Coyote Lady, backyard management and Ben Kilham (bears) were mentioned as possible programs.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Dale Rook and seconded by Jen Schad. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

Respectively submitted,  
Rickey Poor