

Conservation Commission Minutes for  
2.24.16

Present: Jim Barker, Chairman, Rickey Poor, Dale Rook, Steven Wilkie, Bill Gallagher, Jenny Schad, John Hammond

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Jim Barker, Chair.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dale Rook and seconded by Bill Gallagher. The section on CREA about the beaver baffle needed clarification. Jim will make the correction

The minutes were approved as amended.

The Commission received a letter from McFarland Johnson concerning the DOT plan to upgrade Saint Gaudens Rd from 12A to the Park. They asked for our input but it was not clear what input was needed. It was suggested that Rick Kendall be contacted for more details.

Gap Road – There will be a warrant article at this year's town meeting to classify Gap Road as a scenic road. Jen has met with the residents along the road and contacted Mr. Dewey whose property abuts most of Gap Rd. Mr. Dewey may try and attend the town meeting and speak in favor of the motion. Jen obtained the necessary signatures for the article although there was confusion as to how many signers were needed.

The process used to approve proposed power company work on the “scenic roads” (Platt, Saint Gaudens) in the past year went smoothly. That work is now complete. The road crew has expressed some concern with scenic roads; select board members have spoken to them to help them understand the regulations around scenic roads.

There will be a talk “Understanding Bobcats” presented by the Fish and Game on Thursday March 3, at the Town Offices. Jen has arranged this for the Education Committee. It will be publicized on “Connect Cornish”, the school newsletter and in local newspapers.

There was a possible siting of a mountain lion in Cornish and also one in Plainfield,

Bill has spoken to Ryer Jaarsma who seems interested in being an alternate on the Commission.

The education posters etc. for town meeting were discussed and the necessary information will be there. Bill is getting an updated map from the UVLT.

Some members of the public were asking about access to the town forest and possible walks led by individuals familiar with the property. It was reported that a Boy Scout is working on an Eagle Project which will place signs at the trail heads. Maps will be included. There is also a link to the Town Forest on the Town's website.

The beaver baffle will be replaced and the education committee has taken on the

responsibility of creating an educational display explaining the baffle and how it works.

The Commission still has one green display box (formerly at the general store). It was suggested that this be used for the beaver baffle information. Some members thought that this unit might be too big; but, another suggestion was that this be mounted on the barn to display information about CREA.

A couple of land owners are considering placing their land in easement and they were wondering if there are any monies available from the Commission to support this. Jim reviewed our funding sources and the criteria list we developed a number of years ago. It was also suggested that folks who are interested should also contact the UVLT.

Fishing Day will be discussed in March.

Mary Holland of Hartland has an excellent blog about the natural world in our area. It is well worth a look;

<https://naturallycuriouswithmaryholland.wordpress.com/about/>

Water Committee has been gathering price lists. To monitor a stream would be between \$75-\$100 per stream. Jim will talk with Leo Maslan to see if he has any baseline data for the aquifer in the Flat that we might use. Jen will check with Karim Chichakly to see if he might have some baseline data from a project he worked on with KUA students.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Dale and seconded by Steve. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09

Respectively submitted,  
Rickey Poor