

Cornish Conservation Commission Minutes  
April 26, 2017

Present: Bill Gallagher, Dale Rook, Steven Wilkie, Bob Taylor, Corey Fitch, Reyer Jaarsma, Rickey Poor, John Hammond, Stuart Wilkie

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Bill Gallagher, Vice Chair.

Dale Rook moved to approve the March meeting minutes, Reyer seconded, approved unanimously.

Topical Reports:

Monitoring (Rickey): Starting a new season. Seven properties in Cornish that the town owns a conservation interest on which need to be monitored every year. Weekends tend to be better for most people although the smallest ones could be done before dark on a weekday if started by late afternoon. The Mayettes property – section way in the back – that will have to be done and on a weekend day. Although she will most often be present at the walk-throughs, if Rickey isn't present, then someone else will have to write up the report. Deanna and Reyer are both interested in monitoring and helping to write reports, and Rickey would like to meet with them to go over some general information regarding monitoring. Ideally it would be great to get a start on these properties soon – in May. "L Chip" properties – State of NH also has an interest in – Barker's, White Swan Farm, Mayette property. Steve Walker from the State has an interest in those properties as well.

Education (Corey): Internal Introduction to GPS class will be June 17<sup>th</sup> (or 18<sup>th</sup>) at CREA. Corey will confirm date and time with Andrew Thompson and let everyone know. The Introduction of GPS class is proposed as follows:

**Introduction to Global Positioning System (GPS)**

- Brief outline of what GPS is.
- Coordinate Systems
  - What they are
  - Why they are important
- Applications of where they are used in the public and professional fields
- Accuracy of GPS
  - Not a question of how accurate can it be, but how accurate do you need it to be?
- Types of GPS receivers
  - Garmin
  - Trimble
  - Magellan
  - Cellphones/Tablets
    - Bluetooth connected receivers for advanced accuracy
- Wapoints, tracks, routes
- Collecting GPS information for use in Google Earth and other applications

This class is essentially a test run to see if we want to later offer a similar Introduction to GPS

class to the general public.

CREA Beavers (Corey): Jim Fitch was at CREA the other day and water was going over the road. John suggested that probably by the second week of May it will stabilize. After that a baffle should be installed. A couple of options were discussed about the timing of the baffle installation and/or educational opportunities surrounding the baffle. We could make the installation open to the public – make it educational – have someone there to explain how it works, etc. Important to get the baffle installed ASAP then have a “Beaver Baffle Day” later on. We could even involve the Boy Scouts at that event, most likely in the fall. Perhaps an information board installed at the site to explain how the baffle functions. Robert Kibbie would probably be a good person to invite to show how the baffle works so the State could properly deal with the beavers on Route 120 near Straightaway Auto.

CREA Committee Chairman (Jim): Jim wasn't present to present information. John shared that the Committee still needs to determine who will be the next Chair, and that hasn't been finalized yet.

Bill shared the updated Protected Lands Map. The area near Blow-Me-Down Mill/Saint Gaudens is now on the map for the first time. There was some discussion about a newly conserved parcel of property near Corbin Park that is adjacent to the Mayette property that should probably be walked by the Conservation Commission.

There is a \$134.25 cost of the Upper Valley Regional Planning Commission. Corey made a motion, Steve seconded, to pay for this cost from the Conservation Fund. The motion passed.

A motion to reimburse Steve \$12.00 from the Conservation Fund for laminating large map was made by Reyer, seconded by Dale. The motion passed.

UVLT Annual Meeting (Stuart) – Jim and Stuart attended the meeting. The topic focused on two software applications: eBird and iNaturalist. Stuart shared that the presenters had some challenges using the MacBook which was the source connected to the projector. The iNaturalist app could be a useful educational tool for us here in Cornish. Stuart will look into setting up a couple of properties as “Projects” in iNaturalist. Steve will mention this to the Town Forest Committee when they meet this Sunday.

Bill handed out to the group packets of Conservation information that included The CCC Land Conservation Guide for the Town of Cornish, the UVLT Conservation Easements FAQs, and a passage from the legal guidelines for a Conservation Commission.

Bill referenced the Land Conservation Guide for the Town of Cornish – adopted April 25, 2007. One of the Statements of Intentions is: “We seek to protect in perpetuity a minimum of 25% of Cornish’s land through the use of conservation easements.” The latest number that Bill was aware of was that we are at 17%. Rickey questioned if all of the 17% is under “conservation easements” vs other type of protections. Should we come up with a plan to reach 25%? The Commission discussed various locations within the town for possible future conservation easements.

We should think about adding on to already existing parcels of conservation easements.

We will wait until the May meeting when Jim is present to prioritize our Conservation Plan action items. (See included list, which was amended slightly at the April meeting.)

Bill asked if we have someone to keep track of the bees and pollinators. Jim has been putting the notices of beekeeping events on Connect Cornish.

Rickey suggested that we brainstorm ideas of topics for boxes: pollinators, wildlife tracks, that year's conservation award winner with write-up as to why, town forest map in each one, invasive species info (bugs and plants) (feature just one or two at a time and when coming into season), nature apps (eBird, iNaturalist), tick information – let's continue to brainstorm ideas. Items in the boxes should be brief, eye-catching, ever-changing. Whenever updated, it should be mentioned on Connect Cornish.

Dale moved and Corey seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. by an enthusiastic and unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,  
Stuart Wilkie  
Secretary

Natural Resources Inventory  
Conservation Plan

The following list of ideas for the next steps in developing a Conservation Plan was developed at the August 28<sup>th</sup> (2015?) meeting of the Conservation Commission. Several ideas added in March/April 2017.

- ✓ Develop best management practices for the removal of gravel for town roads.
- ✓ \*Study the impact current zoning regulations have on land conservation
- ✓ \*Develop a plan for the management and protection of the town watersheds and for handling pollution.
- ✓ Identify roads that meet the standards of “scenic roads” and get them certified as such.
- ✓ Educate landowners on the use of herbicides on their land and on utility right-of-ways.
- ✓ Conduct three or four seminars a year on topics such as invasive species, water quality, herbicides, wildlife management, etc. – iNaturalist software program
- ✓ Educate landowners on best practices for wildlife habitat.
- ✓ \* Help the Selectboard develop a road plan.
- ✓ Identify types of land or specific parcels of land that should be targeted for conservation and work with landowners to obtain easements.
- ✓ \*Work with Planning Board on new zoning district
- ✓ \* ID location of endangered species in town
- ✓ Adopt-a-Highway
- ✓ Fishing Derby
- ✓ Perambulation of Town Borders
- ✓ Monthly news on ConnectCornish
- ✓ Rotating info box updates (at least quarterly)
- ✓ ID wildlife corridors in Town
- ✓ Do planting/landscape in town
- ✓ Add public/private trails to Trail Finder.

\*: Planning Board