

Cornish Conservation Commission Minutes
September 27, 2017

Present: Jim Barker, Bill Gallagher, Dale Rook, Steven Wilkie, Stuart Wilkie, Bob Taylor, Deanna Fitch, John Barry,

Not present: Corey Fitch, Rickey Poor, John Hammond, Jenny Schad, Kimberly Patterson, Reyer Jaarsma,

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

Dale moved to approve the August meeting minutes as amended; Steve seconded, approved unanimously.

Topical Reports:

Monitoring: (Jim reported) On Saturday September 9th, Jim and Rickey monitored Brian Meyette's property, primarily along the Class VI road and then bushwhacked back towards Skyline Drive. No issues were found. Monitoring is completed for the year, and Rickey is writing the reports.

Education/GPS: (Deanna on behalf of Corey) GPS Class has 8 people signed up thus far. It will be published on Connect Cornish and Upper Valley Listserv again within a week. The Upper Valley Land Trust included a notice of the class in one of their publications. A couple more sign-ups wouldn't hurt – there is a maximum of 15 spots for this class.

Educational Survey: Deanna passed out copies of the draft of the survey. Ideally it will be sent out at the end of October (so as not to detract from the GPS Class) – probably do it twice. Comments and feedback are welcomed. A few suggestions were made and Deanna will give those to Corey. The link to the survey draft is here and the text is near the end of this document.

<https://goo.gl/forms/tjStdFOrYFhOS5jQ2>

Structure for Educational Planning: Deanna read a statement from Corey regarding Education Planning. The link to what she read is here and the text is at the end of these meeting minutes.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YrZ1p0WeoszKWZk0bLOpqBOW_su6w2nuEkOQCyyXznM/edit?usp=sharing

Conservation Boards – will get graphics done soon and updated soon.

Conservation Commission members should check out the following GoogleDocs and make contributions as desired. Changes can be made right in the Google Doc itself. If anyone needs a Google Doc tutorial, Corey is willing to help with that.

Classes/Talks/Workshops

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PmXUSqemnVlfD3AeyYaq94oFxCVbTzLAluOS-osdQZA/edit?usp=sharing>

Education Ideas

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qSybAVLpamxJesisONvZCe06CxoRT5tTkzpJGqQLV3A/edit?usp=sharing>

Education Boards: Kim painted the three CCC Boards around town. They look great. Thanks to Kim for doing that.

Perhaps time sensitive material on the Boards should be highlighted in some way – either fluorescent background or always in the same place (like in the center of the Board) on all three boards.

Jim asked Deanna to thank Corey for all of his work with the Education component.

On Saturday, September 16th, the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF) held their annual meeting in Claremont. One of the field trips they sponsored, prior to the meeting, was a hike in the Cornish Town Forest. SPNHF was the benefactor gifting this land to the Town. The hike was led by Ginny Prince, Chair of the Town Forest Committee, and Paul Gagnon, Land Stewart for SPNHF – Bob and Jim participated as members of the CCC. Paul, who monitors the Forest bi-annually made the following comment to me while descending from the high point in the forest; "The Cornish Town Forest is probably the best managed Town Forest in the State of NH". He is particularly impressed in how the forest is managed for multiple uses from horses, hunters, timber harvest, Mt. bikes, and four wheelers. Ginny and the entire Town Forest Committee deserve our thanks and kudos for doing such a wonderful job managing this land for us.

Connecticut River Cleanup happened. Bob volunteered his pickup truck for the trash removal because initially the State said they wouldn't pick it up however they changed their mind so Bob's truck was used to remove the recyclables. Thanks to Bob for the assistance.

Bill Lipfert's hike will be on October 7th starting at 1:00 on his newly conserved land which goes into Claremont and then back into the Town Forest. Bill has created some nice publicity fliers that are on display on the Education Boards.

Wetlands Committee: Steve and Jim Fitch put a beaver baffle in the large culvert on Tandy Brook Road. Steve had called Skip Lyle, the Beaver Expert, about the types of beaver baffles available including updated designs. Skip is a Wildlife Biologist and he just happened to end up being a beaver expert as well. Skip is willing to come and speak about beaver baffles and will cover other related topics if there are some of particular interest – for a cost of no more than \$200. Water diverters are another effective way of deceiving the beavers. There are many benefits to having the beaver around so it's important to co-exist with them and not just kill them.

Potential Education Seminar topic: Beaver and Wetlands Management. Would be inside so any time of year would work. Important to have at least Selectboard members and Wayne Gray at that seminar and hopefully other members of the road crew as well.

Steve talked with Larry Duval about the dedication of the kiosk at CREA and hopefully Kevin Bronson, the Conservation Officer, will attend that as well. Larry will let Steve know when the dedication will be.

Jim passed around a draft of a cover letter that can be sent to landowners of prospective conserved lands. The draft of the letter will be sent by Jim to all Committee members. Everyone on the committee is encouraged to review this letter and return suggested edits and additions directly to Stuart at slwilkie@snet.net or (203) 988-8316 or (603) 469-3269. Stuart and Jim will review all suggested changes and then work together on a final draft of the letter to be presented at the October meeting.

Members then reviewed a map of the town in an effort to begin to identify prospective land parcels for

conservation. A number of parcels of land in town were mentioned as being of possible interest to the Commission for conservation:

The Barker Fund will be used for all expenses associated with sending these letters and soliciting landowners of prospective conservation parcels. No taxpayer dollars will be used as part of these solicitation efforts.

The annual New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions meeting will be held on November 4th at Pembroke Academy from 8:00 – 3:30. Jim and Bill both encouraged people to attend. The Conservation Commission will pay for any member to attend. The topic is “The Synergy Behind Land Conservation.”

Dale moved and Steve seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,
Stuart Wilkie
Secretary

Text of Google Doc from Corey:

CCC Mission Statement

The Cornish Conservation Commission is dedicated to the protection of the Town of Cornish's rural character, natural environment, and working landscape by encouraging and supporting land conservation efforts, public education, and careful Town planning.

Education

Education can be broken down into several categories:

- classes/talks/workshops,
- posting to our website/flyers/connect cornish,
- larger displays at events like the cornish fair,
- sharing other educational opportunities from around the Upper Valley.

When talking about topics and education we should emphasize which category we want to convey the information in.

We can aim for 3 to 4 classes/talks a year. Topics should be chosen by a person who is interested in the topic and then slotted in whichever month is seasonally appropriate.

[View current classes/talks/workshops](#)

Topics

- Invasive Species
- Water Quality
- Herbicides
- Wildlife Management
- [Household Hazardous Waste](#)
- [Pollution Prevention in Schools](#)
- [Wetlands](#)
- Beavers
- [Project WET \(Water Education for Teachers\)](#)
- [Wildlife Action Plan Map](#)
- Tree Planting
- Fishing Derby
- Info Shelf at Library
- Big Tree Contest
- Roadside Cleanup

From the NHACC Handbook

- Land
 - Topography
 - Geology
 - Soils
- Water
 - Surface water and wetlands
 - Flood Hazard Areas
 - Groundwater
- Biology
 - Unusual Plants
 - Wildlife
 - Natural Areas of Particular Importance
- Man's Use of Open Space
 - Unfragmented Land

- Production of Food and Fiber
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Conservation
- Education
- Historic and Archaeological Sites
- Aesthetics
- Ownership of Open Space Land
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Toxic Substances
- Endangered Species
- Invasive Species
- Logging
- Roads

Partnerships

- Upper Valley Land Trust
 - ContactUs@uvlt.org
- Society for the Protection of NH Forests
 - info@forestsociety.org
- UNH Extension
 - answers@unh.edu
- Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
 - info@uvlsrpc.org
- College Students to Teach?
 - Dartmouth, Colby Sawyer, Antioch
- Montshire Museum

Other Ideas from all:

- Create packet to give to property owners of potential new conserved land to educate them



Classes/Talks/Workshops

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help

SIGN IN

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	A	B	C	D
1	Date	Topic	CCC Organizer	Notes
2	Sat, Oct 14, 2017	GPS	Corey	Taught by Andrew Thompson
3	Thu, Mar 1, 2018	Organic Gardening	Corey	Contact Seth Wilner at UNH Ext.
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12		Upcoming Topics		
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Educational Survey - Cornish Conservation Commission

We are looking to provide more classes/talks/seminars throughout the year and want to get your feedback on what you would like to learn more about. Please take a moment to read the mission statement below and fill out the survey.

* Required

Mission Statement

The Cornish Conservation Commission is dedicated to the protection of the Town of Cornish's rural character, natural environment, and working landscape by encouraging and supporting land conservation efforts, public education, and careful Town planning.

Survey

Name

Your answer _____

Email

Your answer _____

What would you like to learn about? *

- Land Conservation
- Water Quality/Testing
- Wetlands/Beavers
- Watersheds
- Invasive Species
- Wildlife Tracking
- Property Monitoring
- Logging
- Household Hazardous Waste
- Wildlife Management
- Other:

Any additional thoughts?

Your answer _____

SUBMIT

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09-27-2017

GPS Class

8 people have signed up

I will put it on Connect Cornish and the Upper Valley Listserv again next week. The Upper Valley Land Trust kindly shared it through their Facebook page and to their employees.

I met with Andrew the other day and he sent me a revised presentation. Everything is looking good and I am happy with where we are at with numbers but a couple of more sign-ups wouldn't hurt.

Education Survey

I would like to put a survey out on Connect Cornish to see what people would like to learn about. Possibly send it out at the end of October so it does not take away from the GPS class postings. Does that timing sound good to everyone?

I have printed out a copy of the survey for everyone. You can take it home and let me know of any topics you would like to add or take out.

CCC Boards

The summer kind of got away from me so I am hoping to get Steve the graphics for the boards in the next week or so and start to build them out like we discussed a few meetings ago.

Structure for Educational Planning

Let me get through this whole section then we can discuss the finer points after.

So much of what we do has the potential to fall under "education" and before we go too much further I would like to take a step back and look at it as a whole.

I feel that education can be broken down into several categories:

- classes/talks/workshops,
- posting to our website/boards/flyers/connect cornish,

- larger displays at events like the cornish fair,
- sharing other educational opportunities from around the Upper Valley,
- probably other categories as well

When talking about topics and education during our meetings we should emphasize which category we want to convey the information in and then stick to that path.

For Classes/Talks/Workshops

We can aim for 3 to 4 classes/talks/workshops a year. Topics should be chosen by a person who is interested in the topic and then slotted in whichever month is seasonally appropriate. I will continue with the organic gardening for March, but I feel that we should revisit the dates/people who signed up at the last meeting.

To help organize this, I have created two Google docs for education I will share the links with Stuart for the minutes; one doc holds the ideas that we could potentially discuss and the other is the classes/workshops that we have done in the past and have coming up.

On the classes/workshops doc, I have it broken down by date, topic, ccc organizer, and relevant notes. I can keep up the maintenance of this doc based on what is discussed at our meetings.

The ideas doc should be a working document that people should feel free to update and add to as they see fit. It looks like someone has added to it already! Feel free to add your name to an existing topic or add a whole new topic with your name next to it. I have the mission statement at the top of that document just to make sure our topics are staying relatively close to that. I am happy to give anyone a google docs tutorial.

Posting to our website/boards/flyers/connect cornish can be on an as needed basis. I do like the idea of having all of the Connect Cornish posts end with Jim's name and our email address, just to keep it consistent.

That's all. What do you all think?