

Cornish Conservation Commission Minutes  
October 25, 2017

Present: Jim Barker, Stuart Wilkie, Rickey Poor, Dale Rook, Corey Fitch, John Barry, Bob Taylor, Jenny Schad, John Hammond, Kimberly Patterson,

Not present: Bill Gallagher, Steven Wilkie, Deanna Fitch, Reyer Jaarsma,

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Jim Barker, Chair.

Dale moved to approve the September meeting minutes as written; Corey seconded, approved unanimously.

Topical Reports:

Monitoring: (Rickey) All the monitoring reports are filed now. Rickey went to check out the tax maps and discovered that the Meyette's have a property that abuts their parcel currently under conservation easement. Rickey now has a map that shows a possible discrepancy in exactly which part of their property falls under easement, and she will follow up on that.

Rickey's son-in-law, Will Stevenson, will be flying his drone over the CREA property on Friday afternoon and will record some video. Stuart will be there. Jim and Kimberly will try to be there as well. We will be meeting at the CREA barn at 3:30. Jim has let Ginny Wood know that this is happening. When the video is completed, we can upload it to YouTube and make it private or public.

Education/GPS: (Corey) GPS Class was held. 8 people attended. It went very well. People were engaged and asked questions. The class started inside the school, then they went outside to practice on their own devices, and went back inside after to learn how to download onto a software program. Andrew is willing to return to repeat the class because he needs to meet community service hours. Rickey mentioned that perhaps we could get him back to help teach us how GPS can be used to monitor properties as there is one property we have some boundaries issues with one property in particular.

Corey has been talking with Seth Wilner who lives in Newport and is an organic gardener. He is willing to host a talk at his home – maybe in June – to talk about organic gardening practices. Perhaps we could ask the Cornish Garden Club to co-sponsor such a talk. Corey will reach out to Peggy of the Garden Club and ask if they might be interested.

Jim had a meeting with Dode Gladders from the UNH Cooperative Extension (Forest Health and Management) – going over the town owned properties to discuss current or future plans, policies, etc. for them.

In light of the holidays during the next two months, the November CCC meeting will be on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> and the December meeting will be on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Wetlands Committee: (Stuart on behalf of Steve). They attempted to finish up a beaver baffle on Tuesday October 24<sup>th</sup> but didn't have all of the correct equipment to do so. They will have to anchor the beaver baffle down on another day. The town has ripped out two more dams downstream from the culvert on Tandy Brook Road. The landowner is not interested in having the beavers removed. Members of the Wetlands/Wildlife Committee will be meeting with the Select Board this Friday to discuss the beaver issues. The Select Board had called the State to ask them what should be done. Because there is a dam in the center of the culvert, it's challenging to access and deal with. Rickey

suggested that perhaps now is the time to use some conservation funds to deal with this beaver issue.

Corey made a motion, Rickey seconded, that we donate \$25 to the Connecticut River Conservancy which we do each year. Approved unanimously.

We discussed the letter to go to landowners of properties for potential conservation easement. A couple of small changes were made and the letter was approved. The FAQs on Conservation Easements from the Upper Valley Land Trust will be included with the letter. Jim will be sending out the letter soon.

John reported on a discussion with Everett Cass about removing some fallen or severely leaning trees from the fire pond near the fire station on Town House Road. Everett will cut them up, remove them, and truck them to the recycling center.

The annual New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions meeting will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup> at Pembroke Academy from 8:00 – 3:30. Jim and Rickey 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 Corey seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,  
Stuart Wilkie  
Secretary