

CORNISH CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 19 2014

PRESENT: Dale Rook, Paul Dunne, John Hammond, John Berry, Steven Wilkie, Buz Lord, Ricky Poor, Jen Schad, Jim Barker, Bill Gallagher, Bob Bulkley, Frank Parks. Troy Simino as resident attendee.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIR BARKER AT 7PM

There was general discussion among the group on how to best fill the secretary position. Options also include the possibility of paying a person to do the job for the committee. There did not appear to be any members of the committee interested in holding the position.

Discussion tabled, and the group will continue with the “volunteer” approach for now.

MINUTES: Motion to accept minutes from last months meeting made by Bill G.; seconded by Bob B. There was further discussion initiated by John Hammond to amend the minutes to say that the minutes as written were incorrect and that the select board did NOT say that there would be no hunting on the CREA land; only that they(selectmen) were going to post it. John went on to say that the select board had extensively researched the history of the CREA land and found nothing documented to prohibit hunting on the property. Other (but not all) factors that played into the decision making process was the continuing decline in use by sports teams(or lack of) at the school. John was queried by the group as to what role the public hearing played in which it was clear that the people who attended thought that there should be no hunting of any kind; as well as the “vote” taken at the Town meeting which showed same. John replied that the “vote” at the town meeting was not an official vote and that the public hearing was only reflective of the sentiment of those that had attended and that the select boards

responsibility was to all of the taxpayers in town regardless if they had attended or not. John went on to say that, regardless, it had been understood by all (and documented) that the final decision was the selectboards to make and that they had decided that hunting would be allowed (type and form eg archery etc. to be determined) on the CREA land as one of the types of recreation. He said that they had also consulted a conservation officer from NH Fish and Game as to where to place safety zone signs when the time came. There would be two type signs, "safety zone" and "recreation area". John was also queried as to whether the school had been informed of this decision and said that they had not but would be in the near future. After amending the minutes to remove the "..no hunting on CREA.." **the motion to accept PASSED**

NOTE: The above actually took place in two different time frames in the meeting, early and late; but has been documented in this manner for continuity.

BYLAWS: Final proofing of the bylaws. The group went over the most current draft of the bylaws and made changes by consensus. The group also decided that, as amended, with the amendments documented and incorporated by chair Barker, that these would be final copy with no need to "go over one more time". Some good key points were added by the group. A member of the group made the suggestion that, in addition to being a resident of Cornish to serve on the conservation commission, that one must also be a citizen of the United States to serve. After some discussion, the group decided that it was not necessary to have this stipulation. At this point, resident attendee Troy Simino, recognized by chair Barker, voiced opinion that he felt that it should be a requirement and that it may possibly be a legal requirement anyway. After discussion, the group maintained its original position on the matter. The motion to accept as final copy(per

sentence 3 above) was made by Frank and seconded by Ricky **the motion passed.**

Easement monitoring: complete except for two. Chair Barker to schedule.

SOLAR: Bill G provided the group with a handout of a “community “ solar project that was undertaken in Saxtons River ,Vt. and explained that this type solar project is a growing trend. The company is Saxtons River Solar Electric. srssolar@comcast.net

WETLANDS WILDLIFE COMMITTEE: Frank gave an update to the board on a recent concern from a resident with a problem with beavers. There was general discussion from the group in regard to various methods of mitigation of beaver problems. He(Frank) said that the WWC was an advisory committee only and that the landowner has the final say on type of mitigation and any expense incurred. A great example of a good mitigation measure (where applicable) is the beaver baffle at the CREA land that was constructed and installed by Jim Fitch, Troy Simino and Frank.

ANNUAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING: Buz gave a report to the committee on the highlights of the meeting. He said it was a great experience and would like to attend again.

GPS: Steve gave an overview to the group on GPS usage. He will do a more in depth presentation at the next meeting. The group also thought that a GPS workshop may be a good thing to offer to the public sometime.

CURRENT USE RECREATION LETTER: John H spoke about the recent letter that went out to all residents in town who currently get the 20% recreation exemption on their taxes. He said that there had been some concerns with people posting their land and still getting the exemption.

The letter states that anyone in violation of the state statute will not be granted the exemption next year. Anyone who has questions can inquire at the selectmen's office.

POSTAGE REIMBURSEMENT: Ricky submitted a bill for reimbursement and will receive same.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: A motion to adjourn was made by Dale and seconded by Ricky. **Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at approximately 9 PM.**

Minutes submitted in draft form by F.Parks.