Cornish Conservation Commission Minutes

November 15, 2017

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

Not present: John Hammond, Bill Gallagher, Steven Wilkie, Deanna Fitch

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Jim Barker, Chair.

Rickey moved to approve the October meeting minutes as written; Dale seconded, approved unanimously.

Topical Reports:

Monitoring: (Rickey) Rickey is still working on getting better quality electronic versions of maps. It would be helpful to have GPS versions of the properties.

Education/GPS: (Corey) We received 21 responses to the survey that was distributed. The top vote getters were Invasive Species (14 votes), Wildlife Tracking (11), and Wildlife Management, Wetlands/Beavers, Watershed (9 votes each). This gives us plenty of topics to work with over the next year at least. The summary of the survey appears at the end of these meeting minutes.

Jim will reach out to Dode to set up a Wildlife Tracking seminar for the winter.

Corey printed out some nice pieces of information (“Mission” and “Meetings”) for the Information Boards in town. Kim volunteered to work with Corey to get more content onto the information boards. A list of the Commission members will be added to the boards and to our page on the town website. Rickey suggested that maps of CREA and the Town Forest (the two major town owned conserved properties) be added to the boards as well.

Jim sent out letters on November 1st to the owners of the seven properties identified by the Commission as potential for conservation.

Jim attended a seminar at DHMC sponsored by the Upper Valley Adaptation Work Group entitled “Protecting Land and Wildlife in a Changing Climate.” There were five speakers, each covered a different sub-topic and spoke for about 20 minutes. Over 100 people were in attendance including Conservation folk and Town Planners. One speaker talked about the earth’s warming trends which up until the 1970s was a result of a combination of both natural phenomenon and man-made actions. But now it’s all a result of man-made actions because the earth itself is in a cooling period, but the man-made warming is completely counteracting that, and the last three years have each been the warmest on record. The climatologist spoke about other severe weather trends in this region, the country, and around the world, including warmer and cooler than normal trends. There was also a speaker who talked about the effects of climate change on wildlife including loss of normal habitats and areas for protection. As a result of the scouring of streams by these severe storms, food sources for fish and other water-based animals are being removed. One speaker talked about how $1.00 spent now on mitigation projects will save $4.00 in remediation costs in the future. The biggest thing that can be done now for preservation and protection wildlife is land conservation. The second thing is to create and preserve contiguous tracks of land to stop the fragmentation of land parcels, which will allow for animal movement and migration. Jim spoke with Amanda Stone from the UNH Extension Service who is willing to come and speak with the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board (and hopefully at least one member of the Select Board) to talk about the importance of land conservation efforts and policies to benefit wildlife.

Jim passed around a couple of handouts from the seminar, which have lots of great information on them. One website that was referenced in the materials is: [www.takingactionforwildlife.org](http://www.takingactionforwildlife.org)

Will Stevenson flew his drone over the CREA property on October 27th and took 99 photos that will now be uploaded to Dropbox and also stored on a thumb drive that will be kept at the Town Offices.

Conservation Award: Potential award recipients for presentation at the 2018 town meeting were discussed. Commission members have been asked to think about other potential recipients before a final decision is made. The list of past award winners is on the CCC page of the town website.

Next year’s budget info will be discussed at the December meeting.

Kim moved and Rickey seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,

Stuart Wilkie

Secretary

Education Survey Results Summary



