

Cornish Conservation Commission Minutes  
December 13, 2017

Present: Jim Barker, Stuart Wilkie, Reyer Jaarsma, Bob Taylor, John Hammond, Dale Rook, Rickey Poor, Heidi Jaarsma (Town Treasurer)

Not present: Corey Fitch, John Barry, Jenny Schad, Kimberly Patterson, Bill Gallagher, Steven Wilkie, Deanna Fitch,

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Jim Barker, Chair.

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

Heidi reported on the Conservation Funds. Two CDs were opened two years ago because the NH Public Deposit Investment Pool was stagnant, paying interest of essentially zero percent; although it's AAA Safe, it is not FDIC insured. The goal of the CDs was to achieve earnings to pay out between \$50-\$200 per year. Currently the interest paid is 0.65% at Claremont Savings; Pool is now paying 1.1%. All of the money is back in the Pool. Heidi presented options for investments of this money. The total amount invested is \$127,416 in the Conservation Fund and \$14,445 in the Palmer Fund. \$7,007 in the CREA Development Fund. Bunny Barker Fund has \$ 2,282. And \$180 in the CREA Barn Fund. The Pool invests mostly in government bonds. Jim recommended splitting the monies into two different investments. When invested in CDs, the money isn't readily available for typically a year. With other investments, the money is more readily available. Mascoma Savings has an option that pays out around 0.9% currently and withdrawals can be made easily.

Jim accepted a motion to advise the Town Treasurer to split the Conservation Commission investments between the NH Public Deposit Investment Pool and Mascoma Savings Bank. Rickey moved, Reyer seconded. Approved unanimously.

Requested 2018 Budget: (based on recent years)  
\$4500 - Conservation Fund (no increase)  
\$750 - Operating Budget (increase of \$50 from 2017 to cover increase in fees for memberships and seminars)

Dale moved and Rickey seconded a motion to request the budget amounts listed above.

Rickey attempted to login to a webinar on Natural Resources sponsored by the NH Association of Conservation Commissions but a password was required and she couldn't figure that out in time to join the webinar. They offer these webinars on a regular basis and it would be good if we had a password to join in and to view older ones available on-line. John suggested that Mary might know about our password or someone could contact the NHACC directly.

Annual Conservation Award discussion and selection of recipients.

Jim received a thank you letter from the Connecticut River Conservancy for our donation to them.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,  
Stuart Wilkie  
Secretary