

Cornish Conservation Commission Minutes
January 24, 2018

Present: Jim Barker, Stuart Wilkie, Reyer Jaarsma, Bob Taylor, Dale Rook, John Barry, Rickey Poor, Bill Gallagher, Corey Fitch, Deanna Fitch,

Not present: John Hammond, Jenny Schad, Kimberly Patterson, Steven Wilkie,

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

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

Topical Reports:

Monitoring: (Corey and Rickey) Andrew Thompson, who helped with the GPS class last year, said that he would help GPS some of our conserved parcels during our monitoring walks this year. The Meyette property is not monitored by the Upper Valley Land Trust. Rickey has maps of the properties – including the small adjacent parcel – and it would be helpful to get more precise information on the properties using a GPS device. Brian Meyette now owns contiguous lots, and our information isn't exactly correct so it would make sense to use the GPS the next time we monitor the property to get a more accurate survey of the property.

Education (Corey): A wildlife tracking seminar is still in the works to be led by Joe LaRue who is a great tracker from the White Mountains and who has certifications in wildlife track and sign interpretation. There were two other local tracking classes scheduled (one at Saint Gaudens which was canceled because of the government shut-down; and one in Unity). Joe doesn't charge for leading the tracking seminar but perhaps we can give him a stipend to help pay for his gas, etc. March 17th is a tentative date starting at 9 or 10 a.m. for 2-3 hours. Most likely at CREA. Jim will e-mail Saint Gaudens to ask if they would like to co-sponsor the tracking seminar.

Gardening workshop – Corey contacted Seth Wilner. He and his wife live in Newport and have an organic garden that they would welcome us to visit as part of an educational seminar. This will most likely be scheduled for June. Attendees could meet at the Cornish Town Offices and carpool.

Jackson Road Property: No update.

Annual CCC Award: Ideas for gifts for the recipients were finalized. Rickey and Jim will purchase the gifts that will be presented in March.

We should probably have a table at the annual town meeting this year. The specifics for which will be further discussed at our February meeting.

Community Survey Results:

Jim passed out print outs of the community survey results including the comments that were specific to Conservation.

We discussed the results and comments and see areas of opportunity for education of the public as to what we do as a Conservation Commission. We also identified the areas of importance to the respondents and could use that to help guide our future actions and additionally how to present and position our mission and future proposals to the general public.

We should really submit a monthly blurb in Connect Cornish bringing attention to our three display cases in town, inviting people to come to each next meeting, and also include some educational component. ("What are Conservation Easements?" Map of conserved land in town. Wildlife tracking, etc.)

Corey will submit an announcement regularly each month in Connect Cornish inviting people to our monthly meetings and bringing attention to the three display cases.

February: Conservation Easements

March: Animal tracking and Conservation Award Recipients

April: "Have you seen the beaver baffle?"

May: CREA awareness

June: Organic gardening

Later in the summer or early fall, we can invite people to submit their photos – both from game cams and also interesting wildlife and conservation related.

Corey will create a Cornish Conservation Commission YouTube channel and upload the photos from the drone.

Dale is not going to continue on the Conservation Commission after the town meeting in March so we'll need to find a new member.

Rickey moved that we send \$25 to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Bill seconded. Approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,
Stuart Wilkie, Secretary