

Cornish Conservation Commission Minutes
March 28, 2018

Present: Jim Barker, Stuart Wilkie, Bob Taylor, Bill Gallagher, Corey Fitch, Reyer Jaarsma, Deanna Fitch, Kimberly Patterson, Rickey Poor, John Hammond,

Not present: John Barry, Steven Wilkie

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

Corey moved to approve the February meeting minutes as written; Bill seconded, approved unanimously.

Topical Reports:

Monitoring: (Rickey) Corey asked Rickey to come up with some potential dates for monitoring where Andrew can come and help GPS parts of the Meyette properties. Rickey explained what monitoring entails and shared the seven properties for which the Cornish Conservation Commission has primary responsibility for monitoring to ensure compliance.

Education (Corey): The Tracking Workshop had ten people in attendance. The expert was excellent and would be recommended again. He said there are other expert trackers closer to us whom he would recommend to lead future workshops.

Corey will reach out to Seth about the organic gardening workshop to be held in the spring hopefully.

Town Meeting:

We had a table with a map and information on personal watersheds. It wasn't highly noticeable so perhaps we should consider a banner for future use to bring attention to our displays. Jim reiterated the recipients of the Annual CCC Award that were announced publicly at the School Meeting and also thanked Dale and Judi Rook for their time and talents dedicated to the CCC over the years.

Current Use Legislation:

The NH State Legislature has tabled their discussion of Current Use for the time being. But we should probably be ready for when it comes up for discussion again. This will most likely be a hot issue in the next three to five years. It could easily become an issue at the local level sooner than that. Perhaps the CCC should spend some time to educate ourselves on Current Use and the actual costs to the town and its residents. John said a couple of years ago he went to a talk on the costs of open land

to residents.

NHACC Annual Dues: Rickey made a motion and Corey seconded that we pay our annual dues of \$266.00 to the NHACC. Jim believes they have improved their communications and also lobbying efforts on behalf of conservation and legislation. Approved unanimously. They also sponsor a one-day conference in the fall each year.

Growing Mushrooms Workshop:

Bill attended a mushroom growing workshop, led by David Wichland, that was absolutely terrific. There was a \$15.00 fee, and two sessions sold out. Participants took home logs with spores of various types of mushrooms. The workshop focused solely on gardening of mushrooms and not the harvesting of wild mushrooms. Bill shared with the group his experience from the workshop. Rickey said that perhaps the CCC should consider hosting a mushroom workshop as part of our education efforts.

Connecticut River Joint Commission (CRJC) – had a meeting in Windsor last night. Colleen O'Neill, the Cornish representative, couldn't make the meeting so Bill went in her place. Bill is going to attend at least one more meeting.

Appointed positions. We have two open positions since Dale and Jen Schad have left the Commission. Stuart and Reyer have each volunteered to fill an Appointed Member position. So now we have a need to fill the vacant Alternate positions.

Election of Officers:

Corey has volunteered to become the new Chairperson. Jim has agreed to be Vice Chair.

Since we have three former chairs still serving on the Commission, Corey will have lots of support.

Rickey moved the new Slate of Officers, Reyer seconded. Approved unanimously.

Chair: Corey Fitch

Vice Chair and Treasurer: Jim Barker

Secretary: Stuart Wilkie

The By-laws should be changed to reflect the option of having the Vice Chair also serve as Treasurer.

Rickey mentioned that we should have metal plaques made with the names of the Conservation Award recipients to be installed on the totem pole in the Town Offices.

Upcoming Display Boxes topics:

April: "Have you seen the beaver baffle?"

May: CREA awareness

June: Organic gardening

Jim expressed his gratitude for serving the last six years as Chair of the Commission. Rickey acknowledged her appreciation of and the quality of Jim's leadership over the past six years and stated that of her over 40 years on the Commission, the years under Jim's leadership have been particularly productive. The Commission agreed wholeheartedly with Rickey's assessment and thanked Jim for his service as Chair. We are grateful that Jim will remain on the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,
Stuart Wilkie, Secretary