

Cornish Conservation Commission Minutes
April 25, 2018

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

Not present: Kimberly Patterson, John Hammond, Steven Wilkie

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Corey Fitch, Chair.

Corey began his first meeting as the new Chairperson by thanking Jim for his years of service as the Chair and is looking forward to his own tenure.

Jim moved to approve the March meeting minutes as written; Bill seconded, approved unanimously.

Topical Reports:

- Monitoring Report (Rickey)
 - Peg Meyette property – the original monitoring date was canceled and will be rescheduled for the near future. Rickey brought a copy of the tax map that shows the property. This is a confusing parcel of land as it is written about as different tracts in the deed. We do not have a survey of the entire parcel of conserved property but we do have surveys of certain pieces of the property. Rickey believes that the conserved pieces are Lots 37 (minus the housing lot), 30, 39, 49, and 35 on the tax map. We should probably invite Steve Walker from the New Hampshire Conservation Land Stewardship Program (a part of the Office of Energy and Planning) to our monitoring session of this Meyette property as the State has a vested interest in this conservation easement. Eventually it would be great to have a single map of the complete property that is under easement. Andrew is available the weekends of June 23, July 7, and July 14 to come and help us GPS the property. We would also really prefer to have Brian Meyette accompany us for the monitoring. The order of date choices would be June 24th, June 23rd, July 8th, and June 15th. Reyer will reach out to Brian with the dates, and Corey will confirm with Andrew.
- Education Report (Corey)
 - June: Organic Gardening Workshop in Newport
 - Waiting on Seth for date confirmation but he's on board with it.

- Fall: Invasive Species
 - Knotweed
 - Corey heard from Mike Bald who said he would be willing to do a micro-workshop/training session with a few of us from the Commission and then we could put together our own workshop for the public based on that information.
- The Student Conservation Association held an event on April 23rd focused on Sullivan and Cheshire counties with about 25 people in attendance. It was mostly a brainstorming session to come up with different ideas for ways to get people involved in conservation efforts and topics. Corey will share with the Commission parts of the meeting minutes from that session.
- NHACC
 - Newsletter – Some members have already signed up to receive the NHACC newsletter via e-mail, and others are encouraged to do so as well.
 - Member portal – they are updating their portal and people can sign up for access to this on their own.
- Google Docs – Corey set up a Google Docs account for the Conservation Commission as a way to share information with the CCC. We experimented with sharing tonight's meeting agenda via Google Docs which worked well for everyone, and we will continue to do that each month. Stuart will publish the monthly meeting minutes in the CCC's Google Docs account and send an e-mail to the group with the link to the current meeting minutes.
- Current Use Articles – these will be available in the Conservation Commission Account.
- YouTube as a resource. Corey has created a Cornish Conservation Commission YouTube channel that currently has one video on it. People are encouraged to send Corey links of relevant videos that he will add to the channel.
- Clean-up day on CREA – needs to be scheduled sooner rather than later as the school children tend to use CREA this time of year.
- Banner for Table during Events – a few people volunteered to look into options for an all weather banner and will get back with any information they found.
- CCC Award Winners - Metal Plaques for Totem Pole – Jim did some research and it looks like it would cost around \$350 for all 35 plaques that we would need currently. Rickey and Jim will take a look at the list to ensure accuracy of the names.

Molly and Linda sent a nice thank you note to the Commission in acknowledgement of their award which Rickey read aloud to the Commission members.

- May Bird walk – In the past Jody Schubert has done an educational bird walk and perhaps we want to invite her to do another one for 2019. This will be added to the Google Docs in a new document where will collect ideas for future educational workshops and events.
- 1st quarter financials – Jim presented our first quarter financials to the group. The balances of our various funds as of March 31st are as follows:
 - Conservation Fund: \$127,971.15
 - CREA Dev. Fund: \$ 7,037.64
 - Palmer Fund: \$ 14,502.94
 - B. Barker Mem. Fund: \$ 2,217.23
 - CREA Barn Fund: \$ 180.00

A River Celebration to be held on June 16th sponsored by the Connecticut River Conservatory Association

Erosion – Bill has noticed some significant erosion near the first house on Center Road but away from the brook and also near the Sugar River in Claremont. Bill will contact someone to take a look at the erosion on Center Road.

Carbon – Bill brought in the New York Times Magazine from Sunday with a cover story, “Can Dirt Save the Earth?” on dirt and carbon. The link to the article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/18/magazine/dirt-save-earth-carbon-farming-climate-change.html>

An article on the Gallaghers’ similar efforts appeared in the September 2014 issue of The Valley Green Journal, the link to which is: <http://www.valleygreenjournal.com/archives-sept-2012-june-2015/september-2014/>

Rickey brought up the Natural Resources Inventory on Cornish and whether or not we wanted to review some of the sections for updating. It’s available on-line and everyone is asked to review it before the next meeting to determine which, if any, section should be addressed and updated.

http://www.cornishnh.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/CornishNRI_2013.pdf

Jim mentioned that he met a Professor from the environmental graduate program at Antioch and discussed the fact that the Cornish Town Forest Committee is looking for an intern to do an ecological study next spring. He asked the Commission if we should help the Forest Committee in securing and supervising the intern. There was agreement we do so, and Jim will contact Ginny Prince to offer our help.

The beaver baffle on the CREA property became clogged and it overflowed. Larry Duval and Jim Fitch removed some sticks from it with help from the town and it has been cleared now.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,
Stuart Wilkie, Secretary