

Cornish Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
May 23, 2018

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

Not present: John Barry, Kimberly Patterson, Steven Wilkie

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

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

Topical Reports:

- Monitoring Report (Rickey)

Meyette property: Tentatively scheduled for Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully starting at 9:00 a.m. Andrew will be here to help GPS the property lines towards the goal of building a map of the entire conserved parcel.

Corey suggested that we give Andrew an honorarium of \$50.00 for his travel expenses although it's volunteer work on his part. Rickey made a motion and Jim seconded that we pay Andrew \$50.00 from the Conservation Fund to cover his travel expenses. Approved unanimously.

Next property/dates? No others scheduled at this time. Rickey will have time by mid-June to think about scheduling others. Perhaps we can arrange the monitoring of Jim Barker's property mid to late week so that those who can't do weekends can participate.

- Education Report (Corey)

- June: Organic Gardening Workshop at Seth Wilner's in Newport

- June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Corey will place an announcement in Connect Cornish this week. Meet at Cornish Town Hall for those who want to carpool.

- Invasive Species:

- Knotweed: Mike Bald has been working at King Arthur Flour to pull invasives from their property. People are free to join him to learn about invasives and how to deal with them.

- Fall workshop potential topic: Coyotes

CREA Clean-Up Day – everything on the western side of the barn is done. Thanks to Bob who showed up the week before and did some clean-up work on his own. There are additional trees down that need to be cleaned up and removed. Rickey received a call from Linda Furst who reported that Mike's Trail is on the verge of flooding. The beavers are quite busy around town. Corey will ask Jim Fitch to check out a few areas where beavers have been particularly active to come up with a plan for additional baffles or other mitigation efforts.

Jim made a motion, and Rickey seconded, that Corey discuss with the Selectboard the possibility of eliminating the CREA Committee and having the Conservation Commission assume those responsibilities. The Selectboard meets this Friday between 3:00 – 5:00, and Corey will be there to initiate the discussion. We will need to evaluate all the responsibilities that will be assumed by the Conservation Commission. Approved unanimously.

<http://www.cornishnh.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CREA-Mgmt-Plan-March-2015.pdf>

[http://www.cornishnh.net/?page\\_id=797](http://www.cornishnh.net/?page_id=797)

Banner for Events – Jim made a motion, Bill seconded, that we have a Cornish Conservation Commission banner made by Digital Imageworks in Lebanon, N.H. Corey passed around a sample of what the banner will look like. It will be less than \$100. Approved unanimously.

Metal Plaques for Totem Pole – Jim will get a couple of quotes for the plaques and present those at a subsequent CCC meeting.

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Planning Commission held a Forest and Farm Workshop at DHMC which Corey attended. General consensus among those who study climate change is that we will have more severe rains and more severe droughts going forward. Also, by the end of this century the general consensus is that the climate in our area will be more like New Jersey (best case) or even Washington, D.C. resulting in major changes to our flora and fauna.

Rickey made a suggestion that the town consider rejoining the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. It was the Cornish Town Planning Committee who decided that the town wouldn't renew our membership so perhaps the Commission should write a letter to the Planning Committee requesting that we join again. Rickey then suggested that we monitor the goings-on of the UVLSRPC and see

how much benefit we could receive from them if we rejoin. <http://www.uvlsrc.org>

Town of Cornish National Resources Inventory (NRI):

[http://www.cornishnh.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/CornishNRI\\_2013.pdf](http://www.cornishnh.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/CornishNRI_2013.pdf)

For June's meeting all Commission members are asked to review Sections I and II of the NRI and make notes as to any modifications and/or additions that should be made to those sections. We will discuss those at the June meeting and update the NRI as necessary.

Each month we will discuss an additional section or two of the NRI so eventually the whole document will be updated and current without having to tackle it all at once like in the past.

Suggestions for a new theme for our display boxes – gardening workshop info could be added. We should also post some color photos of things we have done such as the annual award winners and from our monitoring walks. Jim came up with some informational color brochures that will be added to the display boxes.

Post audit financial update – Jim shared that the town has collected land use fees, and \$5,400 is due to the Conservation Commission. \$84 that will be due the Commission is still yet to be collected.

Erosion – Bill shared that the erosion on Center Road is dramatic and probably was caused by ice blocking the flow of Center Brook redirecting it over the road and back again into the brook itself, and although the water is gone now, the effects of this are still evident and are significant.

Weed Wrench – Rickey shared that a number of years ago the Conservation Commission bought a weed wrench which was available for free loan to Cornish residents. It is now located at the Bill Gallagher's. Perhaps we want to make it available for loan again and promote its availability on Connect Cornish and in our display boxes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,  
Stuart Wilkie, Secretary