

Cornish Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2018

Present: Corey Fitch, Stuart Wilkie, Bill Gallagher, Bob Taylor, John Hammond, Reyer Jaarsma

Not present: Jim Barker, Rickey Poor, John Berry, Deanna Fitch, Kimberly Patterson, Steven Wilkie

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Corey Fitch, Chair.

Bill moved to approve the June meeting minutes as written; Bob seconded, approved unanimously.

Topical Reports:

- Monitoring Report (Stuart on behalf of Rickey)
July 11th monitored one Barker property. She will get the report out within a few days. We have three more properties to monitor this year but the next one won't be until after August 18th.
 - Education Report (Corey)
 - June: Organic Gardening Workshop held at Seth Wilner's in Newport on June 30th. About 10 people were in attendance. Some from the Garden Club and almost all were from Cornish.
 - Fall workshop potential topic: Beavers and/or Coyotes
 - Bill talked with Chris Schadler <http://www.projectcoyote.org/about/chris-schadler/> from Project Coyote <http://www.projectcoyote.org> who would be happy to come here and speak perhaps in the late fall. She charges \$200 to speak. She's just waiting for a date from us – perhaps Tuesday October 9th at 7:00 p.m. She will help publicize the workshop.
- John brought up the question of what type of wildlife is being talked about when the term “wildlife corridor.”
- Mushroom workshop (Bill): Probably planned for early spring.

Banner for Events – Corey has ordered the banner, which we will have on display at future events.

Metal Plaques for Totem Pole –

A framed list of all previous award recipients is now on display next to the Totem Pole in the Town Offices. Jim has ordered the plaques from Inland Products in California for \$200 plus shipping which will be installed on the Totem Pole when they arrive.

Discussion of the NRI Section III postponed until the August meeting.

The link to the Town of Cornish National Resources Inventory (NRI):

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

Cornish Flat Swimming Area:

Stuart gave a brief overview of what was discussed at June's meeting regarding the swimming hole in the Flat. Although he was prepared to move ahead with a meeting of interested parties, specifically from the Flat, John quickly agreed that the Town would resume responsibilities for the dredging and grass cutting. John will bring the topic up at Friday's Selectboard meeting, and he doesn't foresee any issue with this. He assumes it can be completed by the end of August. He will also find out what the expenses are associated with the ongoing maintenance and is pretty sure the Town has money to cover it. If not, perhaps the Conservation Commission can help subsidize these costs, if necessary.

Wood Chip Burners: (Bill)

A story appeared in the Valley News about biomass plants (woodchip burners) because there are some points of contention surrounding their use and regulation. There are six biomass plants in the state although three are going idle this summer as they wait for a final decision on the governor's veto of a bill surrounding their use and regulation. Loggers provide the plants with the loggers' brush and treetops after foresting. Sawmills provide the plants with the mills' board overages, etc. Utilities provide the plants the debris from storm clean ups. The plants burn these wood chips for fuel, which they say keeps their industry and many rural economies afloat. However, they are inherently inefficient because they are burning green wood. The bill in question would require utilities to buy more biomass energy at a discounted rate. Governor Sununu has argued that it would cost ratepayers too much – as much as \$60 more per ratepayer per year. More hearings and discussion are in the future on this topic at the state level.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,
Stuart Wilkie, Secretary