

Cornish Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
October 24, 2018

Present: Corey Fitch, Stuart Wilkie, Bill Gallagher, Bob Taylor, Jim Barker, Rickey Poor, John Hammond, Guest: Joanna Sharf from the Energy Committee

Not present: Reyer Jaarsma, John Berry, Deanna Fitch, Kimberly Patterson, Steven Wilkie

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

Energy Committee (Joanna Sharf): The Energy Committee is starting to take the steps to move the town towards its goal of 100% renewable energy which was voted on and approved at the 2018 town meeting. The Energy Committee would like to start looking at sites for possible large solar installations or wind farms. The Energy Committee will be working with the Planning Committee to establish some guidelines regarding these installations, the permitting process, the taxation, etc. so they are favorable and encourage such installations. An average household uses approximately 6-10 KWH per year. The Energy Committee has gathered data regarding how much energy the town buildings use annually but haven't started to calculate the total energy used by all others, including residences, in town. Plainfield, Hanover, and Concord are the three other towns in the state with a similar goal. The Energy Committee meetings are open to all. More information can be found via this link:

[http://www.cornishnh.net/?page\\_id=881](http://www.cornishnh.net/?page_id=881)

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

#### Topical Reports:

- Monitoring Report (Rickey)
  - Rickey has reached out to the owner of White Swan Farm. We do need to get the monitoring done this year – ideally within the next two weeks. Rickey believes it makes sense to divide this property into five parcels for the purpose of monitoring so the entire property can be monitored over five-year periods.

- Education Report (Corey)
  - The incredibly successful fall workshop on Coyotes was held on October 10<sup>th</sup> to a standing room only audience at the Town Offices. Kudos to Bill for suggesting and facilitating that.
  - Land Conservation Talk – Mid-winter: Corey will come up with a plan for this talk after he attends the NHACC Annual Meeting & Conference.
  - Mushroom workshop (Bill): Probably planned for early spring. David Wichland will be the facilitator.
  - Birding – perhaps in May 2019 at the CREA property - Jodi Shubert (?)

The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Conference of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) on Saturday November 3, 2018 at Pembroke Academy. The cost for any member of the CCC who wishes to attend will be covered by the CCC.

The following Google Docs link will be the CCC depository for relevant Conservation Resources/News Articles:

- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/13jJSbiNklCe8BtrbkVwwGo1dnJofg1ILVTv4cKpX5ag/edit?usp=sharing>

Remaining 2018 CCC Meeting Dates: November CCC meeting will still be on the fourth Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, however the December meeting will be moved to the third Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Cornish Flat Swimming Area/Fire Pond: It will be \$3500 to have the fire pond dredged, which will be done in the spring. The town will pay for this cost. The cemetery department will continue to mow the land going forward – and that cost comes out of the Sexton's budget.

Yatsevich Forest citizen science project (Rickey): The sugar maple isn't regenerating up to expectations and there is now a citizen science project to study and evaluate this

phenomenon. The Yatsevich Forest has been chosen as one of these evaluation sites. TBD is how many participants are needed to help observe the Yatsevich Forest site.

CREA Committee update: There was a second CREA Committee meeting and it appears that the committee is once again viable and enthusiastic. There will be an amendment to the management plan that will need approval by the Selectboard to specify that the CREA Committee will now be responsible for scheduling future clean-up sessions and the CCC will help supply bodies.

CREA Fall Clean-Up is scheduled for Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Downpour date will be November 11<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the barn; bring rakes, clippers, leaf blowers, etc.

2019 Budget: Two parts – Operating Budget (this was increased from \$700 to \$750 for 2018). Jim made a motion that for 2019, the CCC should request a \$4,500 warrant article for the Conservation Fund and \$750 for the Operating Budget – so no increase from 2018. Rickey seconded. Approved unanimously. Rickey suggested that we perhaps set a target amount to have in the Conservation Fund and work towards that goal. It will be important to evaluate the amounts and how we've spent money from this fund over the past ten years.

Discussion of the NRI Sections VII and VIII will be done at November's meeting.

The link to the 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)

Alternates/By-Laws: Steve Wilkie has stepped down from the Commission, which now means there is an opening for a Town Forest Committee representative.

Rickey made a motion that we pay \$100 for ten books to support the Four Winds program. Jim seconded. Approved unanimously. Rickey gave Corey the invoice to be paid out of the Palmer Fund.

John commented that the trees that were planted on the Fair Grounds originally sponsored by the CCC are now large enough that they provide shade for fair goers. Perhaps a few more trees could be planted – not only at the Fair Grounds but in other places around town.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,  
Stuart Wilkie, Secretary