

Cornish Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
November 28, 2018

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

Not present: John Hammond, Kimberly Patterson

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

Jim moved to approve the October meeting minutes as written; Bill seconded. A change was recommended, and the motion was approved unanimously to approve the October meeting minutes, as amended, to include a change to correct the dollar amount from \$4,000 to \$4,500 in the warrant article. The meeting minutes now read as follows: "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."

Topical Reports:

- Monitoring Report (Rickey):  
White Swan Farm was monitored on November 15<sup>th</sup> by Rickey and Dan Poor. The Southwest portion of the property was monitored, and things look fine. The owner reported that she had a hunter on the property even though it is posted. Rickey and Dan met with the owner at the end of their walk. The report has been filed at the Town Offices and will be mailed to the owner tomorrow and e-mailed to other vested parties.
- Education Report (Corey):  
Land Conservation Talk – Mid-winter (Corey)  
Mushroom Workshop – March 16, 2019 in the a.m. at Town Hall (Bill)  
Birding - May

CREA: Fall Clean-up recap (Corey):

There were a handful of people from both the CCC and the CREA Committee who showed up to help with the clean-up along with Larry Dingee.

Jim has received two reports of hunting on the CREA property. Some of the posted signs have been torn down. Perhaps when the signs are replaced they can be placed high enough up so they aren't as easily torn down. Rickey suggested that in the future a reminder in Connect Cornish prior to hunting season that there is no hunting on the property. We should notify the Cornish Police and NH Fish and

Game of these occurrences of hunting on the property. Maybe we could modify the sign at the entrance to CREA indicating that it is a restricted recreational area for public use, and hunting is not permitted.

CREA Management Plan: The Management Plan needs to be modified to reflect what is actually going on. Jim will meet with Dale Lawrence in January to revise the Management Plan before bringing it back to the CREA Committee and to the CCC.

Energy Meeting recap (Bill): There were a few people at the meeting. The Committee is starting from scratch and has quite a challenge ahead of them in order to meet the goal of both Cornish and Plainfield using 100% renewable energies by 2050. There are multiple options for renewable energies including solar, wind, and water.

Jonesville Road: Chuck Braxton who represents Jennifer Thibaux in Jonesville contacted Corey to let him know there is a culvert on Jonesville Road in Small Leslie Brook that is deteriorating and needs repair or replacement. It is on the road that used to be Nelson Road. Any change to this culvert would need approval from the Selectboard. The CCC might need to review the application for the culvert improvements.

Town Forest Representative: We need a new representative to the Town Forest Committee. Reyer has agreed to serve in this role.

New Appointed Member: We now have an open slot for an appointed member. Jim made a motion, and Bill seconded, that we recommend to the Selectboard that Deanna become an Appointed Member of the CCC. Approved unanimously.

NRI – Section VII and VIII review: Some suggested changes were mentioned and Stuart added those to our cumulative notes. At December's meeting, Section IX will be discussed.

Alternates/By-Laws Vote: Corey handed out a draft of some modifications to the By-laws addressing attendance requirements of CCC members. (add "With regular contact with the CCC Chairperson") Bill made a motion, and Rickey seconded, to adopt the proposed changes to the by-laws as amended in discussion. There was some spirited discussion around Alternate and Appointed Members' obligations, and it was decided that we should table the motion for now while Corey re-drafts the proposed by-law changes. We will discuss further at next month's meeting. Stuart will write an invitation for new Alternate Members to be placed in Connect Cornish.

NHACC meeting – report from Corey: Corey went to the meeting and the keynote speaker talked about climate change and how wet places will get wetter and dry places will get dryer going forward. There are some plants that will absorb CO2 better and will thrive going forward (Poison Ivy is an example). One of the Land Conservation break-out sections focused on Conservation Easements. Another was on Conservation Fund Best Practices and another on Forest Fragmentation. All the slides from the conference are available on the NHACC website. Corey will write up his notes from the meeting and those will be shared with the CCC members.

Reimbursement: Corey requested reimbursement for \$60 to cover the cost of the NHACC Conference and \$80 for mileage (at a rate of \$0.545 per mile) from the Operating Budget for a total of \$140. Approved unanimously.

Recycling Center: Jim, Bill, Rickey, and John B. went to the meeting where there was a really good turn out. There is an issue of increased costs for recycling and starting three years ago, China began slowing down taking as much of the United States' bundles of recycling and has now nearly stopped. Paper mills are reopening in this country and the demand for these recycling bundles is increasing again but there are different needs and requirements for these domestic purchasers of recycled products.

We can still get money for cardboard, dry newspaper, clean glass, and #1 & #2 plastics, if sorted. A committee is being formed to evaluate how the town should proceed with regards to its recycling program.

Buckthorn Eradication: Bob was in Gardener's Supply and saw an extraction tool called the Extractigator to remove many types of rooted plants. Information on this tool can be found at <https://www.extractigator.com>

Jim co-authored a grant application to the Tasker Covered Bridge Fund, and CREA was awarded \$1000 to paint the bottom of the barn on CREA.

The December 2018 CCC Meeting will be moved to the third Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,  
Stuart Wilkie, Secretary