

Cornish Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2019

Present: Corey Fitch, Stuart Wilkie, Reyer Jaarsma, John Hammond, Cindy Heath, Rickey Poor, Bill Gallagher, Jim Barker,

Not present: John Berry, Deanna Fitch, Bob Taylor, Kimberly Patterson

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

Rickey moved to approve the April meeting minutes as written; Reyer seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Potential new member – Cindy Heath recently moved to Cornish from Plainfield where she lived for 26 years and was the Parks & Rec Director in Lebanon for many years. Bill made a motion to recommend to the Selectboard that Cindy become a new Regular Member of the CCC to complete one of the three year term positions that expire in 2020. Rickey seconded. Approved unanimously.
- Monitoring Report (Rickey)
 - Will be scheduling monitoring of the two Barker properties to happen in early June. (Ideally a weekday but not Tuesday or Wednesday so Cindy can join as well)
 - Maybe White Swan Farm can be monitored in June as well
 - Neidecker property most likely in August
- Education Report (Corey)
 - The Mushroom Workshop was a great success and even the kids got involved. David Wicklund started with a talk that lasted about an hour. He suggested that he could do a mushroom walk at some point in the future. He charged \$300 and \$270 was collected by the attendees. The remaining \$30 will be paid by the CCC.
 - Bird Walk recap – about 7 or 8 people attended. The participants saw or heard 26 different species of birds. The walk lasted about 90 minutes. Started by the Town Hall, through the woods, over the bridge by the barn and to the wetland area and back along the road.
 - Bear Talk - Ben Kilham - August 2019 - \$350 + mileage; ask if we can use a space at the school – probably the gym. Ask Ben what his ideal audience size is and then we'll choose the space.
 - Climate Resilient Forests - Dode Gladders from UNH Extension - Fall – No cost to CCC
- Upcoming events around Town
 - Bird Monitoring - Sat - Marsh Billings
 - Bird Walk in Claremont - Sat, June 1
 - Plainfield/Cornish Energy Meeting - Tue, June 4
- Display Boxes
 - Move the box from the Store to Recycling on Saturday June 1st at 8:30 a.m.
 - June: town forest map, walking trails (info on Garlic Mustard)
 - July: fire pond/swimming hole
- Town minutes report
 - NHACC - Corey

- Source Water Protection Grant – this is the grant that was used for the well near the Town Hall. Jim has the report and will send it to Corey.
 - o Selectboard – Corey (their meeting minutes stopped being posted in February)
 - o Planning Board – Stuart – the only significant topic was on the solar array policy which the CCC has already discussed
 - o Zoning Board – Rickey will review for a future recap
- Town committee reps
 - o CREA – Jim; town painting party planned for second weekend in September
 - o Energy – Jim;
 - o Town Forest – Reyer; attended the roadside meeting to pick up trash; want to do an inventory of all the flora and fauna in the forest and ideally would like to find a student to do this either from Antioch or Keene State.
- Impacts and Actions for next project
 - o Spread of Invasive Species – maybe do a pull party for different specific plants to help people identify invasives on their own properties
 - o Increased Storms + Flooding
 - o Undersized Culverts – Lake Sunapee Planning Commission might assist in assessment of culverts. Perhaps we should focus on the culverts where beavers have built dams to see if baffles would be of benefit.
 - o Warmer Waters
 - o Habitat + Ecosystems
 - o Warmer temperatures
 - o Changes to freeze thaw cycles
 - o Shifting Species
 - o Drought
 - o Increased risk of wildfires
- Information on ticks for the Display Boxes? Anyone who is so compelled could look for on-line articles about ticks and forward them to Corey who will help determine which ones to feature in the display boxes around town.
- CCC Award for Dale – Judy would like to have a specific tree planted at the fire station as our award. Many years ago the Rooks received a tree from the National Arbor Foundation that Dale particularly and that Judy would like to replicate. Need to get approval from the Selectboard and the Fire Department before we plant. And the specific tree needs to be definitively identified.
- In the News: (link to a Harvard Forest article)
 - o [Study: Land Conservation Boosts Local Economies](#)
- Dartmouth wood heat – tonight is the first meeting of a group to determine if they can heat the college with wood.

Potential topics for future workshops:

Children's workshop – maybe something in streams or with water?

Fossil program? – Deanna will follow up with woman from the Montshire

Southern Vermont Discovery Center/Natural History Museum?

Caterpillar Laboratory – at the Cornish Fair?

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,
Stuart Wilkie, Secretary