

Cornish Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2019

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

Not present: Cindy Heath, John Berry, Deanna Fitch, Kimberly Patterson

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

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

New member: Monica Matthews. Moved to Cornish 4 years ago. Wants to get involved in the community. Runs a garden and landscape division for Chippers. Interested in educating people on keeping their property healthy and productive. The CCC took the opportunity to introduce ourselves to Monica.

- Jim made a motion to recommend to the Selectboard that Monica become a new Regular Member of the CCC to complete Jim's three-year term position that expires in 2020. Rickey seconded. Approved unanimously. Monica will attend a Selectboard meeting to get their approval.
- Monitoring Report (Rickey): Monitoring will be done in late July and August.
Rickey explained to Monica what the CCC's annual monitoring responsibilities are for the seven properties in town. Reyer is taking the lead on two of them (Meyette properties). Rickey will handle a few, and Rickey is looking to someone else to take the lead on at least two of the remaining ones. Monica has agreed to accompany Rickey on this year's monitoring of two properties along 12A and then take the lead on next year.
- Education Report (Corey)
 - Bear Talk - Ben Kilham on August 7th at 7pm in the Cornish School Gym
 - Climate Resilient Forests - Dode Gladders Wed Dec 11th at 7pm at Town Offices
- Upcoming events around Town
 - Habitat Management for Landowners, June 29, Woodstock
 - Watershed Ecology, July 16-18, Unity

- Tracking Soil Health, August 3, Woodstock
- June 28th – 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Sugar House on Saint-Gaudens Road/Hell Hollow/Fernald Hill Road – talk about project studying maple saplings/regeneration, and sugaring

- Rickey made a motion to cancel August meetings each year unless deemed necessary, Bill seconded. Approved unanimously.

- Display Boxes
 - Make new laminated signs that we can reuse
 - July: fire pond/swimming hole (Stuart will come up with something for the boxes)
 - Link for ongoing Box Ideas - (INSERT LINK)

Swimming hole has not been mowed yet this year. The cemetery department hasn't been there. They will probably need to bush hog it. Everett Cass will be dredging it this year but needed to wait for it to dry out. The town does have an obligation to the state to maintain the area, and we are not following through with our obligations. John Hammond will bring it up at the Selectboard's meeting this Friday.

- Town minutes report

- NHACC - Corey
- Annual Meeting, Nov 2, Nature & The Economy
 - Selectboard - Corey (nothing new to report)
 - Planning Board - Stuart – Question arose asking if the proposed communications tower off Burr Road will affect any water sources in the area – particularly during construction? Probably not. There was some limited discussion about the proposed tower and the recent balloon test.
 - Zoning Board - Rickey (nothing new to report – the Zoning Board meets only about two times a year – as necessary)

- Town committee reps

- CREA - Jim – there will be a painting party and picnic starting at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday September 14th (rain date: Sunday September 15th) including a brief history of CREA, a brief bird talk, and also the Boy Scouts will be present; there will be a separate work party to clean out the barn so that people can go into the barn;
- Town Forest - Reyer – (no news)

- NRI Files – Regional Planning Commission helped produce the last version. Corey will track down the electronic files for the existing Natural Resources Inventory so they can be edited for the next version.

- “No Hunting” signs at CREA – we need to take a look and figure out where we might

need some more. Probably around the barn going east and near the soccer field (along Parsonage Road). Should probably have them up before the Cornish Fair.

Stream Table at the Cornish Fair. Bill received an e-mail from Dawn Dextraze the Education and Outreach Specialist of the Sullivan County Conservation District who said they would loan us their Stream Table for demonstration purposes at the Cornish Fair. They prefer to have any volunteers who will be demonstrating the table take a training course in advance. And wherever the table is located at the Fair should be in a secure location for when a volunteer isn't present. There also has to be electricity and a water source for the table. Potential locations include in the school gym or a classroom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,
Stuart Wilkie, Secretary