

Cornish Conservation Commission

Minutes, October 23, 2019

Present: Corey Fitch, Rickey Poor, Jody Schubert, Jim Barker, Reyer Jaarsma, John Hammond, Cindy Heath, Bob Taylor

Not Present: Stuart Wilkie, Bill Gallagher, Monica Matthews, John Berry Deanna Fitch, Kimberly Paterson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Corey Fitch, Chair.

Presentation: Jennifer Palmiotto - Whitewater Reservoir Watershed Plan

Jennifer Palmiotto, Executive Director of the Granite State Rural Water Association (GSRWA) and Victor St. Pierre, Claremont Public Works Director, presented the Whitewater Reservoir Watershed Plan and invited CCC members to join the working committee. Discussion on whether the GSRWA might assist the Commission with evaluating water protection measures in Cornish Flat. CCC could consider educating residents on opportunities for water testing. Corey & Jim plan to attend future meetings.

Minutes of 9.25.19 Meeting

Motion by Jody Schubert to approve the September minutes. Seconded by Jim Barker. The motion was unanimously approved.

Monitoring Report (Rickey)

Rickey reported that to date the Shurcliff, Niedecker, Barker East/West, and White Swan Farm properties have been monitored by Rickey accompanied by Monica, Jody, and Cindy. Reyer will monitor both Meyette properties.

Education Report (Corey)

- Climate Resilient Forests - Dode Gladders - Wed, Dec 11 at 7 pm
- Late Winter/Early Spring Events - Town survey ideas have been addressed except wetlands/beaver presentation
 - Snowshoe in Corbin Park - Corey will talk with Troy; alternative trip to Town Forest; ideally a forester or wildlife tracker would attend and provide education
 - Tom Wessells
 - Caterpillar Laboratory starts in April; sets up for 10 weeks at a Town location
 - Wildlife presentation - Rickey will research
- Upcoming Events Around Town
 - Emerald Ash Borer, Oct 26, at Marsh Billings
 - Climate Change, Nov 9, at Marsh Billings
- Display Boxes
 - Fall/Winter - Wildlife Tracking

Town Minutes Reports

- NHACC Annual [Meeting](#), Nov 2, Nature & The Economy; Commission will cover registration and travel expense; workshops are filling up
- Selectboard, Planning Board, Zoning Board - nothing to report

Town Committee Reps

- CREA - Jim reported that the painting is complete for this year, but that a second coat is planned for spring; clean up day TBA by CREA Committee; Corey installed several "Safety Zone" signs; older signs need replacing and are available at Town Hall
- Town Forest - nothing to report

NRI Files

- Edits and updates have been ongoing on the 2013 version

Dale Rook Tree/Plaque

- Plaque was unveiled, with installation on a post or stone; tree installation next spring
- Motion by Rickey to reimburse Jim \$17 for the plaque from the operating budget, seconded by Reyer. The motion was approved unanimously.

Volunteer River Assessment Program

- State program that provides an assessment kit for \$2,000, which lasts 5-7 years. If we pursue this option, CCC would pay for sample test as well. Data collected populates a statewide database. Possible Tasker Fund application. Look into having DES do the testing at no cost and explore VRAP website for [grant options](#).

Taking Action for Wildlife Survey

- Corey encouraged everyone to take the survey by the November 8 deadline.

Conservation Award

- Discussion on criteria, past recipients, possible candidates for 2020 award.

Budget Report

- Jim presented the quarterly budget report.
- Motion by Rickey to appoint Cindy as Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously. Vice Chair role still needs to be filled.

Culvert Assessment

- Corey corresponded with Meaghan from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Commission and received the name of a culvert assessment contractor, the cost of which seemed prohibitive. Corey suggested members coordinate with Public Works to take photos and GPS location points for the purpose of climate resilience and water conservation.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 4, 7:00 pm, Town Hall

Jim made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Rickey. The motion passed unanimously.