

Cornish Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes August 26, 2020

Submitted by Jody Schubert (acting secretary for the meeting)

Corey Fitch called the meeting to order at 7:05, the location was upper Fitch Farm field, a beautiful evening.

Members present included: Corey Fitch, Rickey Poor, Bob Taylor, John Hammond (for Select Board), Bill Gallagher, Reyer Jaarsma, Cindy Heath (via Zoom) and 3 members of the public, Robert and Mariet Jaarsma (present) and Colleen O'Neill (via Zoom).

Corey requested a motion that minutes of last meeting be approved, Jody so moved and Reyer seconded and the vote was affirmative.

**Eversource plan to cut trees on the Cornish scenic roads:**

Rickey Poor, Jim Barker, Bill Gallagher attempted to check the trees on the Eversource inventory which were selected for cutting, they encountered significant difficulty in following the inventory. It was eventually redone by Eversource. There will be a second (continuing) public hearing about the trees they plan to take down (Sept 3), at 7:00 pm via zoom. Scenic road designation by Cornish does insure that property owners receive personal letters from the power company regarding the cutting of specific trees, as well as considerable oversight by the CCC of the entire process. Given the variation in Eversource personnel and their training, and the length of time between cuttings, owner and town oversight is appropriate and needed.

**Dale Rook Tree and Plaque**

No action to report per Reyer Jaarsma.

**Easement Monitoring:**

Jim Barker and Rickey Poor conducted their monitoring on the East and West back acres of the Barker easement. Reyer is working on his assignment. Rickey Poor has provided guidance for Jody Schubert and Monica Matthews to complete their monitoring projects this fall.

**Whitewater Watershed Action Plan:**

Corey met with the Cornish, Claremont and Sullivan County Committee members and reports a combined interest in a land conservation effort to support the long term water quality of the Whitewater watershed. There is a lengthy pamphlet that Corey will circulate to the Cornish Conservation Commission members.

**Cornish Town Swimming Area:**

Corey asked John Hammond about the highway department's mowing schedule for the Swimming area. Bottom line is that cutting is needed more frequently than is being done. The plan is that the CCC will annually remind the Select Board and Highway Department in early May to commence cutting, and request that it be cut regularly throughout the summer as needed. It was also proposed that some signage about the swimming area be posted nearby regarding its history and to encourage use by town residents. (Post script idea from Jody: perhaps this would be a good Cornish Town amenity to advertise in Connect Cornish and or in the educational display boxes around town each season). Cindy Heath is going to look into the signage idea and report back.

## **Invasives**

We are all aware of the continued growth of invasives on the roadways and waterways of Cornish. In particular, Wild Parsnip and Japanese Knotweed. The on-going COVID pandemic has made public education programs/meetings regarding these invasives impossible, but the CCC is considering working with a consultant, such as Lionel Chute, or Henry Hoymeyer, and also using LCHIP grant dollars to move forward on this issue for the future.

## **CCC Educational Display Boxes**

Bob Taylor is continuing to monitor and maintain the educational display boxes in town. However Bob reports that the box at 12% Solution is in need of repair, the wooden frame, in particular the top edge, is leaking and materials inside can be damaged. We need a volunteer to fix the box. Do we have one? Or someone willing to find someone with carpentry skills for the repair?

## **Other business:**

Corey says he plans that we will return to the priority listing of CCC projects in the coming months. There is still opportunity for CCC filing cabinets clean up! Jody offered to assist once into November.

Beaver baffle installed in the CREA area seems to be working! There is still need for the bridge and boardwalk approaches over the stream to be shored up, boards are rotting and some are broken and attention is needed, especially if the area is to be safe for use by school children. Jody will follow up with Jim Barker to see if helping resources have been identified.

The meeting concluded at 7:45 pm.

**Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 AT 5 PM AT FITCH FIELD. THE MEETING IS SCHEDULED EARLIER DUE TO THE EARLIER SUNSET TIME!**