

Cornish Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes September 23, 2020

Present: (All in person) Corey Fitch, Stuart Wilkie, Bill Gallagher, Reyer Jaarsma, Bob Taylor, Rickey Poor, Jody Schubert, Jim Barker

Not present: John Berry, John Hammond, Monica Matthews, Cindy Heath, Kimberly Patterson

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Corey Fitch, Chair.

Rickey moved to approve the August 2020 meeting minutes as written; Bill seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Scenic Road Public Hearing – Bill attended the hearing. Was a good hearing and felt proud of Cornish's work on and attention to the town's scenic roads. Many abutting landowners were present including a consultant that had been hired to assist in assessment of whether the trees have been properly identified. Forester identified about 100 trees to be removed or trimmed. Some trees were able to be saved and only portions were removed rather than the entire tree. Even with some trees that are to be removed completely, the stumps will be left at about 6 feet high for the wildlife. The utilities' arborist will oversee the pruning/cutting. Possibly for future assessments of scenic roads, we could invite some of these landowners to speak as to how this process went. We should probably do a scenic road display if there is an in-person town meeting in March. We might even do a display in our education boxes in town. We need to clarify for everyone that a scenic road doesn't mean that nothing can be done to it – but rather that proper maintenance must be paid attention to. Also, we should consider educating landowners as to how to go about designating their road as a scenic road.
- Monitoring – Jody and Rickey walked White Swan Farm today and will coordinate their comments.
- Dale's Tree – Judy Rook called Corey to inquire as to the tree which we will plant in Dale's memory. Not a great fall to plant trees because it's been so dry and not a good year for fruit trees in general. Monica and Judy will sit down to discuss options for appropriate trees. Corey will also ask Judy as to where she would like the plaque installed. Jody suggested a dedication ceremony soon after the tree is planted at the fire station – so most likely in the spring of 2021.
- [Whitewater Watershed Action Plan](#)

- o Discussed various ideas for how Cornish can contribute/help Claremont in their efforts to protect this water supply of theirs.
 - o Perhaps enlarge some of the maps. Bill will take another look to identify which maps we should consider enlarging.
 - o Should we consider soliciting the abutting landowners to the watershed area in Cornish? Probably not, but we can easily support any efforts by Claremont to get these abutting properties in Cornish put into easement.
 - o The Cornish and Claremont Conservation Commissions could send a joint letter with a report to these property owners to inform them about the importance of their land to the Whitewater Watershed for Claremont.
- Members discussed how we should go about working on conserving additional properties in Cornish. Look first at parcels adjacent to already conserved property with an eye towards expanding wildlife corridors.
 - Everyone agreed that we should send letters again to the same landowners to whom we sent letters three years ago to inquire as to whether or not anything has changed with them that might encourage them to consider conservation at this time. Corey will provide us a list of those landowners to whom letters were last sent. We will also submit/review the names of other landowners to whom we should consider sending letters.
 - [NHACC Annual Meeting \(via zoom\)](#) November 7th from 8 a.m. – Noon. Any Commission member may sign up and the CCC will pay for the \$35 fee.
 - CCC Award ([previous recipients](#)). We may take a year off from presenting an award however we are open to suggestions for nominees.
 - Antioch Grad Student Collaborative Service Initiative – we have an opportunity to apply for a grad student to spearhead a project for us. Options: 1) inventory map and mitigation plan for invasive species in a specific area (e.g. CREA Property), 2) Climate resistance and culvert inventory project, or 3) NRI of the Cornish Town Forest. Applications are due October 9, 2020. Corey will look into the application process and determine how we can move forward with an application for the invasive species inventory and mitigation plan for CREA.
 - Discussion of topics to include in the education boxes. Ragweed vs Goldenrod causing allergies and how to identify. Could easily find information on the internet outlining the differences. Perhaps an article on trails in town that are excellent for fall hiking – O'Neill, Lipfert, CREA, Town Forest properties. Bob will take the lead on info on the hiking trails in town.

- Jody acknowledged Jim Barker's work on repairing the bridge on the CREA property. Rickey suggested that steps be installed on the steeper section of Rickey's Trail to assist in accessibility on that trail.

Next meeting is October 28, 2020 @ 7 p.m. upstairs at the Town Offices with a Zoom option.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,
Stuart Wilkie, Secretary