

Cornish Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2020

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

Not Present: John Hammond, Stuart Wilkie, Monica Matthews, Kim Patterson, John Berry

Members of the Public: Representative Walt Stapleton of Claremont

Corey called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Ricky moved to accept the minutes of the November meeting. Unanimous

Monitoring - complete; reports have all been submitted to the Upper Valley Land Trust

Dale Rook Memorial Tree - presenting 3 Bradford Pear from Northern Nurseries (sterile); Capital Flowering Pear Tree, Plum tree will be presented so Judy Rook can choose her preferred tree

Nominations for Conservation Award for 2021 were discussed.

Natural Resource Inventory - Stuart will be finishing the updates to the Natural Resource Inventory over winter break. Depending on the significance of the changes, the Commission might consider inviting residents to obtain an updated copy by donation. The plan should be updated every 10 years. Commission members will each receive the new version, as well as the Selectboard and the Cornish and School libraries.

Town Report - Our annual report submission will be prepared by Corey. If Commission members have thoughts on what information to include, they should communicate with Corey.

Did You Know - Cindy and Jody reviewed the publication schedule and explained the first two articles. Given that 2021 is the 50th anniversary of the Commission, this will be an informative exercise for the community, highlighting water, land, and recreation resources. Commission members were invited to write articles of interest to them. Suggestion to keep the length readable, between 300-400 words, with a 'link to full article with photographs' note. Articles will be uploaded to the Conservation Commission website so the reader will be directed to the remainder of the article.

[Link to 'Did You Know?' Publication Schedule](#)

Information Box at 12% Solution - Bob has the box and will repair it over the winter to protect it from the weather, to be installed in the spring.

Public Comment - Mr. Stapleton is Interested in hunting on Cornish Town Forest lands, and inquired about the access roads being closed. Ryer reported that the roads are closed at certain times of the year. There is a hiking trail access off Tandy Brook Road. It was suggested that Mr. Stapleton contact Ginny Prince, the coordinator of the Town Forest for more information on the status of vehicle access to the property.

Map of Conserved Lands - Corey gave some background on the research he has done in mapping conserved lands in Cornish using [GRANITView](#) and [AcreValue](#). He discussed several properties that could be added to the map and pending development activity, making this a good time to consider conserving additional lands. Discussion on the importance of being aware of the ramifications of maintaining easements on conserved lands, having the Upper Valley Land Trust or the Forest Society hold the easements, and the various changes in how lands are conserved today versus in the past. Also discussed the importance of aligning the current conserved lands with the language of the Natural Resources Inventory.

[View Map](#)

Other Business:

- Rickey attended the NH Association of Conservation Commission meeting and will send links to the sessions she attended.
- Beaver activity is heavy at CREA. They have started to wear a path on the road between the soccer field and back hay field. Jim Fitch and Larry Duval added stone to help maintain the road.

Jim made a motion to adjourn. Rickey seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Heath, Secretary Pro Tem