

Conservation Commission
Wednesday, January 27, 2021
7 pm

Attending: John Hammond, Bob Taylor, Reyer Jaarsma, Bill Gallagher, Ricky Poor, Cindy Heath, Jody Schubert, Corey Fitch

Minutes: Minutes of previous meeting approved unanimously.

Monitoring: Ricky reported that it's early to start planning, but she will address setting up property visits in the spring.

Judy Rook Tree: Several species will be presented to Judy for her to choose from, and a ceremonial planting will be planned for the spring.

Conservation Award: Recommendations for the 2021 were discussed. The date for the town meeting is undecided.

NRI: Corey will follow up with Stuart about updating the current NRI. Jody made copies of the 1975 edition of the NRI and it will be available at the Stowell Free Library.

Connect Cornish Posts: Corey has made a page on the website for the Conservation Notes. The length seems to be good so far, and the website will have all the issues for the public to read in the future. Corey thanked Cindy & Jody for their efforts.

Antioch: Proposal to do an invasive species survey was not accepted, but some individual students might be interested to help in the summer. Jody visited CREA and observed extensive beaver activity, including a lodge near the road. Corey will contact a local beaver management expert to speak to the Commission about strategies, as well as Fish & Game. One option is to make our own baffles, because the situation is dynamic. Ricky will ask her son-in-law to fly his drone over to capture and aerial view of the wetlands.

Land Conservation: Corey emailed Megan Chapman at UVLT to explore purchasing lands that UVLT may have identified that should be conserved. Corey clarified our preference for being the funder and the secondary signer. Jody commented that the Master Plan prioritizes the protection of water resources. The focus is also to create a connected greenway of conserved lands. Land around Blow-Me-Down Brook, and along East Road are possibilities to explore. Studies indicate that green space is economically beneficial to communities, and that development is more expensive for a town to maintain.

Information Box: The education box has been repaired and is installed at the 12% Solution. The person who repaired the box donated much of his time, and it was suggested that the builder be recognized with a note on the box. Bob donated the cost of the repairs.

Virtual Only Meetings: With cases going up and new strains of the virus about, Corey suggested that meetings be conducted virtually for the near future.

Corey made a motion to move all of the meetings of the Conservation Commission to the ZOOM platform until further notice. Jody seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business:

Jody recently hiked to the Town Forest through the Lipfert property and observed the trail was well-marked, and thanks Reyer and his helpers for installing clear trail markers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Heath, Secretary Pro Tem