

Cornish Conservation Commission (CCC) Minutes – 10-27-21

Attending in Person:

Regular Members: Corey Fitch, Chair; Jody Schubert, Vice-Chair; Linda Leone ,Secretary Pro-Tem); Bill Gallagher, Reyer Jaarsma; Monica Matthews (via zoom); and Cindy Heath (via zoom)

Alternate Members: Bob Taylor, John Berry, Rickey Poor

Select Board Representative:

Absent:

Members:

Alternate Members:

Select Board Rep: Dillon Gallagher

Corey Fitch called the meeting to order 7pm. The meeting was held at the Cornish Town Offices.

ACTION ITEMS (numbered by associated agenda item):

3. CCC award: Corey will follow with Harry Bliss to secure the cartoon chosen for Caroline Storrs. Also, CCC to follow as appropriate on having chosen an awardee for 2022. Linda will update the CCC list of awardees.

4. Warrant Articles: Linda will follow by sending wording of the warrant articles to Mary Curtis.

5. Bylaws: Linda will update the Bylaws, and the calendar of annual events with the quarterly treasurer's report.

8. Other Business:

Corey will continue to follow and/or delegate follow up of these items:

Distribution of new CCC handbook;

NRI update

Consider further discussion of the Farnsworth and Burling lands since they abut the Town Forest.

DISCUSSION

1. Meeting Minutes 9-22-21 (see below or link: [CCC Minutes 9-22-21 Draft.docx](#)). Reyer Jaarsma motioned that the minutes be accepted as presented; Jody Schubert seconded the motion, and approval was unanimous.

2. Action Items from the September 22, 2021 Meeting

- Land Conservation in Cornish: Corey will follow and update the CCC 200+ acre conservation project in town. SPNHF will update CCC on when they may be able to budget for this project which may be 2022. Corey will continue to try to move this forward toward SPNHF or Upper Valley Land Trust rather than the Town of Cornish.
- CCC Bylaws: See below agenda item.
- CCC Boxes and "Notes": Bob, Monica and Cindy will follow on updates to Conservation Commission boxes and "Notes". Bob reported that the hunting season information has been added and updated for fall. Bob will consider snow mobiles, animal tracking, snowshoeing trail information for the boxes. It was suggested that the CCC may start thinking about bringing back outdoor events from previous years.

Cindy reported that “Notes” are being well received and appreciated Jody’s Notes article on the Recycle Center.

3. CCC Award

- Current award status for Caroline Storrs: Corey will follow up with Harry to find the cartoon we chose.
- 2022 year award: The CCC discussed award candidates. Rickey Poor motioned, Jody Schubert seconded, and the CCC voted on and unanimously approved one of these candidates. There was discussion about a display for the award and a possible gift. It was suggested that the CCC list of awardees be updated to include the three potential awardees who were not chosen for 2022.
- **Action Item – see above.**

4. Approve Warrant Articles for 2022 Town Warrant

- Article 2: Approve the inclusion of \$750 in the Town budget to “defray town charges for the ensuing year and make appropriation of the same.” And:
- Article 3: “To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,500 to be added to the Conservation Commission Fund previously established.”

Reyer Jaarsma motioned that both proposed articles be approved, Monica Matthews seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Action Item – see above.

5. Bylaws Update ([Bylaws of the Cornish Conservation Commission](#))

- Article I, Section 3, M (Function and Duties Relative to the Mission) — add wording to “require an annual review of the Bylaws by the Commission at the November/December meeting.”
 - Suggested update: “Keep records, prepare a yearly budget, **conduct an annual review of the Bylaws, and file an annual report with the Town.**” [Approved, Jody motioned, Bill seconded, unanimous approval]
- Article II, Section 7, Duties—change “asked” to “strongly encouraged”
 - Suggested update: “Each member will be ~~asked~~ **strongly encouraged** to participate in at least one annual property monitoring.”

Jody Schubert motioned that the two changes be approved as written; Bill Gallagher seconded the motion and both changes were unanimously approved.

- CCC funds guidelines: the CCC Treasurer is asked in Section 2 of the Bylaws to provide the members with “a quarterly report of income, expenditures and balances”. It was noted that this quarterly report should be added to the annual calendar of recurring events.

Action Item – see above.

6. Education Committee Update. Jody reported the 2013 NRI recommended that the Commission focus on 3 priorities: education, water resources and scenic roads. The Education sub-committee recommends that for 2022 public education efforts continue via Conservation Notes, and info boxes

and with a thematic focus on Water Resources, and the Water Sub-Committee re-energize to develop a water protection plan for the Town this year. The scenic road sub-committee can take a lesser role this year.

- News articles will continue in 2022 on a monthly basis vs twice monthly.
- Water Sub-Committee: recruitment for a water member continues. It was suggested that CCC members will self-educate on water-related topics relevant to Cornish. Ray Mellow should be thought of as a resource,
- Community synergy: Jody suggested ways to encourage synergy in the community in general and the school in particular, such as a field trip to Chase Island, birding, wildlife tracking in the snow, CCC's mentoring a school-age Committee member, adding a CCC box at the school or library, a "Jr. Ranger" program, interviewing and videotaping former CCC awardees, and adding an informational tri-fold on CCC to the community "Welcome Package" and creating a standard package of materials and orientation plan for new CCC members

7. Land Monitoring Update. Rickey Poor reported: Reyer is working on Brian and Peg Meyette's land and will email the land monitoring date when he's confirmed scheduling; Charlie Shurcliff and Neidecker lands will be monitored Monday 11/1 at noon; Rickey, Cindy, Jody, Linda will participate. Jody will schedule a White Swan Farm walk in November, likely she and Linda Leone will be the monitors.

8. Other Business

- NRI update is underway – Corey Fitch is getting pricing for reprinting maps from Upper Valley (conserved lands map and confluence map overlapping conserved and with soils and water), text edits and tables. We now have the original word doc we can work with. Goal is still to have a reprint dated 2023.
- New Handbook Update. New handbooks were handed out to those who wanted them; Corey will place one in the CCC filing cabinet at the Town Offices and offer one to the Select Board.
- Update on Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission membership. No update yet, Corey will follow. This would be a Town membership, not a "CCC" membership.
- Town Forest report by Reyer Jaarsma: He noted that the Town would like to inventory Town Forest timber and do a BioBlitz, but there's not enough help. He noted that Town Forest Day included work on the view cut and that there has been a lot of use of the Forest, but no overpressure. He wondered if there was anything the CCC can do about the Farnsworth land – it may be worth approaching them on a sale or an easement to buffer the Town Forest. Peter Burling's also an abutter and may be flexible about his abutting land. He noted that there was also some consideration of Town Forest as a tree farm designation.
- Bill Gallagher's garden: Bill reported on a full harvest this summer and on a new technique for storing onions: stringing them.
- Cindy Heath mentioned that the UVM master gardener conference is scheduled for November 5 & 6, 12-2pm.

9. Next Meeting Wednesday, Dec 1, 7 pm, Town Offices, Zoom option:

<https://dartmouth.zoom.us/j/99730914326?pwd=ZUNKZk9QUhYRGR1ZUJoc09pNUQ5UT09>

10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.