

Cornish Conservation Commission - Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2021, Town Offices

Attending:

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

Alternate Members: Bob Taylor; John Berry; Rickey Poor (via zoom)

Select Board Representative:

Guest: Glenn Griffin – CCC water candidate for alternate membership

Absent:

Select Board Representative: Dillon Gallagher

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

ACTION ITEMS (numbered by associated agenda item):

3. Land Monitoring: Reyer will inform members of the final date/time of land monitoring at the Meyettes', proposed for December 11.
5. CCC Notes: Corey will provide data on how many click-throughs the Notes articles are getting in Connect Cornish.
6. Other Business,
 - NRI: Corey will distribute to the members the Charleston NRI as a reference and ask Barbara Richter (NHACC) if she has other contemporary samples to share.
 - New Handbook: Corey will give Monica a new handbook, provide one to Glenn as appropriate and order more as needed.
 - BYLAWS ([Bylaws of the Cornish Conservation Commission](#)): Everyone was encouraged to read through the bylaws; they will be reviewed at the January meeting.

DISCUSSION

1. **Previous Meeting Minutes 10-27-21** ([CCC Minutes 10-27-21.docx](#)): Jody Schubert motioned that the minutes be approved as submitted; Bill Gallagher seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.
2. **New Water Member Candidate:** Glenn Griffin of Parsonage Road in Cornish, candidate for alternate member, water specialty, attended the meeting as a guest. Everyone on the CCC introduced him/herself. Glenn did the same: He is a professional engineer, associated with Great River Highgrove Hydro which owns electric plants on the Connecticut and Deerfield rivers; has professional and personal interest in waters, discharge permits, hydropower assets. He and his wife Cindy lived in Hartland for 20 years, and moved to Cornish in 2018. Jody outlined the process to consider new membership for the CCC and noted that the CCC provided Glenn introductory materials followed by a personal meeting between Glenn and her to share insights,

answer questions and gauge mutual interest. Glenn said he will follow up with a letter of interest before the next meeting. The CCC plans to vote on his membership as an alternate member at the January 26, 2022 meeting.

3. Action Items From the Previous Meeting:

- Conservation Commission Bylaws ([Bylaws of the Cornish Conservation Commission](#))
 - Updates were made in Article I, Section 3, M (Function and Duties Relative to Mission) and Article II, Section 7 (Duties). Linda confirmed that this has been done.
 - Current reference to the Board of Selectmen in Article I is: One member of the Select Board shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Commission. ***Proposed new wording: The Commission recommends that a member from the Select Board be appointed to the Commission as a non-voting representative.*** Linda motioned to approve the wording; Jody seconded the motion, the motion was approved unanimously.
 - **The Annual Calendar of Recurring** events has been updated to include quarterly Treasurer's reports on income, expenditures and balances in: March, June, September and December. Cindy Heath said that Heidi Jaarsma will start sending financial reports monthly and Cindy will distribute them to members. Corey noted that there is \$30 left in the CCC operating budget; this sum will roll over into our conservation fund.
 - **CCC Award:** Corey explained the CCC award process to Glenn and referred him to the list of CCC awardees. Corey noted that he has the print in hand for Caroline Storrs and will have it framed in White River Junction.
 - **Warrant Articles for 2022 Town Warrant:** Linda submitted the CCC request to the Board of Selectmen, and Mary Curtis confirmed receipt. The following wording will be placed on the 2022 Town Meeting Warrant: ***The Conservation Commission requests a \$4,500 warrant article for the Conservation Fund and \$750 for the Operating Budget for 2022.***
4. **Land Monitoring Update:** Reyer plans to monitor the Meyettes' land on December 11 (Saturday); he will coordinate with Brian Meyette to go around noon, then monitor Peg Meyette's land and do a visual on her roadside. He will email confirmed date and time to CCC members for their info and in case they would like to join the walk. Rickey noted that the other properties have been monitored and letters submitted.
5. **Conservation Notes 2022:** Jody and Cindy have updated the topic list. Cindy said the NRI is the basis for most topics and that they are focusing on water. She encouraged CCC members to talk to her or Jody about volunteering to take on certain topics or suggest topics of their own. The group agreed that submission to Connect Cornish should be made more succinct, "short and punchy": including topic, introductory sentence or two, and utilization of bullet points to highlight significant takeaways with a link to the full article.
Action: Corey will provide data on how many click-throughs the Notes articles are getting in Connect Cornish.
6. **Other Business**
- NRI update is underway. It will take about 6 months for maps to be redone and the CCC should provide updates and changes (particularly protected and conserved land map). It

was decided that the CCC take a broader look at the existing NRI over the winter: and consider contemporizing the document with additional or enhanced references to topics like climate change, energy, and water as well as how to better present the data.

Corey will distribute the Charleston NRI as a reference and Barbara Richter (NHACC) if she has other contemporary samples.

- New Handbook Update: Corey will give one to Monica now and plan to order more in 2022.
 - Boxes: Bob has updated the boxes to include information on wildlife tracking
 - Bylaws: the January meeting will include a Bylaws review; everyone was encouraged to read the bylaws in advance and share comments.
7. **Next Meeting:** January 26, 2022, 7 pm, Town Offices, Zoom option TBA
 8. **Adjournment:** Reyer motioned that the meeting be adjourned, Jody seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.