

CCC Minutes December 7, 2022, 7pm

Town Offices (2nd FL.), 488 Town House Road, Cornish

Attending

Members: Corey Fitch, Chair; Jody Schubert, Co-Chair; Linda Leone, Secretary; Cindy Heath; Reyer Jaarsma; Glenn Griffin

Alternate Members: Bob Taylor; Rickey Poor

BOS Representative: John Hammond

Guests: Robin Kilfeather-Mackey; Jeff Plant; Julie Foote (zoom); Brian Hotz, SPNHF (zoom)

1. 7:00pm Call to Order by Corey Fitch
2. Approval of Minutes of October 26, 2022 Meeting
 - a. CCC Meeting ([Draft 10-26-22 Minutes](#)) Rickey motioned that the minutes be approved; Linda seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Brian Hotz, SPNHF, via zoom - Brian summarized SPNHF's involvement in the project as assisting the Town of Cornish in its executory role with the goal of completion by year-end. He noted that the basic language of the easement has been worked out, the survey is complete, the title report has been received and added to the property description. The final draft is undergoing legal review. The surveyor is blazing the property and putting in pins. He said that the baseline documentation report (maps, written description, and photographs) will also be completed soon, and distributed to the CCC and BOS. Brian will circulate final easement documentation for review by the end of the week and is available to visit Cornish for signatures between now and before Christmas. Both the BOS and the CCC will need to sign off; Corey and BOS will coordinate and have a notary present.

Brian said fundraising solicitation went out late; \$11,000 has been raised, and two grant requests are out for consideration. SPNHF will reassess fund-raising progress after the year-end and report. Brian will provide Corey materials on funding solicitation to be posted on Connect Cornish.

4. CCC Membership
 - a. Resignation of Monica Matthews. Corey read Monica's [letter of resignation](#) which is herein contained. Her resignation was accepted by the Commission.
 - b. Introduction of Alternate Member Candidates ([Julie Foote](#); [Robin Kilfeather-Mackey](#); [Jeff Plant](#)) who responded to the CCC job posting in Connect Cornish. The CCC members introduced themselves, followed by the three candidates:

Jeff Plant: he's been a Cornish resident for over 20 years, practiced as a nurse anesthetist at DHMC, grew up in Littleton, enjoys hiking, skiing, fishing, and has an interest in water quality.

Robin Kilfeather-Mackey: a resident of Cornish since 2020, has a professional background in finance, she retired, received a Master's degree in conservation biology, and currently works as Director of Operations and Finance for the Center on Rural Innovation in Hartland, VT (not-for-profit focused on advancing tech-based economic development, nationally). She has a strong interest in forest management and land conservation.

Julie Foote: She relocated to Cornish in June of this year, a soil biochemist/geologist with a background in ecology, restoration ecology, and conservation biology. She is a semi-retired college lecturer focusing on soils, conservation, and ecology. She has a special interest in public outreach and education, and protection of natural resources.

Jody motioned to approve all three candidates as alternate members of the CCC; Reyer seconded the motion, and all three candidates were unanimously elected as alternate members. Julie, Jeff, and Robin will coordinate their own meetings with the BOS to be sworn in. Linda will provide new-member packets.

5. Subcommittee Reports: ([Subcommittees](#))

a. Land Conservation Plan

- i. Cole Property Update - See Brian's report in item 3.
- ii. Humpal Property - nothing new.

b. Town Water Protection Plan

- i. Corey said that the next step will be a letter to the Planning Board and BOS; The email letter has been drafted and Corey will circulate it to the CCC members for comment. Quick turnaround is requested from all members so it can be sent before the holidays. Glenn noted that whether we protect water through an ordinance or zoning, it's important that all town entities that are involved work cooperatively.

Jody reported on the Water Protection Plan meetings. They are planning next steps with Justin Shaw of Granite State Rural Water for a presentation to the public and a water-testing program for our residents, tentatively in March 2023.

c. Education Plan

- i. Conservation Notes - Jody and Cindy reported on Upcoming Articles for 2023 ([Conservation Notes Schedule](#)). Jody reviewed the Conservation Notes Schedule, focusing on water quality, encouraging all members to comment and participate.
- ii. Education Boxes - Bob reported that there is new information on wildlife hibernation and articles on how feeding wildlife may be harmful.
- iii. Wild About Cornish updates are incorporated into the 2023 Notes Schedule.

d. Land Monitoring Logistics Plan: Updates. Rickey reported that all lands have been monitored and that documentation is complete. Rickey will notify the Select Board when CCC's paper files are complete (before the end of the year). Rickey told new members that Cornish holds primary easements on 7 properties and the commission encourages members to try to join at least one of the walks each year.

- i. Neidecker Land - Rickey and Linda completed this walk.

e. NRI Plan

- i. Next Steps with the NRI. Refer to the following 2 documents. In November, December and early January each workgroup will finalize its section for discussion at the January meeting: ([Workgroups - Updated](#)) ([Guidance for Workgroups Nov/Dec/Jan](#)). Corey updated the new members on the NRI update project.

f. Climate Resilience - on hold until the NRI update has been completed.

6. Other Business

- a. CCC Member Recruitment Posting Update: ([CCC-New Member Opportunity Posting](#)). See item 4.
 - b. Honorary Book Recognitions on November 6, 2022 Update. Departing CCC members Bill Gallagher and Jim Barker were celebrated on November 6 at the General Store. Each had selected a book as an honorarium- Bill's book was donated to the Library and Jim's was donated to the School. Bill's book Zero Waste Solution was written by a friend of his, Paul Connet, who joined the recognition ceremony and gave a presentation (hosted by the Sustainable Living Tea and Talk Group). Approximately 30 people attended the event.
 - c. Corey will circulate a letter from Bill Gallagher with information on a food hub program out of Plymouth for the CCC to discuss in January.
 - d. NHACC (11/22) Update: Corey and Linda attended and will report in January.
 - e. Expenditures -there will be a little left over in the operating budget that we'll transfer to the Conservation Fund.
 - f. Town Website: Heidi Jaarsma and Jenny Lipfert are redesigning the website; Corey, Jody, and Cindy will attend a meeting on December 8th with Jenny to discuss the specific needs and desires of the Conservation Commission.
 - g. Town Forest Committee Meeting on Dec 5: Reyer noted that they are updating their Forest Management Plan; their discussion on camping set a 3-night stay as maximum to avoid any issues with long-stay (or squatting) issues. They will also be certifying the forest as a certified Tree Farm. John Hammond recommended reading the magazine "Northern Woodlands".
7. Annual Agenda Items
 - a. Share Draft Town report for Commission member review/approval: Corey will circulate his draft to the CCC membership for review and comment.
 - b. Quarterly Treasurer's Report (to be done in January)
 - c. Finalize Conservation award choice and plan a presentation - We should finalize this in January. The CCC will update the totem pole next year, Corey will order brass plaques.
 8. Next Meeting - January 25, 2023, 7:00 pm, Town Offices and Zoom. Reyer motioned to adjourn the meeting; Glenn seconded and the meeting was adjourned.
 9. Adjournment