

CCC Minutes *February 1 2023, 7 pm

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

**(This meeting is a make-up from the postponed 1/25/23 meeting)*

Attending

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

Alternate Members: Bob Taylor, Julie Foote, Rickey Poor

BOS Representative: John Hammond

Guests: Bill Gallagher, Jeff Plant, Heidi Jaarsma (zoom and left the meeting at 7:13 pm), Robin Kilfeather-Mackey (zoom)

1. 7:00 pm Call to Order by Corey Fitch
2. Approval of Minutes of the December 7, 2022 Meeting. ([Draft Minutes 12/7/22](#)). Jody motioned that the minutes be approved as submitted, Glenn seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Year End Financial Report (Heidi Jaarsma). Heidi reviewed the year-end Conservation Commission financials (attached) including five conservation funds and the Land Use Change Tax (LUC) revenue: [Conservation Funds 2022](#) [Conservation Land Use Change \(LUC\) 2022](#). A total of \$2250 from 2 properties will be deposited in 2023 following the year-end audit. Heidi noted that land value has increased which may increase the cost of buying any new easements. Corey will keep Heidi apprised of costs for the Cole Property funds as soon as SPNHF concludes its fund-raising activities.
4. Localfoodplymouth.com Letter from Bill Gallagher ([BillGallagher-LocalFoodHub](#)) Corey said that the Commission won't be taking a stand on the location of the Library or a foodhub but is interested in learning what Bill had to share about the foodhub idea and how it related to the Conservation Commission. Bill said the foodhub would be a way to help maintain the rural character of the community and be pertinent to the interests of the Conservation Commission. He had farmed for 50 years, producing most of his family's food (produce, dairy and meat) and employed rotational grazing which is a currently-popular method of sequestering carbon. He outlined how the Plymouth foodhub operated:
 - a weekly farmers' market, with purchasing done online. The foodhub online store identifies products and vendors in detail by Saturday. On Thursday goods are deposited onsite and bagged; buyers pick up their orders that afternoon. Hub takes a percentage (12%) of the sales and functions efficiently.He further said that this operation would stimulate the use of the land, small fields, provide additional income for individuals, encourage young farmers and the use of rotational grazing. Jody and Corey thanked Bill for his presentation, agreed that there was a shared goal in maintaining the rural quality of the community, applauded his efforts to educate all town governance regarding this concept, and asked him to keep the Commission apprised of his progress.
5. Subcommittee Reports: ([Subcommittees](#))
 - a. Land Conservation Plan (Corey)
 - i. Cole Property Update. Property was put into conservation easement deed on 12/19/22. SPNHF is auditing financials at this time and will advise us how much we need to contribute towards the administrative fees, with our maximum being \$37,500. We will be provided a breakdown of the total identifying the source of each expense so that all CCC members have a good understanding of the

process and associated costs to better answer questions from any Cornish resident .

- ii. Humpal Property Update. Corey reported that he will be meeting with them and UVLT later this month and emphasized that this is the beginning of what may be a years-long process.
- b. Town Water Protection Plan (Corey, Jody, Glenn) Jody explained that the Committee continues working toward a presentation to the public by Justin Shaw with the Granite State Water Association on how to protect source water. Jody and Corey shared the plan with the Planning and Select Boards in a letter ([Letter](#)). John Hammond said the BOS had not responded specifically to the letter and it had not come up at a Planning Board meeting yet.

He reported that a well will be drilled for the School, but is not aware of a location. The source of the PFAS contamination is known, and the new well will be located at a site where there will be no PFAS contamination. The School Board meets Monday; Glenn may attend and report back to the Commission.

- c. Education Plan. Jody is working on a Connect Cornish Note which will outline the Conservation Commission's education plan for 2023, and Linda has begun planning for 3 events.
 - i. Conservation Notes - Upcoming Article ([Conservation Notes Schedule](#))
 - 1. January - CC Goals and Programs (Jody/Corey/Cindy, 1/7)
 - 2. February - Wildlife Habitat & Tracking Fitch Field (Linda, 2/4)
 - 3. March - Protecting Our Water & Surrounding Ecosystems/Justin Shaw (Corey/Jody/Glenn)
 - ii. Education Boxes. Bob will update the boxes using the education events calendar as reference.
- d. Land Monitoring Logistics. Rickey reported that all monitoring was accomplished and a summary letter sent to the BOS ([Summary from Rickey 12-22](#)). Rickey noted we do not have boundary lines for all of the 7 properties where Cornish is the primary holder of the easement. Corey indicated that we can work with Granite and the GAIA app to obtain the mapping needed. Several members offered to assist with this in the coming year.
- e. NRI Plan
 - i. Update on Sections' Status as of January 25, 2023: ([Workgroups - Updated](#)) ([Guidance for Workgroups Nov/Dec/Jan](#)) (Corey) Workgroups commented on their progress in reviewing their chapters. Corey said that after we have a rough draft of an updated NRI, we will work with the Regional Planning Commission on maps. Everyone indicated that there was more to be done on each section and agreed to submit chapters at the end of the month to be incorporated into a new draft document. Jody suggested all groups make a punch list of to do items to accompany their sections when they hand them in. All chapters are to be submitted by the next Commission meeting on 2/22/23.
 - f. Climate Resilience - Cindy, Julie, and Linda will make up the new Climate Resilience subcommittee and propose a mission and maybe a new name.

6. Other Business

- a. NHACC (11/22) Update: (Corey and Linda) [Linda Takeaways NHACC 11/5/22](#). Corey followed wetlands permitting path - he said that the Commission should consider having a wetlands permit subcommittee or should identify a member who could make a site visit when needed. NHACC is starting a wetlands permitting zoom series on their website. Linda noted what high caliber were the presenters at the NHACC and that every presentation focused directly on New Hampshire, not the nation or the globe, but our own state - this brought an immediacy to the statistics cited about changing weather conditions and on the need for more and better education to people of all ages in all types of life and work - that communication needs to reach individuals at their individual levels, reflecting an understanding of their lifestyle, behavior, vocation and avocation. There is still considerable confusion and denial about climate change, but we are all already altering our lives because of it. Cindy recommended reading Catherine Kayhoe's book, [Saving Us](#).
 - b. Update on awardee gift (Corey). Corey noted to whom we will give the award this year. We would like to construct a stone bench in their name at the lookout in the Town Forest. Corey is working on finding a way to get stones up there. Dave Fielder is helping.
 - c. Expenditures (Cindy). Provided by Heidi at the beginning of the meeting.
 - d. Update on New Town Website (Corey) The new website has been launched by Jenny Lipfert and Heidi Jaarsma. Everyone is encouraged to review the site and give Corey any comments. New Conservation Notes should be sent directly to Jenny Lipfert for posting.
 - e. Discuss CCC Meeting Format: (Corey) It was agreed to continue to offer a zoom format.
 - f. Members' Start Dates - members and alternate members were asked to give their start dates to Linda. (Jody's date is September 20, 2019. Rickeys is 1976.) Linda will incorporate the start dates for all members on the list of CCC members on the drive.
7. Annual Agenda Items
- a. Proposed amendment to CCC Bylaws in Article II, Section I, re: Membership (Corey) ([CCC Bylaws](#)). Corey explained the proposed change which would read: "The Commission shall consist of not less than 3 nor more than 7 regular members and an...". The Commission will vote on this change at the February meeting.
 - b. Review all Funds (Conservation, CREA, Palmer, Bunny Barker) (Handled by Heidi Jaarsma in agenda item 3). This was accomplished by Heidi Jaarsma, agenda item 3.
 - c. Set subcommittee memberships and goals for the year ([Subcommittees](#)) Corey reviewed the proposed subcommittee memberships and made several modifications, and also added 3 members to the new Climate Resilience Subcommittee: Cindy, Julie, Linda.
 - d. Organize a presentation for Town Meeting in March (Corey) Glenn will provide maps for display.
 - e. Next Meeting - February 22, 2023, 7:00 pm, Town Offices and Zoom.
8. Adjournment. Reyer motioned that the meeting be adjourned; Jody seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm