

Cornish Conservation Commission
Minutes March 22, 2023

Meeting was held at the Town Offices (2nd FL.)
488 Town House Road, Cornish

Attending

Members: Corey Fitch, Chair; Jody Schubert, Co-Chair; Linda Leone, Secretary; Cindy Heath, Treasurer (via zoom); Glenn Griffin

Alternate Members: Robin Kilfeather-Mackey; Julie Foote; Bob Taylor, Rickey Poor (via zoom)

BOS Representative: John Hammond

Absent: Reyer Jaarsma

Public: Lauren Edward, Cornish School First Grade Teacher (via zoom)

1. 7:00 pm Call to Order.
2. Approve the February Minutes [Draft CCC Minutes 2/22/23](#). Jody motioned that the minutes be approved; Glenn seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. CCC Website (Jody)
 - a. "Website" will become a standing agenda item at CCC meetings, everyone was encouraged to suggest changes and edits to Linda
 - b. Process for CCC Updates-Linda will be point person;
 - c. Jody encouraged everyone to look particularly closely at: Past Events, Forms and Documents, Educational Information and provide any editorial comments.
4. Subcommittee Reports: ([Subcommittees](#))
 - a. Land Conservation Plan Cole Property (Corey)
 - i. Update on Brian Holtz' documentation re: final expenses. Corey noted that the final expense amount of \$24,486.00 (instead of the estimated \$37,500) will be paid out of our Conservation fund. It has been submitted to Heidi Jaarsma for processing. SPNHF will publish an article about the Cole easement in the organization's "Forest Notes" publication.
 - ii. Informal, familiarization walk-through for the CCC members and the Coles (April-May); and a Celebratory event this fall with the Coles and open to the public. Jody reported that both events are in the works and have the Cole's blessing.
 - b. Town Water Protection Plan (Corey, Jody, Glenn)
 - i. Protecting Source Water - Presentation by Justin Shaw, Update (Jody). Endyne is providing kits for people attending the meeting with their basic testing kit for free and a 10% discount on the other more extensive kits. Corey and Jody will explore ways to possibly reduce the costs even further on the discounted expensive kits for people attending the meeting and possibly for residents who do not attend but who may later want to test their own wells. The plan is to advertise the event in Connect Cornish, and to specifically invite the Town Select Board, Highway Department, Planning Board, Zoning Board, and School Board. Jody said she hopes to get a good turnout, especially with the PFAS issue in town, maybe 60 people. We will explore creating a database of residents' test results to provide information on water quality in and around Cornish.

- c. Education Plan
 - i. Conservation Notes - [2023 Conservation Notes/Events Calendar](#)
 - 1. February - Update on Tracking Event held 2/25/23 (Jody) This was a very popular event, and the article written for Conservation Notes and published in Connect Cornish was particularly well received.
 - 2. Wetlands Field trip for 4/15 (back up 4/16) [Laura Deming, Wildlife Biologist at Moosewood Ecological, instructor @ Antioch University, coauthor of Bow NH NRI](#) (Jody/Linda) 20 people have subscribed and we have one person on the waiting list. Leo Maslan is bringing a group of scouts who are studying forest science. We will walk and then gather in Town Hall to summarize and discuss our observations and questions.
 - 3. School Program 5/26 [Susie Spikol](#) and [Jack Dalton kid conservationist](#) (Jody/Cindy) Jody reported that we will hold an all-school assembly for Cornish Elementary School students with Susie and Jack on May 26. Karen Denholm, principal, has welcomed the program and suggested that a teacher from the school connect with the Conservation Commission in coordinating the program. Lauren Edward, first grade teacher, will be this contact person. Lauren briefly introduced herself and the Commission expressed gratitude for her involvement in this project.
 - 4. CT River Kayaking 6/17
 - ii. Education Boxes/Update of the Conservation Award tree in the Town Office. Bob has updated the boxes with the April Wetland and Water events. He has also added the award plaque for Ginny Prince (2023) to the Award tree, and additional blank plaques are available in the CCC file cabinet, bottom drawer.
 - d. Land Monitoring Logistics (Rickey). Rickey is setting up a meeting with Jody and Linda in April to plan ahead. Also she is planning to meet to try to find the property pin in Peg Meyette's property later in April; Glenn will bring his metal detector, and a weedwacker may also be helpful. Rickey and Glenn will coordinate a date and email the group.
 - e. NRI Plan
 - i. Draft NRI Master Document (Corey) There is now a master draft document; Julie and Robin are going to read through it all and include their comments; the goal is over the next 2 weeks. We will review at an upcoming meeting after which we'll form a map group and proceed to next steps.
 - f. Climate Resilience (Julie, Cindy, Linda) The group has rescheduled its most recent meeting and will meet soon.
5. Other Business
 - a. NHACC Memberships Update- (Linda) Everyone should be enrolled and check out the NHACC site, including the "member" area. Linda will reconfirm that John Hammond has been enrolled.
 - b. Advocacy. Corey mentioned all the bills that come up before the legislature and that NHACC monitors and communicates about these to its members via email. Corey suggested that the Commission pay attention to the bills on the floor that are more relevant to our community and comment back to the group. He asked if anyone is interested in keeping track of these to let him know.
 - c. Invitation from Charlotte Harding, Stewardship Specialist, Conservation Land Stewardship Program, to walk the Yatsevitch Property on either the afternoon of April

18 or April 19; Jody, Linda, Jody and Glenn are holding the dates. Jody will update the group when there are more details. Other CCC members are welcome to join in.

6. Annual Agenda Items

- a. Town Meeting Debrief. Corey reported that both our operating budget and warrant article passed. Corey presented the Commission's annual award to Ginny Price (Town Forest Committee) who was surprised and grateful, and the Town Forest also became a Certified Tree Farm. We'll update the website and Jody will write something for ConnectCornish. Colleen O'Neill was also named New Hampshire's Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for 2023.
 - b. Appoint Officers/Update Member List [CCC Members](#). Cindy Heath, Reyer Jaarsma, Robin Kilfeather-Mackey, and Bob Taylor all want to renew their memberships for 3-year terms. Glenn motioned to elect Cindy Heath and Reyer Jaarsma as members for 3-year terms and Robin Kilfeather and Bob Taylor as alternate members for 3-year terms and to appoint Robin as Treasurer for a 1-year term in place of Cindy; Rickey seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.
 - c. Conference Attendance by CCC Members - N/A.
 - d. Pay NHACC - Corey reported that we are in the process of paying this now.
 - e. Write reminder letter to BOS/Town Road Agent about digging dams at CREA. John Hammond suggested we contact the Wetlands Committee. Corey will write the letter.
 - f. Review plans for monitoring - N/A previously covered in agenda item 4.
 - g. Update the Conservation Award summary document [Annual Cornish Conservation Award Recipients](#). Bob updated the totem pole plaques (Granite State Engraving, Brian Meyette) and left a few blank ones in the filing cabinet
 - h. Quarterly Treasurer's Report (Cindy). Corey said that this report was not necessary at this time.
 - i. Coverts project - Linda did not register due to scheduling conflicts. Jody noted that Coverts training is open by application to anyone and that at her training last year, 3 properties were visited, each for a full day with training staff and landowners discussing attributes and management plans (including, Mayes Property, Peterborough, NH, Branch Hill Farm, Milton Mills, NH, Distant Hill Gardens, Walpole, NH).
 - j. Next Meeting - April 26, 2023, 7:00 pm, Town Offices and Zoom.
7. Adjournment - Corey asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Glenn motioned that the meeting be adjourned; Bob seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:55pm.