

Cornish Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, September 24, 2025
Meeting held at 7pm at the Town Offices (2nd FL.)
488 Town House Road, Cornish

MINUTES

Attending Members: Glenn Griffin, Chair; Linda Leone, Secretary; Jody Schubert; Julie Foote; Reyer Jaarsma

Attending Alternate Members: Bob Taylor

BOS Representative: Keith Beardslee

Absent: Cindy Heath, Member; *Robin Kilfeather-Mackey, Member; Rickey Poor, Alternate Member

Guest: Dave Haseman (prospective CCC alternate member), Jack Hurley (Claremont Conservation Commission), Donna LaMoche (Center Road)

**In Robin's absence, Glenn will address her agenda items.*

1. 7 pm Call To Order / Glenn. Glenn called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and everyone around the table introduced him/herself. He invited the 2 walk-in visitors to address the CCC.
 - a. Jack Hurley from Claremont Conservation Commission and also a director of NHACC. He said he is interested in starting a roundtable of Sullivan County conservation commissions as has been done in other parts of NH. The commissions share similar issues, mutual interests and needs and potentially will find benefit in collaborating. Interested parties now include the Claremont Conservation Commission, the Newport Commission and Lionel Shute (Sullivan County Natural Resources Director). Lionel has offered to help coordinate the roundtable as well as the use of his facility. Meeting frequency and agenda of the proposed roundtable are all TBD by the group when it is organized. Jack will be visiting a couple other Sullivan County commission's to determine interest.

Jack hopes the CCC will be interested in participating in the development of this group and asked if we could give him a contact person. The CCC expressed interest in the idea, and Glenn offered to be the contact person. Glenn will email Jack to follow up: Jackhurley696@gmail.com.
 - b. Donna LaMoche/Center Rd. asked if CCC had anything to do with waterways in Cornish. Specifically she said a nearby farmer is spreading cow manure that flows into a brook close to her residence, particularly in the rain. She said the smell is strong and she is concerned about contamination of her well which is close to the brook. She has not tested her well in many years; CCC suggested she test her well and that water test kits are available at the Town Offices. She's been to the Cornish police as well as the BOS who said water quality protection is not under their authority and that she needs to contact the state Department of

Environmental Services. Glenn, Bob and Jody confirmed this guidance and added that the question is not under the authority of the Conservation Commission. She appreciated the opportunity to share her concerns and planned to follow up with well testing as a next step.

2. Vote to Approve of the [Draft Minutes of the July 23 CCC Meeting](#) / Glenn. Glenn asked if there was any question or discussion. There was none. Jody motioned to approve the minutes as distributed, Linda seconded the motion. Julie Foote abstained from the vote. The remaining members voted and approved the minutes unanimously.
3. [Treasurer's Report](#) (quarterly - Apr / July / **Oct** / Jan) / (Glenn in Robin's absence) [Moosewood #2 Invoice Approval](#). Glenn displayed ME's invoice for \$8,507.70. He noted that Robin had already reviewed the invoice and recommended CCC approve it for payment. Glenn motioned that the invoice be approved, Jody seconded the motion, *and payment of the invoice was approved unanimously.
4. New Alternate Member Candidate Dave Haseman Follow Up / Glenn. Glenn said he has spoken with Dave about Dave's interest in becoming a new, alternate member of the CCC. Dave read aloud his [letter of interest](#). He said he is a diligent steward of his and his wife's land, and a graduate of the Coverts program, eager to take a role in Cornish's conservation efforts.. Glenn motioned that the CCC recommend to the Select Board that Dave be appointed as a new alternate member of the CCC, for a 3-year term ending in 2028. Jody seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Linda will email the Select Board the draft minutes of the meeting advising them of the CCC's recommendation and Dave will contact them to be appointed. She will also make sure Dave has access to CCC new-member materials.
5. [Linda Churchill Gmail of August 25, 2025](#) / Glenn. Glenn read Linda Churchill's letter concerning the new walkway the Cornish Fair Association built this summer along South Parsonage Road to the CFA parking area in the vicinity of the Red Barn. She expressed concern about the size of the bridge, the cutting down of trees, possible intrusion into wetlands - and how this construction was approved. Jody called Linda Churchill to hear directly her concerns. She shared that the Conservation Commission had not been involved in any aspect of the bridge and walkway construction. But appreciated her concerns and that we would discuss it at the next meeting and get back to her when more was known. Jody also called Dale Lawrence on the CREA Committee and learned that the majority of the land was private property owned by the Leepers.

Bob Taylor is a CFA director and spoke to the issue. The project was undertaken to provide safe passage from the Fairgrounds to the parking area at night - formerly people walked down S. Parsonage Road in the dark, alongside traffic departing the parking area as well as the CFA's "people-movers". Even though there are "people movers" to drive people, some fair-goers walk the dark road. (Dave Haseman, a "people-mover" driver, noted how dangerous it had been for pedestrians to walk S Parsonage in the dark.) In 2023 this project was verbally approved by the BOS (in their minutes), and Jim Barker (head of CREA at that time). The Leepers who own the property also approved the trail. The trail is wider than other CREA trails because of the number of walkers and to make room for the temporary lights and generators during the fair. Bob apologized for not alerting the current Commission members about the impending work and agreed that in retrospect alerting the abutters would have been an appropriate action, A 2-year delay

between approval and build-out did lead to less than desired communication with all interested parties.

Jody noted that the trail appeared to her to be well built, and debris cleaned up, and a good distance from the wetland. The new trail also provides improved accessibility for mobility challenged people to view the natural habitat and for birding.

The CCC agreed that it has no authority or responsibility surrounding this issue. Jody will share the discussion comments and outcome to Linda Churchill via an email from the Commission..

6. [Conservation Plan](#) Update / (Glenn in Robin's absence)

a. [Project Progress](#)

- i. [Moosewood](#) Interim Reflections - August 23. Glenn read and discussed the reflections with the CCC.
- ii. [Field Surveys](#): Task B complete - 12 parcels & 9 survey days. Jody and Linda accompanied ME on a survey visit in August and another in September. They shared their very positive experiences walking with Steven and Jaime.
- iii. [*2025.08.18 Saint Gaudens \(SAGA\) Meeting Highlights](#) Jody reviewed the document with the CCC, particularly the Key Takeaways. The CCC expressed interest in a collaborative, educational event with SAGA.
- iv. Young People's Follow Up (visit to principal in August, etc.). Jody has just [emailed the](#) new principal Brandon Hill, and awaits his response.

b. **October 22, 2025 CCC Mtg - Moosewood in Person (30-45 mins)** The CCC looks forward to the in-person session, and Glenn asked everyone to think about any questions or comments for the Moosewood staff.

- i. Overview of what the field season was like / photos / basic list of observations / prelim mapping
- ii. Emerging goals & Forum agenda

c. **November 19 Community Forum - [Draft agenda and messaging ideas](#)**. The CCC discussed these drafts:

- i. Agenda: it is full and a little tight in terms of timing. We'll have to be careful to stay on track.
- ii. Messaging: Jody suggested that letters be sent to landowners whose properties did not get surveyed and to existing conserved landowners. There were no other suggestions for changes. All concurred what an incredible job Robin has done as Project Manager, sharing info with the full Commission and preparing the communication pieces for the upcoming forum. The Commission is very thankful for her excellent efforts!
- iii. CCC members encourage Robin to ask for help in all areas of messaging and event planning logistics.

d. **Select Date of Final Forum - "Presentation of Draft Conservation Plan"**

- i. **Week of 2/2/26 - M,W,Thu,Fri - Glenn is away skip this week
- ii. **Week of 2/9/26 - M,W,Thu,Fri - **Wednesday 2/11 (Friday 2/13 back-up)**

***Dates are currently available at the Old Town Hall 6-8pm event*

- e. [Update #3](#) - 7/28/25. Glenn read the Update to the CCC.
- 7. [UVLT Conservation Projects Funding Request](#) / (Glenn in Robin's absence) ITEM TABLED. The CCC discussed this idea and agreed to push this off at this time due to our other priorities and the lack of specifics The CCC requested Robin advise Craig/UVLT.
- 8. [Events](#) & Activities / Jody. Jody suggested possibly putting together some information on drought conditions, and referred to the idea of developing a collaborative event on invasives with SAGA (above item 6.a.iii.. Jody will speak with Robin.
- 9. Land Monitoring of Conservation Properties where Cornish is the Primary Easement Holder/
 - a. [Land Monitoring Calendar for 2025](#) / Linda/Rickey. No change.
 - i. [Draft Shurcliff Report](#) 5-12-25
 - ii. Jody reported that she sent an email to Kristine Suits to schedule the monitoring walk on White Swan Farm in early November, she also put a paper copy of the email in Kris' mailbox.
 - b. Agenda Mock-up for easement presentations / Rickey ITEM TABLED
 - c. [Draft Letter Glenn to BMeyette](#) (*item 6b.i. Of 6/25 draft minutes*). Reyer suggested October 11 or **Sunday October 12** or weekend of October 25 or 26. Reyer and Glenn will finalize the letter to Brian and coordinate the walk. Jody suggested the letter indicate that if there is no response from Brian, the monitoring will take place on a given date.
 - d. Research Regarding [Transferring Primary Easement Holder Rights](#) / Robin. ITEM TABLED
- 10. Other Business / All
 - a. BOS Representative Update / Keith. The BOS are now beginning to focus on how to address the beaver population and town infrastructure (culverts/roads). Keith will keep the CCC informed.
 - b. Follow up offering our Town Hall to UVLT for a Presentation on their Wildlife Corridor Findings / Robin ITEM TABLED
 - c. [NHACC Annual Meeting](#): November 1 "What Does It Mean To Love A Forest?" Pembroke Academy, Pembroke, NH. Glenn encouraged CCC members to register and that the CCC would reimburse the cost of registration. Jody, Linda and Glenn are interested in attending.
 - d. [UNH Researches Woody Invasives](#) Jody suggested posting this on our webpage under Education, and Linda suggested sharing the article with Gillian Goodwin who is working to address invasives on her conserved property.
- 11. Next Meeting: October 22, 2025
 - a. Agenda Suggestions for the October meeting
 - i. Moosewood in-person to provide project update and finalize Fall Forum Agenda
 - ii. Reminder re: Registration for NHACC Annual Meeting November 1
- 12. Adjournment /Glenn. Glenn adjourned the meeting at 9:05pm

**(No meeting held in August.)*