

Cornish Conservation Commission Special Meeting

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

6-8pm, Town Hall, 294 Town House Road, Cornish, NH

Minutes - Conservation Plan Community Forum

Commissioner Members: Glenn Griffin, Chair; Robin Kilfeather-Mackey Vice-Chair; Linda Leone, Secretary; Jody Schubert, Cindy Heath, ReyerJaarsma, Julie Foote

Alternate Members: Bob Taylor, Rickey Poor, David Haseman

BOS Representative: Keith Beardslee

Members of the Public (approximate): Jim Schubert, Ali Schubert, Jan Kilfeather-Mackey, Dan Poor, Jim Barker, Molly and Jay Young, Colleen O'Neill, Bill Schmidt, Judith Kaufman, Marty Davis, Martha Zoerheide, Megan Chapman, Mariet & Rob Jaarsma, Corey Fitch, Fred Weld +?, Geoffrey Millard, Will Dewey, Leo and Kathleen Maslan, Ginny Prince, Michael and Linda Fuerst, Larry Duval, Jim Barker

Moosewood, LLC: Jeff Littleton, Steven Lamonde

1. Glenn opened the meeting at 6pm and recognized and thanked current and past Conservation Commission team members.
 1. Robin welcomed the audience, reviewed the evening program, CCC's mission and responsibilities and outlined Moosewood Ecological's tasks and timeline relative to the development of the conservation plan.
 2. Robin summarized by saying that the night's priority is to leave the room having drafted 5-7 conservation priorities.
2. Conservation Priorities / What's Happening Across NH (Jeff Littleton) Jeff recognized CCC for having produced its own Natural Resources Inventory (NRI); he complimented Cornish on having the earliest NRI (1976) in NH to his knowledge. Jeff introduced Steven Lamonde, ecologist, who did part of the field survey work for Moosewood. Jeff and Steven narrated their [slide presentation](#). (It is noted that these minutes follow in general the outline of the slide presentation, but do not reflect its contents in exact detail. The presentation is available on the CCC website and by request at any time.)
3. Review CCC's Preliminary Priorities List (Robin). Robin reviewed CCC's conservation priorities list and the importance of creating alignment with the Planning Board.
4. Present Site Visit Data & Mapping Highlights (Steven Lamonde).
 1. Steven said 12 private properties were visited, about 1,264 acres, finding about 700 species of flora, fauna, fungi – as well as over 350 detections of 26 rare or uncommon plants. They mapped about 1,770 acres of active agriculture in row crops, pasture highland, tree/blueberry/orchard, etc. He noted NH State lidar data of 20, 722 acres of steep slopes include: 47% moderately steep, 29% steep slope, 24% extremely steep. Flood prone areas were identified with the use of lidar and various data sets from the State; data also showed roads and culverts assessed as "at risk". Judith Kaufman spoke to a wetlands issue near her property west of Route 120.

2. Steven reviewed evidence-based emerging conservation priority themes gathered from Moosewood's site visits in Cornish.
5. Review Evidence-Based Emerging Conservation Priorities. Jeff & Steven shared a presentation of these priorities with appropriate slides.
6. Group Breakouts re: *What priorities are resonating with you?* Robin guided the audience into breakout groups and encouraged open conversations about attendees' reactions to what they had absorbed of Moosewood's presentation and what priorities resonated particularly strongly with them. Attendees finished by expressing these priorities by placing stickers on posters affixed to the walls around the room which listed 14 priorities discussed during the evening.
7. Vote on Top 5-7 Conservation Priorities & Recap (the top 7 are bolded). Robin reviewed group responses to the 14 suggested priorities.
 1. *Preserve Cornish's rural character, scenic beauty, and working lands* (29 votes)
 2. *Protect source water, wetlands, and watersheds* (28 votes)
 3. *Protect wildlife, habitat and wildlife corridors* (23 votes)
 4. *Curb deer over-browse / Forest health management* (19 votes)
 5. *Integrate conservation priorities into town planning and zoning documents* (18 votes)
 6. *Collaborate regionally with conservation partners and neighboring towns* (15 votes)
 7. *Preserve important botanical areas* (12 votes)
8. Closing Thoughts & Next Steps. Jody spoke to CCC's educational efforts in the town as part of the group's mission and toured CCC's website, encouraging the audience to spend some time exploring the information.

Next Meeting: will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 7pm, Town Offices

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.