

Cornish Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: June 24, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM – 8:38 PM

Location: Cornish Town Office

I. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

- **Members Present:** Robin Kilfeather-Mackey (Secretary / Acting Chair), Cindy Heath, Reyer Jaarmsa, Jody Schubert.
- **Members Absent:** Glenn Griffin (Chair), Julie Foote.
- **Alternates Present:** David Haseman, Rickey Poor.
- **BOS Representative:** Keith Beardslee.
- **Guests/Public:** None.

II. Conservation Plan Review

The Commission held a collaborative discussion to select 2–3 manageable initiatives from the 2026 Cornish Open Space Plan to prioritize for the upcoming year.

- **Discussion:** Robin compiled a master list of the recommendations previously selected by Commissioners, hiding items that received no votes. Each member spoke to the reasoning behind their selections, narrowing down the plan's 38 total recommendations to an initial 18 items of interest. Following further deliberation, the Commission finalized three core, time-sensitive focus areas for 2026:

Priority 1: Land Use Regulations & Master Plan Integration (Items 27, 29, 34-37)

Collaborating with the Town Planning Board during their upcoming Master Plan updates to ensure findings from the CCC Conservation Plan are incorporated, specifically regarding overlay districts and subdivision regulations.

- **Next Steps:**
 - Jody will reach out to Bill Lipfert to clarify the timeline and status of the Town Master Plan update process.
 - Cindy volunteered to draft initial language and policy modifications using the Conservation Plan findings to target specific town areas of focus.

Priority 2: Regional Conservation Collaboration (Item 21)

Convening Conservation Commissions from neighboring towns to discuss common ecological and regional concerns.

- **Next Steps:**
 - Jody will contact Jack from the Claremont Conservation Commission to follow up on a multi-town meeting.
 - If Claremont prefers not to host, Robin has volunteered to organize the gathering in Cornish..

Priority 3: High-Value Parcel Conservation (Items 4/1)

Pursuing permanent land conservation pathways through a detailed, parcel-level review of the Plan's Conservation Focus Area (CFA) Map, while establishing formal evaluation and support procedures.

- **Next Steps:**
 - Once the master planning and regional meetings are established, the Commission will delegate leads to initiate the parcel-level CFA review.

General Plan Next Steps:

- After these initiatives are underway and Robin posts the full plan to the Town website, Jody suggests scheduling a public forum to introduce the plan, present the selected projects, and solicit community volunteers, as necessary.

III. Outreach Updates & Administration

Public Engagement: Jody reported that the recap of the recent Forest Health event has been published on the Commission's website. The second Forest Health event is scheduled for August 4, 2026, from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM at the Town Offices. Future programming ideas for a third forest-themed event include a guided forest walk or a session on carbon sequestration. Please share other ideas with Jody.

Finance: The Commission reviewed and considered two outstanding items: an invoice from Dolittle's for the printing of 10 hard copies of the Conservation Plan and an expense reimbursement request from Jody for an extension cord.

- **Motion:** Moved by Reyer, seconded by Cindy, to approve payment of the Dolittle invoice and the expense reimbursement to Jody. **Approved (4-0-0).**

Minutes: The minutes from the May 27, 2026 meeting were reviewed.

- **Motion:** Moved by Jody, seconded by Cindy, to approve the May 27, 2026 minutes as presented. **Approved (4-0-0).**

Board of Selectmen (BOS) Update: Keith Beardslee reported that following last month's consultation regarding conservation impacts at the CREA property, the Town successfully signed a lease amendment with the Cornish Fair Association through 2029. The amendment strictly incorporates the Commission's recommendation requiring the property to be fully restored to its original condition following the conclusion of the fair each year.

Property Monitoring: Rickey Poor reported that the annual property monitoring for the Barker property may be shifted from July to September.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Minutes Submitted By: Robin Kilfeather-Mackey, Secretary