Cornish Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Date: August 26, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM – 8:24 PM
Location: Cornish Town Office

I. Call to Order & Attendance
The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

- Members Present: Glenn Griffin (Chair), Reyer Jaarmsa, Julie Foote, Jody Schubert.
- Members Absent: Cindy Heath, Robin Kilfeather-Mackey.
- Alternate Present: David Haseman (seated for Robin Kilfeather-Mackey).
- Alternates Absent: Rickey Poor.
- BOS Representative: Keith Beardslee.
- Guests/Public: Visitor from Windsor, VT.

II. Conservation Plan

- **Correction:** Following our June meeting, we identified a miscommunication regarding the sharing of the draft Conservation Plan with the Planning Board. As this step had not actually been completed, we have rescinded our approval and held off on publishing the Plan on the town website. We have since shared the draft with the Planning Board and are currently considering their feedback before moving forward with the re-approval of the plan and the public posting of the Conservation Plan on our website.
- **Priority 1: Land Use Regulations & Master Plan Integration (Items 27, 29, 34-37) - Joint Meeting with Planning Board:** Scheduled for Sept 3. Cindy, Jody, Robin, and Keith plan to attend. Planning Board feedback on the Conservation Plan is available in their July 2026 Minutes.
- **Priority 2: Regional Conservation Collaboration (Item 21)** Jody reached out several times to the Claremont Conservation Commission with no response. She will continue reaching out to Claremont and call Plainfield CC to gauge interest in periodic collaboration, as well as invite both to the final Forest Health presentation**.**
    - *Update: Following the meeting, Jody received an email from Jack Hurley noting that Lionel Chute is organizing Sullivan County CC roundtable meetings for Oct 5 and Oct 8 (6–8 PM) in Newport. Jody can attend Oct 8.*
- **Priority 3: High-Value Parcel Conservation (Items 4, 1)** Discussion turned to Table 17 (p. 51) priorities. The Commission will turn attention to this priority during regular monthly meetings. Keith agreed to make digital tax maps available.

III. Operational Procedures Recommendations

- Bylaws Update: Julie described the recommendation to drop Commission By-Laws and adopt Operational Procedures based on governing RSAs.
- **Motion:** Moved by Julie to table a vote on this issue until the next meeting; seconded by Reyer; **Approved (5-0-0)**.
- **Next Step:** Members are asked to review the new document against existing By-Laws prior to the next meeting.

IV. Annual Monitoring Protocols Update

- **Protocol Guidance:** Jody reviewed the step-by-step procedure for conducting annual monitoring walks of Cornish properties.
- **Filing Responsibility:** Following Julie's walk at the Shurcliff property, it was decided that the Chair and/or Secretary will handle mailing, emailing, and filing of all final report materials to ensure oversight, consistency, and timely reporting. Julie will send her report materials to Glenn.
- **Upcoming Walks:** Next walks are scheduled for September. Robin will walk Niedeckers first to test the procedures. Glenn and Reyer are coordinating outreach to B. Meyette.

V. Outreach Updates & Administration

Public Engagement: The first two Forest Health events were recapped and noted on Connect Cornish and published on the website under Events. The 3rd and final Forest Health event will be held 10/6 from 6–7 PM at Town Offices with presenter Steve Roberge (UNH Extension). Jody will post a Kestrel Nesting update.

Members are asked to review the website Events page and bring suggestions for 1–2 future educational events to the next meeting.

The Commission decided to allow the public until early next year to review the Conservation Plan online before scheduling the next community forum. Jody will also reach out to the Cornish Garden Club chair to share meeting/presentation dates and request their mailing list.

Finance and Treasurer's Report:

- **Treasurer's Report (provided in absentia by Robin Kilfeather-Mackey):**

  The Q2 Treasurer's Report (ending June 30, 2026) showed restricted funds totaling $187,662, a 3.1% decrease from the start of the year. This overall decline is primarily due to the final payment being made to Moosewood in June. The CCC funds earned 1.82% or $3,519 in interest. This percent is slightly down compared to the 2.18% earned last year at this time. At 6/30/26, two invoices remain pending for an extension cord and printing of the conservation plan.

- **Motion:** Moved by Jody, seconded by Reyer, to approve a $300 donation from the Palmer Fund to the UNH Extension Service in recognition of the 3 UNH speakers for the Forest Health programs.**Approved (5-0-0)**.

Minutes Approval: Motion: Moved by Glenn, seconded by Jody, to approve the June 24, 2026 minutes as presented. Approved (Jody, David, and Reyer voted in the affirmative; Glenn and Julie abstained). **Approved (3-0-2)**.

Board of Selectmen (BOS) Update: Keith said their focus was on roads and zoning. But he had not forgotten about the request from CCC for guidance on signage, Keith has requested Town Counsel input on this issue.

Power Line Rebuild: Reyer shared a written report from National Grid regarding the *River Valley Power Line Rebuild*, which impacts 6.3 miles in Cornish across the Town Forest and private land. Construction is scheduled for Fall 2028–Fall 2031. Expect some DES applications. And there will be more town wide communication meetings. Reyer will share the document digitally.

Mail/DES: Glenn reported no DES applications or other mail received.

VI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Minutes Prepared & Submitted By: Robin Kilfeather-Mackey, Secretary (from notes taken by Jody Schubert)