Corinth Conservation Committee  
Meeting Minutes for December 2, 2019 (unapproved)

Present: Glynn Pellagrino (Chair), Marian Cawley, Brad Wheeler, Kevin Buchanan, Ken Arkind, Linda Tobin

Visitors: Jens Hilke (Vermont Fish and Wildlife), Bob Linke (Vermont Land Trust)

Not present: Kevin Eaton, Lindle Sutton, Jon Spanier

1) 7.05 pm. Meeting called to order by Glynn Pellagrino.

2) Agenda Changes: None.

3) Approval of November minutes: Brad moved, Linda seconded. Minutes approved.

4) Town Plan. Ken explained to Jens and Ben about the language we had proposed to the Planning Commission that did not get adopted in the final (now approved) version of the plan. Jens suggested that one of us be present at every Planning Commission meeting, to become more proactive in the process. Jens and Bob gave us an overview of BioFinder, a database and mapping tool for identifying Vermont's lands and waters that support important ecosystems, natural communities, habitats, and species. They talked about forest blocks that create a wildlife corridor but that need more connectivity. Jens suggests that we come up with a separate outreach plan, with different messages for different groups. “Towns with lots of forest tend to take it for granted…. Make the case that development is coming.” Corinth has no zoning, though we do have some subdivision plans, but not a lot of Act 250 reviews for subdivision plans at present. Land management on the nonregulatory end involves getting as much land into current use as possible to reduce tax burdens, working with individual land owners to consider conserving their land, and raising the awareness of everyone living in Corinth about the importance of high-priority forest blocks. We should focus our message on landowners with property that overlaps known wildlife corridors or forest blocks and help them to maintain the character of the land via current use, conservation, or by recognition. The town plan is the “visionary” document for the next 8 years, and they have proposed a regulatory structure. Jens and Bob are happy to come back if we need help. The Biofinder web site is Biofinder.Vt.gov. Glynn, Kevin B., and Ken have some experience with it. Jens gave us a few demonstrations of different ways the data can be sorted. They also do workshops, which we may want to take advantage of if we get enough people to come to them (possibly team up with neighboring commissions/organizations).

5) Town Forest. Selectboard approval would be required for any logging in the Town Forest. We could hire Dave Paganelli as the overseeing forester. We would need to approach the Selectboard about Dave’s recommendations. We also need to be more sure about our management plan: cutting ash aggressively or just hazardous ashes and maybe some that are valuable, and also whether to focus on ashes only or (as seems to make the most sense) or cut selectively according to the plan. There are four forestry goals in the management plan. We will revisit this next month, when Kevin Eaton can be here. Marian will invite Ginny (Town tree warden) to attend as well.

6) Winter Programs. Brad will contact Brad Solon about doing another tracking workshop, and possibly doing something with the school again. We will revisit this next month.

7) Budget Meeting: Glynn attended and asked for $200 for the CCC and $400 for Greenup.

8) Other Business: Ken booked the Town Hall for Green-Up 50th year celebration. It will take place on May 2, 2020 (Green-Up Day!).

10) Bottles. 12/7, Kevin B.; 12/14, Ken; 12/21, Marian; 12/28, Brad; 1/4/20, Linda

11) Adjournment. 9:20 pm. Glynn moved, all in favor.

Respectfully, Marian Cawley