

Corinth Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes (Unapproved)
January 3, 2011

Present: Earl Adams, Penny Andrew, Stephen Long, Anne Margolis, Frank Roderick, Martha Rosten, Shari Tkac, Linda Tobin.

Anne Margolis chaired the meeting, which came to order at 7:00.

- 1) Minutes from December 6, 2010 meeting were approved with one change. The correct amount for the deposit on Susan Morse workshop is \$225.
- 2) Anne went over the financial report for the Commission. Income for the fiscal year to date is \$2201.89. Expenses to date are \$1568.78 leaving a balance of \$534.11. Combined with a carryover from FY10 of \$1344.27, the CCC has an available balance of \$1878.38

The commission voted unanimously to pay the remainder of the Susan Morse invoice.

Shari delivered \$200.95 in cash from East Corinth General Store for bottle returns

Discussion of VT Forests, Parks and Recreation grant of \$450 ensued. It was decided that the \$50 remaining unspent from the grant be applied to the cost of installing a sign at the top of the Roaring Ridge trail that would identify the various mountains that people can see from the top.

- 3) Schedule for picking up bottles at the transfer station
 - January 8 Shari and Linda
 - January 15 Anne
 - January 22 Penny
 - January 29 Martha
 - February 5 Frank
 - February 12 Steve
- 4) Schedule for staffing the Cookeville Mall
 - January 8 Penny
 - January 15 Louise (Steve will ask her to do this)
 - January 22 Martha
 - January 29 Linda
 - February 5 Earl
 - February 12 Steve will find someone to fill this slot
- 5) Programs

Scott Darling of VT Fish & Wildlife will do a presentation on bats and their plight of whitenose syndrome on January 21 at the Town Hall. Shari will get word of this in the

1/14 WRVS newsletter. Shari will also check with Scott on the timing of his event. We will email to our list.

Susan Morse will do two programs in February. Wednesday, Feb 2, will be a slide show for a large audience at the Waits River School. Penny has ascertained the school is available on that date and will talk to Amy Kramer & Perry Schwartz to make sure it is set up correctly and ready for the event. This will be widely publicized so we can draw a big crowd. Anne will send text for Shari to put in the 1/21 and 1/28 WRVS newsletters.

The second Susan Morse event is Saturday, February 5, and it will include a morning and an afternoon tracking session. It will be in two separate locations, with Tenney Road wetland and the wetland across from Cawleys and Infantes on the Chelsea Road the probable locations. Each walk is limited to 20 participants.

Mark Breen from the Fairbanks Museum will do a program on Weather Lore at the Town Hall on Saturday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m. Linda will check with him on his fee and ask him to send an invoice and fill out the town paperwork (anticipate a \$150 fee).

Anne will make a poster for all three events, which Shari and Linda will help to distribute.

6) Discussion of future walks, workshops. Sugaring as a topic was discussed. CCC role could be to get the word out to broad audience of the various sugarhouses that open their doors to the public. Wildflowers is another possible subject for a walk in May.

7) Bradford Conservation Commission holds their annual calendar supper on February the CCC will attend and reserve a table for March, April or November. We need to have 8 people attend. Cost is \$15 each. Commissioners will contact Steve to let him know if they plan to attend. It looks like we already have 6 committed to going: Ginny, Anne and Peter, Shari, Penny, Steve.

8) Discussion of Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network grant opportunity for \$1K-\$3K energy grants. One idea is to get information out to citizens of Corinth on their rates (and what they can do to conserve electricity) after the upcoming rate hike takes effect.

8) Next meeting will be February 7, 2011.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Minutes taken by Steve Long.

Corinth Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes (Unapproved)
February 7, 2011

Present: Earl Adams, Stephen Long, Anne Margolis, Frank Roderick, Ginny Barlow, Shari Tkac.

Ginny Barlow chaired the meeting, which came to order at 7:05.

- 1) Minutes from January 3, 2011 meeting were approved with one correction. The date of the meeting was corrected to January 3.
- 2) Shari delivered a payment of \$399 for bottle returns from East Corinth General Store. Ginny will deposit the proceeds with the Treasurer.
- 3) Schedule for picking up bottles at the transfer station
 - February 12 Steve
 - February 19 Ginny
 - February 26 Shari
 - March 5 Earl
 - March 12 Frank
- 4) Schedule for staffing the Cookeville Mall
 - February 12 Ginny
 - February 19 Anne
 - February 26 Martha (Ginny will notify her)
 - March 5 Earl
 - March 12 Ginny
- 5) Programs

Scott Darling of VT Fish & Wildlife did a presentation on bats on January 21 at the Town Hall. It was very well-received. More than 40 people attended.

The Susan Morse program scheduled for Wednesday, Feb 2, had to be postponed due to weather. It was rescheduled for Thursday, Feb 17.

The morning and afternoon tracking sessions with Sue Morse were held as scheduled on Saturday, Feb. 5. There was a waiting list for both sessions and reports from both groups were enthusiastic. There was an article in the Valley News about the event.

Mark Breen from the Fairbanks Museum will do a program on Weather Lore at the Town Hall on Saturday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m. Ginny will do a poster and get it to Shari for delivery.

- 6) Dan Wing has submitted a proposal to the Vermont Energy Climate Action Network (VECAN). The New England Grassroots Environment Fund is operating this program for VECAN. The application is for a feasibility study on development of a solar array that would be jointly owned by shareholders. Anne said that there has not yet been a group net metering project in Vermont, and this would be breaking new ground.
- 7) Town Forest. The Selectboard has established a committee to oversee the management of the town forest and will appoint members at their February 14th meeting. Progress continues on the transaction. Upper Valley Land Trust has amended the conservation easement in two ways: it guarantees public access in perpetuity, and it removes the possibility of building a house on the property. The amendment has not yet been finalized.
- 8) Green Up Day. Emily Rowe will once again chair the Green Up committee. A meeting will be held shortly, preferably before Town Meeting so that the road map can be ready so that people can volunteer for designated sections of roads.
- 9) Frank contacted the Secretary of State regarding the \$500 that was voted for the Conservation Commission as part of this year's budget. He was told that if it was in the budget that was approved, it should be transferred to the Commission's account.
- 10) National Trails Day will be in June. We have participated in prior years and plan to do so again this year.
- 11) Ginny will apply for a grant from the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions to fund an outing led by Alcott Smith to evaluate habitat for wildlife on the proposed town forest.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes taken by Steve Long.

Corinth Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes (Unapproved)
April 4, 2011

Present: Earl Adams, Anne Margolis, Frank Roderick, Linda Tobin, Martha Rosten, Shari Tkac, Penny Andrews
Guest: Courtney Haynes

Anne Margolis chaired the meeting, which came to order with a quorum at 7:25.

- 1.) Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed. Anne asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Frank moved. Linda seconded, and the minutes were approved as presented.
- 2.) Courtney Haynes came to discuss the clothing swap. On Green-Up day, May 7, the Cookeville Mall will be expanded and donated clothing will be set up in the town hall. The Clothing Swap will take place during the mall hours, from 8 to 12. Donations will be accepted the week leading up to the event at the town hall during opening hours or the weeks prior during the Cookeville Mall hours. There will be a potluck dinner at the town hall at 5 p.m. Courtney is looking for volunteers to help set up clothing on May 6 as well as during Green-Up day on the 7th from 8 a.m. through the end of the day.
- 3.) The Cookeville Mall hours are now from 8 a.m. through noon.
- 4) Bottle schedule:
 - April 9: Martha
 - April 16: Frank
 - April 23: Earl
 - April 30: Penny
- 5.) Cookeville Mall schedule
 - April 9: Penny (8-10), Linda (10-12)
 - April 23: Anne (10-12?)

Ginny will fill the rest of the dates and time slots.
- 6.) Green-Up Day
 - Emily Rowe related that there will be local items raffled off, live music, and a potluck dinner this year. She will be collecting items for the raffle the week prior to the event. On Green-Up Day, a person will get one raffle ticket for each bag of trash that is brought in. Emily will be looking for volunteers on April 30 at the Transfer Station to hand out bags as well as volunteers to tally bags and hand out raffle tickets on May. She will also need volunteers for the potluck dinner.

7.) Events:

-75 people attended the Weather Lore program presented by Mark Breen. Anne asked for a motion to approve payment of Mark Breen's invoice for \$150 plus mileage. Linda moved. Shari seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

-Keeping Track program with Sue Morse: Linda will continue to update us on this. The total cost is \$4,500 (not clear if this amount is reduced by the amount of the National Life grant Sue received). Ideally she would like to have 18 people, which would mean the cost would be \$250 per person. With grant money, the cost could be brought down to \$150, and the Conservation Commission could help by offering scholarships. The program would consist of 3 events at Wolf Run in Jericho and 3 events in Corinth as well as 2 potluck dinners. Participants would be asked to make a five-year commitment to the program. Holly Waterman has gone through this program and could be helpful answering questions. Sue says it is the Commission's responsibility to pull in the participation of a land trust. Linda will help find out if this is necessary.

-Town Forest: We are waiting for more information from the lawyers. There is a Town Forest Committee. They have hired Val Stori to work for them part time. There will be a Town Forest Event on June 12.

-Trails: June 4 is National Trails Day. We will focus on cleaning up the trails and putting up the trail markers that day. Roaring Ridge: Peter Allen is working on making a panoramic photo display of the visible mountain peaks to the east. We are trying to figure out how to make it watertight and UV resistant.

-Other event ideas include a scenic biking route, a wildflower event in conjunction with the Town Forest Committee, a bird walk, and an informative talk on bobcats with the graduate student author of the recent article in Northern Woodlands, which Penny will check into.

8.) Anne asked for a motion to make Martha the new Treasurer. Linda moved. Shari seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Shari motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Linda seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Shari Tkac.

Corinth Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes (approved 6.6.11)
May 3, 2011

Present: Earl Adams, Stephen Long, Penny Andrew, Frank Roderick, Ginny Barlow, Shari Tkac.

Missing: Linda Tobin, Anne Margolis, Martha Rosten.

Ginny Barlow chaired the meeting, which came to order at 7:05.

- 1) Minutes from April 4, 2011 meeting were approved.
- 2) Shari delivered a payment of \$822 for bottle returns from East Corinth General Store. Ginny will deposit the proceeds with the town Treasurer. This was for three months worth of bottles. Ginny will also hand over \$20.00 which generated by birdhouse sales and was donated by Randy McFarline. Ginny will also thank Randy.
- 3) Schedule for picking up bottles at the transfer station

May 14	Ginny
May 21	Frank
May 28	Steve
June 4	Penny
- 4) Steve will resume the responsibility for staffing the mall. We've had good success bringing in outside help for this job, so we will try to staff it with non-CCC members as much as possible.
- 5) Town forest

June 12. Town Forest opening ceremony 12-2. Val Stori is the coordinator. We will work with her to seek donations from local businesses for food and supplies for the celebration. Randy and Kelly McFarline will bring their grill for cooking burgers and hotdogs.

Grant funding has arrived, and the deed has been transferred, so all administrative details have been taken care of.

- 6) Tree on Cookeville Green
Melinda Palmer, who owns the Cookeville Green, would like to plant a maple tree there. There are no grant funds this year to support this effort, so the CCC would like to make a contribution to make it happen.

Steve moved that we provide \$100 toward the cost of a maple, seconded by Penny.
Approved unanimously.

- 7) Programs and activities:

- Ginny will contact Mary Holland about a possible program for the fall. She will check on the price and availability.
- Green UP Day is Saturday, May 7. As part of the day, there is an all-day clothing swap at the Town Hall, followed by a pot luck supper at 5.
- John Sutton will be leading a bird walk on June 28th. Ginny and Anne will handle the publicity.
- Susan Morse would like to develop a Keeping Track group in the area. Linda Tobin is our local contact for people interested. There will be a fee to participate, and the CCC might choose to contribute to try to keep the cost to participants low.
- June 4 is National Trails Day. This year, we will have a cleanup of the Clement Loop Trail from 10- noon. Bring clippers, loppers, and chainsaws.
- Possible Park and Ride parking lot in East Corinth will be subject of a meeting on May 18 at 7 p.m. at the East Corinth Congregational church.
- A planning meeting for the opening ceremony of the Town Forest will take place on the land at 9:00 a.m on Sunday May 15

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes taken by Steve Long.

Corinth Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2011

Present: Frank Roderick, Ginny Barlow, Shari Tkac, Linda Tobin, Anne Margolis,
Martha Rosten

Guests: Kevin Eaton, Dan Wing, Tim O'Dell, Laurie Sheridan

Missing: Earl Adams, Steve Long, Penny Andrew

Ginny Barlow chaired the meeting, which came to order at 7:00.

- 1) Minutes from the June 6, 2011 meeting were approved.
- 2) Ginny delivered a payment of \$88 for bottle returns from East Corinth General Store and gave it to Martha to deposit with Susan Fortunati.
- 3) Ginny reported that Randy McFarline has made a sign holder for the transfer station. Ginny is working on a sign.

Schedule for picking up bottles at the transfer station

July 16	Shari
July 23	Frank
July 30	Anne
August 6	Ginny
August 13	Linda

- 4) Ginny reported that as of September, we will need a new Cookeville Mall scheduler. We won't go back to the winter schedule until it gets cold. There were no takers at this meeting; Ginny said she will do it in the meantime, and Linda offered to help. Ginny will bring it up again when there are more Commissioners present.
- 5) Ginny reported that the Mary Holland event is changed from 10/21 to 10/28.
- 6) Nancy Ertle will need things for the August/September/October newsletter by 7/25.
- 7) We're moving our September meeting to 9/6 on account of the Labor Day holiday.
- 8) We discussed ideas that the town could submit to the Department of Public Service to include in the Energy Plan. These include:
 - a. Assistance for planning projects such as the one for which the Corinth Energy Committee applied but was rejected (to help set up a group net metering cooperative).

- b. Legislation to help Vermonters communicate on alternative transportation strategies, such as for requiring insurance to cover people renting each other's cars; as well as other methods of helping with transportation options, such as a website or listserv to help people rent their cars or find rentals. Another idea would be some sort of "registry" of legitimate hitchhikers, or some other way to recognize people who are trustworthy as casual riders or regular commuters.
- c. Is there a national clearinghouse for rural energy initiatives? If so, it would be great for the state to circulate this to towns for ideas; and if not, maybe Vermont could help team up with other states to help create this sort of information-sharing platform.
- d. The state could potentially help us with a wider tire recycling initiative. For us right now, we will aim for a November event; Dan will put it in the town newsletter and put up a warning on the bulletin board at the transfer station.
- e. To cut down on heating fuel usage, the state could offer a simple tax credit for energy efficiency measures, modeled after the federal tax credit. Having an audit, and doing things recommended in the audit, would be a prerequisite for receiving the credit.
- f. There is a need for heating fuel dealer and customer education; one idea would be for dealers to offer a chauffage, or ESCO type of service, where dealers contract with customers to provide heat rather than fuel and dealers are incentivized to install efficiency measures that are repaid through the fuel savings.
- g. Perhaps the state could put out an RFP for creative fuel dealer/auditor ideas, working through the VT Fuel Dealers Association to create demand-side management programs that support decreased energy usage and long-term business viability.
- h. Meeting participants would generally support the idea of an equitable and binding Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Anne Margolis.

Corinth Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes (Unapproved)
August 1, 2011

Present: Earl Adams, Stephen Long, Anne Margolis, Frank Roderick, Ginny Barlow, Shari Tkac, Linda Tobin.

Missing: Martha Rosten, Penny Andrew.

Ginny Barlow chaired the meeting, which came to order at 7:05.

- 1) Minutes from July 12 meeting were approved with one spelling correction.
- 2) Shari delivered a payment of \$87 for bottle returns from East Corinth General Store. Ginny reports that we have been asked by Bonnie and Joe Blodgett to allow the 4H Club to handle the bottle returns for one month to raise money for their trip to the Eastern States Exposition. The CCC voted unanimously to donate \$200 to the 4H in exchange for having them take care of bottle returns on the four Saturdays in August. An average month brings in \$100-150.

At Ginny's request, the commission approved payment of \$30 to Emily Fisker who created the materials for the text for the bottle sign.

The CC treasurer needs to pick up the cash in the jar at the Cookeville Mall.

Schedule for picking up bottles at the transfer station for September

9/3	Linda
9/10	Frank
9/17	Anne
9/24	Shari

Ginny will try to remind bottle redeemers of their duties the night before.

- 3) Cookeville Mall. We will adopt winter hours of 10-11 starting November 5. Next spring, in light of the slow business in the early shift, our summer hours of operation will be 9-12.
- 4) Programs

Sunday, August 14, 12-2, the Town Forest committee will be doing trail maintenance at the town forest. Frank reported that he was able to move the poplar butts up to the landing, and to fix the ruts in the road.

Sunday, September 18, 12-2, the Town Forest committee will be planting wildflowers in the wildflower garden. Helpers are needed.

Friday, October 28. Mary Holland will do a presentation and bring her collection of animal artifacts.

Late October. Tire swap. Dan Wing will coordinate it. He will bring a tire book that tells what size tires will work as substitutes.

5) Other business

Because of Labor Day, next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 6.

Ginny showed the sign that will be used at the transfer station to alert people to the bottle redemption program. She will discuss with Randy McFarline other uses of the sign stand that he made. Possibilities include publicizing Green-up day and other events.

Ginny paid for the CCC's membership in the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions. She will ask the Town Treasurer to reimburse for the \$50.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes taken by Steve Long.

Corinth Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2011

Present: Earl Adams, Anne Margolis, Frank Roderick, Ginny Barlow, Linda Tobin,
Kerry DeWolfe, Martha Rosten, Shari Tkac
Absent: Emily Rowe

Ginny Barlow chaired the meeting, which came to order at 7:05.

1. The minutes from the November 7 meeting were reviewed. Ginny moved to accept the minutes as presented. Earl seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
2. Shari has collected \$205 for two months' worth of bottles. This was given to Martha to give to the town treasurer, who she is going to see December 6.
3. Schedule for picking up bottles at the transfer station for the next few weeks:
Dec 10 Ginny
Dec 17 Shari
Dec 24 Linda
Dec 31 Kerry
Jan 7 Frank
Linda has been calling people to remind them of bottle duty and this all agreed that this is helpful.
4. Cookeville Mall: Jane Connor will arrange for staffing from now until May. After that we'll need to find someone to take on that job.
5. Programs: John Rockwood, the loon guy, will give a program either Friday, March 30th or April 6 – Ginny is waiting to hear back. Other events: Anne Margolis will contact Ben Kilham and arrange for a time for him to present a bear program.
Ginny mentioned that Steve Long has put together a program about forest management for landowners that he's willing to give for us, perhaps in February. She will contact him about that.
6. Town Forest coming events. Ginny will email everyone a list.
7. Projects. Everyone was asked if they would like to choose a conservation topic that they were especially interested in.
Linda: Invasive species, including information about what people should plant, as well as what they shouldn't plant. Ginny offered to contact Sharon Plumb of the

Nature Conservancy about doing a program. Linda also suggested a wild edibles/wild medicinals workshop. She will contact Peggy Fogg or Val Stori about an event in the spring.

Kerry: Trails, perhaps including a “walking map” of Corinth, including existing non-“trail” routes such as Class 4 roads, similar to a book of walking trails that Thetford has. She is also interested in perhaps linking Corinth trails with the Rivendell trail system. Also orienteering, and it was mentioned that Dave Richard knows about that.

Earl: Better fishing. He will contact the person who was the subject of a Northern Woodlands article about improving fish habitat in the Battenkill.

Shari: Animals signs in the woods – figuring out what you might be able to see in the woods. Ginny offered to contact Alcott Smith about doing an outdoors program in the spring, perhaps in May (i.e. “signs of spring”).

Anne: Several things – hands-on crafts, such as basket making. Energy efficiency through a PACE program; she’ll contact VEIC. Also establishing a conservation fund, which would be a significant resource perhaps to be used to protect fragile habitats or other areas in town that are important for town residents.

Frank: The town forest.

Ginny: Natural history programs and education.

Martha will take over the email list from Ginny. Shari is happy to keep doing bottles; she’ll also be in charge of plastic bags.

We’ll send minutes to Dona and maybe to Earl’s son, so Earl gets them and nobody has to mail them.

Kerry will be the point of contact for the VT Trails & Greenways Council. She will pay the \$35 for dues and ask for reimbursement.

Anne and Martha will sit down the last week of December to go over budget stuff. Tuesday Dec. 13th is the budget committee meeting.

Kerry asked about an email address for the Conservation Commission. Anne will look into that.

The next meeting will be Jan. 2.

Anne moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Linda seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes taken by Ginny Barlow and Anne Margolis