Corinth Conservation Commission

January 6, 2020

Present: Glynn Pellagrino, Linda Tobin, Jon Spanier, Bradley Wheeler, Ken Arkind, Marian Cawley, Kevin Eaton and Ginny Barlow (guest)

Absent: Lindle Lawton-Sutton, Kevin Buchanan

I. Call to order: 7:05

II. Agenda Changes: add town orchard

III. Approval of July minutes: Glynn moved to approve, Linda seconded, All in favor.

IV. Town Orchard. Ginny reported that one apple tree is likely dying and requested approval for up to an $80 expenditure for a tree replacement (possibly Russet to replace the Gayla). Marion made such a motion (Glynn seconded) and it was approved. April 25 was chosen as the orchard clean up day. Dean has not been paid yet for mowing; Glynn will follow up. The swamp oak by the town hall was totaled by one of the town trucks; whether or not to replace it was discussed, but no decision reached. It was decided to ask Louise Graf if she would be available to teach a pruning workshop in late March.

V. Town Forest Logging. Continuing last months discussion, the Forest Plan (by Redstart) showed that logging was not indicated through 2026; and that stands 1, 2 & 3 contained only 5%, 9% and near 0, respectively, of Ash. Given this information, the discussion as to whether or not to log the Town Forest was tabled.

VI. Act 171 Education Program. Per the Town Plan mandate to protect Corinth wildlife corridors, Ken prepared a packet of educational ideas and meeting suggestions for the Committee to discuss. (That packet is attached to these minutes.) Education of the Corinth population and determination of landowners in critical corridor areas were determined to be ideas that the Committee would act on near term. Towards that end, it was decided to try to have Jens **(last name?)** present a general information seminar to the town sometime in April at his convenience. At the same time, it was also noted that implementing Act 171 ideas is a 10 year plan, and would not be accomplished quickly.

VII. Tracking Walk. Is set for March 8 for the town; 2 sessions of 12 each. Brad will talk with Waits River school. $900 was authorized to cover costs.

VIII. Bottle Duty: 1/11 Dutton; 1/18 Jon; 1/25 Kevin E; 2/1 Glynn

IX. Adjournment: 9:02 - Glynn moved, Jon seconded, All in favor.

ACT 171 Education Program

"Taking the Long View for Corinth"

January 6, 2020

Appendix C: 2018 Survey Results

	Question	Strongly Agree		Agree	Neutral		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total	Average Favorability
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent		
1	Our Town's major strengths are its people and its beautiful rural character.	129	59%	77	35%	11	5%	1	0%	0	0%	218	4.53
2	Corinth should have zoning regulations to protect the rural character of our Town.	58	27%	61	28%	34	16%	33	15%	29	13%	215	3.40

IMPLEMENTING ACT 171 REQUIREMENTS

This document provides a suggested process, which is built on the ACCD Planning Manual's five-step process, to help implement the requirements of Act 171. This five-step process includes:

STEP 1

ASSESSMENT OF FOREST BLOCKS AND HABITAT CONNECTORS IN MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL PLANS

STEP 2

IDENTIFYING COMMUNITY VALUES AND ENGAGING THE PUBLIC

STEP 3

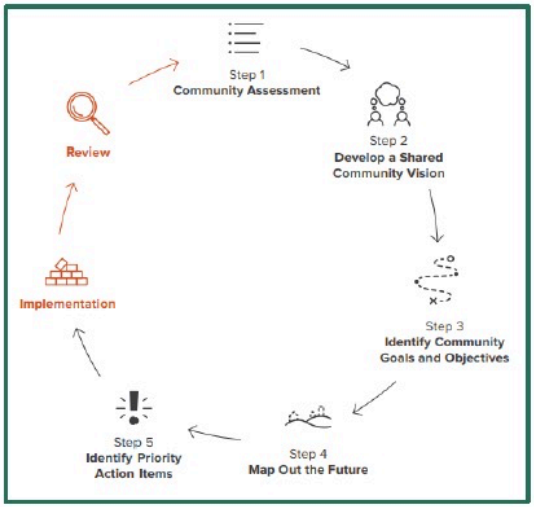
GOALS AND POLICIES

STEP 4

CREATING YOUR FUTURE LAND USE MAP AND PRIORITIES

STEP 5

IMPLEMENTATION AND ACTION – MAKE IT HAPPEN



Picture 1: Image from ACCD Planning Manual

Vermont Agency for Natural Resources Act 171 Guidance

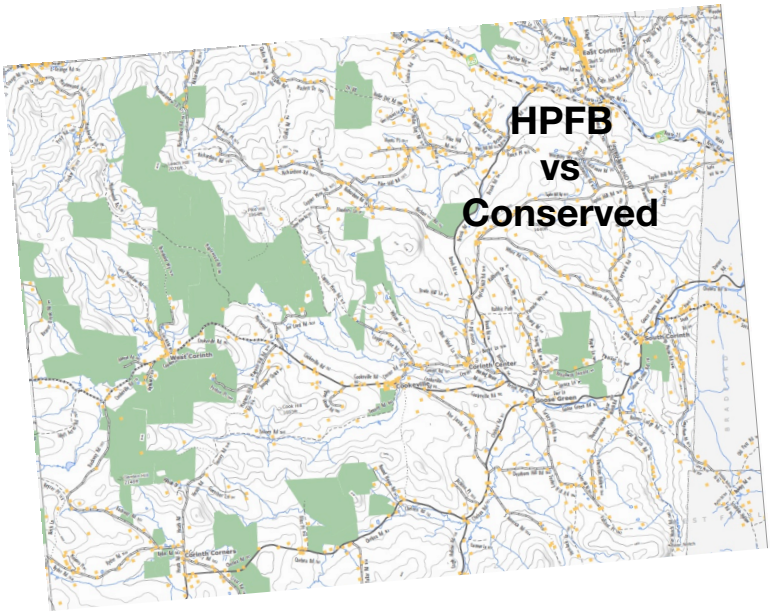
Outline

- Primary Objective
- Additional Objectives
- Program Outline
- Meeting Agendas
- Inter Town Possibilities
- Planning Commission Interaction
- State Resources Required
- Yearly Reporting

Program Objectives

- Establish Corinth's long term commitment to the protection of our high priority forest blocks and wildlife corridors.

- Develop a Future Land Use Map that Indicates those areas that are important as forest blocks and habitat connectors. Create a plan for land development in those areas to minimize forest fragmentation and promote the health, viability, and ecological function of forests.(From Vermont Agency of Natural Resource's Act 171 Guidance Document)



Additional Objectives

- Identify individual landowners within Corinth's HPFB/WC
- Develop landowner tool kit to help individuals maintain existing HPFB/WC
- Create guidance for Planing Commission Land Development Reviews
    - Act 250 Reviews, Conditional Use Standards, and Site Plan Review Standards for Zoning Reviews
- Help develop town ordinances needed for HPFB/WC preservation

Program Outline

- Conservation Commission will lead 4 town workshops over the next year to educate residents and/or landowners on the importance of Continuous Forest Blocks and Wildlife Corridors. Land owners will be encouraged to take actions that will maintain the character of their property as well as its contribution to HPFB/WC.
    - 2 sessions will be held at Town Hall
    - 2 sessions will be outdoor naturalist led tours
- Working with necessary Vermont Agencies, Land Trust experts, and local officials a process to support individual landowners' action plans will be developed.
    - Action Plans include Current Use, Conservation Easement, Tax Abatements, Legacy Planning, Forest Management Planning and Forestry Operations

Meeting Agendas

- March 10 - Town Hall
    - Main topic - What are Forest Blocks, Wildlife Corridors and why do they matter.
    - Guest Speakers - Jens Hilke
- June 9 - Town Forest??
    - Main Topic — Forest management, wild life corridors, wetlands, riparian and connectivity
    - Guest Speaker - TBD Vermont Fish and Wildlife, Marcus Bradley
- September 8 - TBD Conserved Property tour?
    - Main Topic - all you wanted to know about land conservation
    - Guest Speaker - Bob Linck and host landowner
- December 8 - Town Hall
    - Introduction to landowner tool kit
    - Guest Speaker - TBD

Planning Commission Interaction

- Provide a “Kick-Off” briefing at the next PC Meeting
- Jointly develop guidance materials for Development Reviews
- Participate in potential ordinance developments

Inter-Town Possibilities

- Engage with Topsham, Washington, and Bradford in their ongoing Act 171activities
- Hold joint educational events
- Identify Forest Blocks and Wildlife Corridors that cross town boundaries

State Resources

- Seek training in the use of Bio Finder Application
- Guest speakers from VNR, Fish and Wildlife, County Foresters, Forest, Parks and Recreation
- Forest Carbon Legislation participation

Yearly Reporting

- Monitor the status of Corinth's designated Forest Blocks and Wildlife Corridors
- Establish goals for conservation easements, current use, and forestry management within blocks and corridors and monitor progress

Corinth Conservation Commission Minutes - February 3, 2020

Present: Glynn Pellagrino, Linda Tobin, Bradley Wheeler, Ken Arkind, Marian Cawley, Kevin Eaton, Kevin Buchanan
Absent: Lindle Lawton-Sutton, Jon Spanier

I. Call to order: 7:07

II. Approval of January minutes: Marian moved to approve, Ken seconded, All in favor.

III. Glynn opened with a discussion of CCC coordinating with Blake Memorial Library to sponsor a presentation by Sue Morse on climate change impacts on wildlife. Glynn will be discussing more with BML to solidify details. Kevin E. suggested we consider working with Roots School to develop additional workshop ideas that the CCC can sponsor.

IV. Act 171. Ken presented two ideas of moving forward with preparations for implementing Act 171: 1) an April presentation by Jens Hilke to discuss habitat corridor and forest blocks and 2) an August presentation in the town forest with VT F&WS to discuss wildlife habitat, etc…, with possible input from Markus Bradley of Redstart. Ken also stressed the importance of working with the Planning Commission to advance the objectives of Act 171, and Glynn said that the PC is required to work on the Act 171 mandate. Ken or another CCC member will try to go to the next PC meeting. An ad hoc subcommittee was proposed. Marian , Kevin B. and Lindle were mentioned as possible members of this subcommittee.

V. Budget issues. The town will give the CCC $400 to cover Green Up Day expenses, but not the normal $200 donation toward the CCC's general budget. Glynn stated that his hope is that the $200 contribution will be restored next year.

VI. Tracking Walk. The non-WRVS session is set for March 8 at Roots School. WRVS is working on setting a date for their tracking day.

VII.Green Up Day. Ken is planning a 50th anniversary party on Green Up Day. May 2, 1:00-5:00 at the town hall. He is seeking vendors to provide food, etc…, possibly Dan Wing or Fritz Gross to make pizza on their wood-fired outdoor ovens. CCC approved spending up to $300 for tee shirts, water bottles, totes or some other Green Up Day promotional items. Ken will make a plan for what will be purchased and email around to other CCC members to review. Marian will be talking with Thetford Academy about having a student help with Green Up day as their community service requirement.

VIII. Transfer Station. Glynn reported that the transfer station is being reorganized to improve traffic flow, etc…. The trailer will likely be moved and the bottle collection cans as well. In the interim, Ken will move the cans to the other end of the recycling bins in hopes of reducing the damage they are undergoing in their present location.

VIII. Bottle Duty: 2/8 Asa; 2/15 Kevin E.; 2/22 Kevin B; 2/29 Ken

IX. Adjournment: 9:02

Corinth Conservation Commission March 2, 2020 Meeting DRAFT Minutes

In attendance: Glynn Pellagrino, Linda Tobin, Kevin Buchanan, Kevin Eaton, Marian Cawley, Ken Arkind, and Lindle Lawton via phone video link. Absent: Bradley Wheeler, Jon Spanier

1) Called to order at 7:08 p.m.

2) Approved February minutes

3) Agenda changes – Add Town Report and Town meeting to other business

4) No Public comment

5) Tracking walk – Date for Roots School public tracking walk has been changed to March 29th.

   Funding for WRV School tracking walk needs an additional $50, Marian so moved, Kevin E. seconded, vote passed add $50 to Roots Tracking Walk appropriation.

6) Green Up Day – Ken updated us on plans for GUD and the 50th birthday party of Vt GUD. Glynn moved and Marian seconded that the CCC will reimburse Ken for 100 stainless steel water bottles (~$6 each) that he will have printed with 50th GUD and up to $100 for food, drink and supplies for the GUD birthday party celebration. Motion passed.

7) Town Plan Act 171 update – Ken lead discussion of Act 171 (forest blocks and wildlife corridors) training options. He has a public educational forum/meeting planned for May 12th.

8) Treasurer report – Kevin E. estimated $7,000 in CCC money and $2,000 of Forest money on hand, he will work on getting updated information from Town for next meeting.

9) Bottles – discussed security of our returnable bottles and cans at the transfer station. Kevin E. reported on an option Jacob at the redemption center proposed for him to pick up returnables here, but it involves separating glass from aluminum and plastic, most folks wanted to keep system the same.

   Bottle Duty – 3/7 Linda

   3/14 Asa Porter

   3/21 Marian

   3/28 Jon Spanier

   4/4 Brad Wheeler

10) Other business - Glynn mention there is a group in town working on resiliency that might be interested in managing the swap shop… he will keep us posted

11) Adjourned at 8:35

Corinth Conservation Commission

April 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

(unapproved; by conference call)

Present: Glynn Pellagrino, Kevin Buchanan, Kevin Eaton, Marian Cawley, Ken Arkind, Lindle Lawton, Jon Spanier

Absent: Linda Tobin, Bradley Wheeler

1) Called to order at 7:07 p.m.
2) March minutes approved (Marian moved, Kevin E. seconded, all in favor)
3) No agenda changes
4) COVID-19: All meetings/functions will take place by conference call till we're able to gather again. We'll continue to have regular meetings in the meantime.
5) Green Up Day – postponed until May 30 due to coronavirus. Ken has 20 bags left over from last year. All state preparations associated with GUD came to a halt because of the virus. We can still gather roadside trash as the day approaches, but with greater care. Not sure when the state will be issuing Green Up bags. Ken will keep us posted. The Vermont State Green Up organization is providing a Birthday Box and it is Green Up Day's gift to all towns for supporting and taking part in Green Up for the past 50 years. The contents include a Maple Tree sapling and granite plaque for all towns to plant in a community location of their choice, a free birthday cake coupon from Shaw's, wildflower seeds for planting and beautification, as well as other goodies for your town to share.
6) Bottles and transfer station: No bottle duty till after COVID. Trash cans have been moved to the trailer. Lindle will make a sign thanking people for their bottle donations and asking them to please not continue to bring bottles till this is over. She will also let Joan know what is happening. Ken will put out a notice on the LRN letting people know that if they save their redeemable cans and bottles and bring them to the Transfer Station on Green Up Day they will get credit toward the prizes for every bag.
7) Other CCC activities: All planned activities have been canceled on the list-serv. Ken will contact Bob and Jens to let them know that we're still interested but won't be able to set a date for a while. Glynn will talk to Kimberly about the Susan Morse tracking program that we were going to co-host with the library.
8) No other business.
9) Adjournment: 7:48 (Kevin E. moved, Lindle seconded, all in favor)

Corinth Conservation Commission
May 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes

COVID-19 Conference Call Meeting
7:00 PM Via Free Conference calling
Call toll free 1 (602) 610-2091 at 7:00 PM and use code 655653 to join the call.

Present: Glynn Pellagrino, Kevin Buchanan, Kevin Eaton, Ken Arkind, Lindle Lawton, Jon Spanier, and Bradley Wheeler

Absent: Linda Tobin, Marion Cawley

Call to Order @ 7:04

Approval of April Minutes: moved by Glynn; seconded by Ken.

Agenda Changes: add Town Forest & Clement Loop Sign posting

Public Comment: none

Green Up Day: will be May 30th; but without a party; possibly one could be held in the future at the town forest. How make safe? State suggests have a place for people to drop bags w/o contact w/ volunteers; volunteers wear masks and gloves and collect information from a safe distance. Ken will ask Joe where he wants this to happen (old vs. new transfer station). Bags will be available on May 15 at Town Hall except when given away at transfer station on 5/16 and 5/23. Volunteers for 5/16 are Glynn (8-11) and Lindle (11-1) and on 5/23 Kevin B (8-11) and Brad (11-1); they will hand out bags and bottles and sign people up to the streets they wish to clean. Ken will also ask the public to bring their deposit bottles on Green Up Day; and the CCC agreed that all proceeds from that would be donated to the Corinth/Topsham Foodbank.

Town Orchard: Ginny and helpers weeded and removed dying Gala, replacing it with a Golden Russet and also planting a dwarf cherry near the Town Hall. Ginny sent a soil sample to UVM for analysis and Dean will mow again this year. Lindle will talk with Ginny about possible pest management methods for the orchard.

Other Business: Both the Town Forest and the Clement trail signs need to be better defined. Brad pointed out that special long aluminum siding nails are needed to keep the signs attached to trees. Lindle will work on the Clement trail signs, while Brad and Kevin E. will do the Town Forest, meeting at 2 on 5/10.

Adjournment: motioned by Glynn and seconded by Kevin E @7:51

Corinth Conservation Commission
June 1, 2020 meeting minutes

Present: Glynn Pellagrino, Marian Cawley, Brad Wheeler, Ken Arkind, Kevin Eaton, Kevin Buchanon Lindle Sutton.
Absent: Linda Tobin, Jon Spanier.

Meeting called to order at 7:08 PM

Approval of May minutes, Kevin Eaton moved, Marian seconded w/ amendments

Green Up Day follow up. Ken reported that we had the same number of sign-ups and participants as last year, but the total number of bags brought in was lower 98 bags over all. We took in a large number of returnable bottles, the money from which the CCC will donate to the Corinth food bank. It was a tie for the most bags brought in by one team between the Durham ditch Pickers and the Taplin Hill Crew. Both teams will get their name on the plaque in the Town forest. Jeffery Hoots and Mary Dallett won the individual with the most bags. Green Up Vermont gave the town a maple sapling and certificate for a cake from Shaw's (which Ken exchanged for cupcakes due to COVID-19). There won't be a 50th anniversary Green Up day party due to the virus. We still have about 30 water bottles to hand out which were also supposed to be given out at the celebration.

Summer Trail work: We discussed which trails to work on first. Lindle will walk the Clement Loop trail and report on its condition. Then we will focus on the Town Forest trails later in the summer or Fall. A date for a work day was set for Sunday July 12 at 9:00 am. Marian will post on LRN.

Discussion of Act 171 and identifying important forest blocks and wildlife connectivity corridors in town was next on the agenda. Ken said he will contact Jens Hilke about a tutorial on biofinder to help us with the identification of these areas in town. We will also look into the maps the planning commission put together. Then we will follow up with education and outreach to town landowners.

Lindle filled us in a little about a parcel of land that is now for sale on Abe Jacobs road. It is a large property: 225 acres of fields and forest. Discussion was had about possibly finding away to conserve the property. Lindle will follow up with some of the land trusts to see if there is interest and funds. We will consider further at our next meeting.

It was decided we could restart collection of returnable bottles at the transfer station. Starting on 6/7. Ken also said that Dutton Vought offered to move the kiosk from the old transfer station to the new one on Brook road when we are ready. Ken will speak with Joe Blodgett about the new location.
Bottle duty: 6/7 Kevin E, 6/13 Lindle, 6/20 Marian, 6/27 Brad, 7/6 Dutton V (Ken will contact).

Moved to adjourn by Glynn at 8:30 Marian seconded.

Corinth Conservation Commission

July 6, 2020 meeting minutes

Present: Glynn Pellagrino, Marian Cawley, Linda Tobin, Jon Spanier, Kevin Buchanan, Lindle Sutton
Absent: Brad Wheeler, Ken Arkind, Kevin Eaton
Guests: Geoff Hoots and Mary Dallett

Meeting called to order at 7:19 PM

Approval of June minutes: Jon moved, Lindle seconded, all in favor

Green Burial (moved up on agenda for our guests): Geoff wanted to be on the Cemetery Commission for the express purpose of getting green burial – "traditional" or "natural" burial is a better way of putting it – added to the possible ways people can be buried in town. In the long term, there may come a time when we can use cemetery space for green burial, but in the meantime, for those who want it and don't have space on their own property, would the CCC, as custodians of the Town Forest, agree to having green burial happen in the Town Forest? Geoff has emailed the Vermont Land Trust to ask if that would even be allowed. According to the Selectboard, we have liability insurance for it, but they are checking to be sure. Brad has weighed in on soils in the Town Forest and thinks in the area to the west of the orange trail (west of points 6 & 7 on the map, no official trails) would work. The Cemetery Commission has sole say over whether green burial could happen there. Geoff will go to the Selectboard meeting next week and get some answers to his questions, then come back to us with a proposal. **Glynn moved to authorize Geoff to tell the Selectboard that CCC supports using the Town Forest as a burial site and bring us additional information as it becomes available. Jon seconded. All in favor.** Exit Geoff and Mary.

Trail Maintenance: Our Clement Loop day is this Sunday, 9-11. Marian will send out a post [done and corrected]. We will set a date for Town Forest trail maintenance at our next meeting. The Town Forest trails will require more work, as several trees are down along the Blue loop and the Orange trail. [Postscript: Glynn may be out of town on 7/12, so went to the trail and did all the chainsawing that needed to be done. Branches still need to be cleared. Thanks, Glynn!]

Act 171: Ken sent some materials to the Act 171 subcommittee via email. The committee is Kevin Buchanan, Marian, and Ken. Lindle is willing to help but does not want to be on the committee. We will discuss more when Ken is present.

Trailer: Joe Blodgett asked Glynn if the CCC would want a tractor trailer that was at David Carrier's home to serve as our Mall. After some discussion, Glynn moved to pass on the trailer, Lindle seconded, all in favor.

Transfer Station Planting: We still need to do this. Lindle has some "Christmas-tree-type trees on her property that she could dig up (with Marian's help if needed). This would work.

Universal Composting Law: We need to have more educational programs about this, but it probably will not happen till after the COVID virus is under control, or more under control.

Bottles: Linda will speak to the Redemption Center folks about saving our bags for us.

Bottle Schedule: 7/11, Toby and Linda; 7/18, Kevin B.; 7/25, Jon; 8/1, Lindle.

Glynn moved to adjourn at 8:30, Marian seconded, all in favor.

Next meeting: August 4.

Minutes of Corinth Conservation Committee Meeting August 3rd, 2020

Present: Glynn Pellegrino, Jon Spanier, Ken Arkind, Kevin Buchanon, Lindle Sutton.

Not present: Kevin Eaton, Marion Cawley, Linda Tobin.

Visitors: Miranda Miller, Dina Dubois, Geoffrey Hoots

1) 7.00 pm Meeting called to order by Glynn Pellagrino.
2) Approval July minutes. John Spanier motioned, Ken Arkind seconded.
3) Public Comment- See below 6 and 7.
4) Clement Loop. We need better trail markers. Postcards for directions were recommended.
5 + 8) Shea Forest. Guest, Miranda Miller, mentioned the large maple down on the Red trail
Orange and Blue trails need a little clearing of small branches.
Glynn suggested to plan for a late summer clearing.
Dina Dubois and Miranda Miller talked about the "Fairy Walk" for children in the Shea Forest Saturday August 22. All were delighted.
6) Act 171 Ken talked about difficulties with Biofinder. Miranda Miller can/will help!
7) Green Burials. Geoffrey Hoots asked for permission to go to the select board to get an approval from the UVLT so that he can submit a management plan. Jon moved. All approved.
9) Bottles: Ken moved to send $300.00 to the Topsham Food Bank. Jon seconded. All approved.
Bottle Duty: 8/8 Dutton Voight, 8/15 Glynn, 8/22 Brad, 9/29 Ken A., 9/5 Kevin Eaton (Glynn will confirm), 9/12 Ken A.
10) Other business: Next meeting 9/14/2020.
11) Adjournment 8:40 pm by Glynn. All approved.

Respectfully,

Lindle M. Lawton-Sutton

Corinth Conservation Commission
September 14, 2020 meeting minutes

Present; Glynn Pellagrino, Marian Cawley, Jon Spanier, Kevin Eaton, Linda Tobin, Brad Wheeler. Dina DuBois (public)
Absent; Ken Arkind, Kevin Buchanan, Lindle Sutton.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by chair Glynn Pellagrino. The meeting was held outside on the town hall porch due to covid19 restrictions. Minutes of the August minutes were approved, Glynn moved the motion, Marian seconded.

First item of discussion was bottles collected at the transfer station for income for the CCC. We have had issues with people taking the bottles before we could collect them ourselves. We discussed moving the bottles to inside the storage trailer so it could be locked, but that solution is problematic because of access into the trailer. No change will be made for now. We also discussed covering the garbage cans to protect them from the weather in the winter and maybe enclosing them somehow. To be revisited.
We confirmed that $300.00 of bottle money collected from Green Up Day would be donated to the Topsham/Corinth food shelter. Which was voted on at the August meeting. Kevin Eaton will follow up with Dick Kelly (new Treasurer for the town). **Bottle duty: 9/19 Kevin E, 9/26 Kevin B, 10/3 Marian.**

Act 171 follow up. Glynn relayed a message from Ken Arkind who met with Miranda Miller Moody at the library to test out the biofinder program so we can identify properties that have important wildlife corridors and forest block connectivity value. Ken will follow up when the library is open for use.

Natural burials, Glynn spoke with Norm Collette who is on the Cemetery Commission to get an update of their activities on the issue. The Cemetery Commission is working on a by-law change to allow the possibility of natural burials at some locations in the town cemeteries. No further information about the use of the Town Forest for natural burials has developed yet as we wait to hear from the UVLT. Dina DuBois suggested that we have a town forum on the use of the Town Forest for Natural (green) burials as some people may not like the idea. All were in agreement that we should do that in the future.

FX Shea Town Forest trail work needed. Glynn suggested we might want to form a trail committee to spread the burden of keeping up with the trail work. Jon Spanier and Ken Arkind did some chainsaw work on a couple of trails where some large trees had blown down. Jon reported the trails are in need of a lot of work as there are many trees down. We set a trail work day for Saturday October 10 at 10:00 am. Glynn will post it on the LRN. We will meet at the town hall and arrange transportation to the forest. We discussed the parking issue, which is limited at the town forest. Dina mentioned that she had gotten permission to park at a residence by the entrance to the forest for the story walk, that was held in the forest by the Blake Memorial Library. The story walk went very well but Dina had to arrange to do some clearing around the entrance which had been over grown and to do some trail clearing to make sure the walk route was open. She also mentioned that the gate into the forest was open and is usually closed and that we need to post the hunting sign so that people are aware that hunting happens in the town forest.

Town Orchard: There is a need to post a sign about picking at your own risk. The apple crop this year was very light, so Ginny Barlow picked some apples and drops and left them out by the post office for people to take. A few of the trees are showing signs of disease or insect damage and may need to be replace. Mention was made of some manure run off from the farm field behind the orchard, the select board is looking in to this.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56.
Submitted by Glynn Pellagrino

Corinth Conservation Commission
November 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes
7:00 PM Via free conference call
Call in Number 1 (602) 610-2091 access code 655653

Present: Glynn Pellagrino, Kevin Buchanan, Kevin Eaton, Ken Arkind, Lindle Lawton, Jon Spanier, Bradley Wheeler, Linda Tobin and Marion Cawley

Absent: None.

1) **Call to order @ 7:05.**
2) **Agenda 'Changes'** were incorporated into the items below.
3) **Public comment**: none
4) **Act 171 Forest blocks and wildlife corridors.** After much discussion revolving around 'high priority forest corridors' (which include more than half of Corinth), it was decided to draft non-challenging education pieces for the Corinth Newsletter and the Corinth Annual Report. Ken volunteered to draft the pieces and send them around to the rest of the Committee for comments. (Annual Report deadline is around 12/20.) Ken noted that there were hundreds of home owners in these corridors and that what they decided to do with their property was up to each of them. The Committee agreed that following up with individual owners was more appropriately done after the two educational mailings were received.
5) **Transfer station:** Glynn and Ken will build two 3-trash can holders over the weekend of November 13. Lindel and Marion will try to plant trees on the berm.
6) **Bottles**: The Green Up Day $300 promise to the food shelf was finally fulfilled; and the CCC received a $713 check from the Redemption Center. Discussion centered around whether the CCC wished to pass on bottle collection to the other CCC that stole our initials. It was decided that we should maintain bottle collection, but that Glynn - also a member of the other CCC - would ask them if they wished to share a minor part of the responsibility and receipts.
7) **Bottle Collection:** Lindel 11/7; Linda 11/14 & 11/21; Kevin E. 11/28; Jon 12/5.
8) **FX Shea Town forest:** Trail Day went well. Blue trail needs chain saw work; Orange trail was a mess but is now all cleaned up. Ginny submitted a grant on the CCC's behalf for ash tree removal; if we receive the grant, it might result in some money from logging, some or all of which could be donated to the other CCC. Kevin E was still working with the Highway Department to post needed signs; and Brad was working on posting hunting dates.
9) **Other business:** Budget. It was decided to request the same as last year: $400 for Green Up Day and $200 for the Committee; and it was noted that the $200 for the Committee was denied last year.
10) **Adjournment @ 8:22.**

Note that October Minutes were not approved, so should be approved on 12/8.

Corinth Conservation Commission
December 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes (unapproved)
7:00 PM Via free conference call
Call in Number 1 (602) 610-2091 access code 655653

Present: Glynn Pellagrino, Kevin Eaton, Ken Arkind, Lindle Lawton-Sutton, Jon Spanier, Linda Tobin, Marian Cawley
Absent: Bradley Wheeler, Kevin Buchanan

1. **Call to order @ 7:05.**
2. **Approval of November and October minutes:** Glynn moved to accept the November minutes as written, and Ken seconded. Kevin E. moved to accept the October minutes, and Jon seconded. Both motions passed unanimously.
3. **Agenda Changes:** see **Other Business**.
4. **Public comment**: We received a thank you from Nancy Frost for our donation to the Corinth-Topsham New Hope Food Shelf. This contribution represented our Green-Up month bottle collection money.
5. **Act 171 Forest blocks and wildlife corridors.** Ken sent drafts of education pieces regarding "high-priority forest corridors" to the rest of the Commission for comments. These pieces will appear in the Annual Report (deadline around 12/20) and in the winter town newsletter. Ken also sent us a blurb from the Vermont Land Trust about the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor. VLT is working in cooperation with 12 to 13 other organizations to identify and protect wildlife corridors. Glynn noted that we could do something along Route 25. Lindle interjected about the Abe Jacobs property. She has been in contact with Jens and Bob Link, who are familiar with the property and tout it as part of one of the highest-priority corridors in the state. She has also spoken with the new owners of the property about Biofinder and conservation and feels that they would be receptive, as long as we take a friendly, nonthreatening approach. Ken noted that we could base the approach for the Abe Jacobs property on the model used in the Shutesville Hill project (in Stowe), a copy of which was sent to CCC members. In addition we will continue the plan for sending out a bulk mailing educating folks about Biofinder, importance of preserving wildlife corridors (and what a gem we have here in Corinth), and what their options are. We could include personal notes as needed. Glynn points out that we could perhaps help offset some of the legal costs of conserving land, but that this would require fundraising. / **Lindle will write to the new Abe Jacobs property owners and will contact Jens for help as needed.** If the new owners plan to develop the land, we might talk to them about mitigating the effects on the continuity of the corridor (which goes all the way to Fairlee). Ken's blurb about Act 171 will appear on a separate page of the Town Report, but adjacent to Glynn's blurb about the CCC. He has already submitted his newsletter piece. Jon asked about the feasibility of creating a map similar to the one in the Shutesville Hill brochure—Ken says we can get Biofinder printouts showing the corridors, forest blocks, and priorities.
6. **Bottles/Transfer Station:** Glynn, Ken, and Kevin E. spent several hours over the weekend of 11/13 building two 4-trashcan racks. Building material costs for the racks came to $183.56. That gives us room for two more trashcans, which we will purchase. **Jon moved to spend $100.00 for new cans. Glynn seconded. Kevin E. moved to approve the purchase of rack materials. Ken seconded. Kevin E. moved to approve, and Lindle seconded, Glynn's invoice for $12.99 for trash bags.** All three motions passed unanimously. Glynn will bring some baling twine to the Transfer Station to tie the covers to the cans. We also discussed putting a roof over the racks, but decided to revisit the question at next meeting. (Lindle and Marian missed their opportunity to plant trees on the berm, but will do so in the spring. The plan is to plant spruce trees (something that doesn't require much care). In addition, Lindle proposes planting sunflowers near our trailer to prevent erosion.))
7. **Bottle duty: 12/12, Glynn; 12/19, Dutton (Glynn will contact); 12/26, Ken; 1/2, Kevin E.**
8. **FX Shea Town forest:** Kevin E. talked to Joe Blodgett about Town Forest signs. These could be added to existing roadsign posts or we can purchase our own posts, two at the beginning of Coppermine Road (one for each direction) and one at the bottom of Wilson Road. The signs are $20 each and independent posts would be $27 each. **Kevin E. moved to allow an expenditure of at most $150.00 from our Town Forest money in case we do have to use separate posts (for visibility). Jon seconded. All in favor.** Kevin will order the signs with Joe B. If necessary, we will wait till spring to install them.
9. **Other business:** *Budget:* Glynn submitted to the Selectboard our request for $400 for Green Up Day and $200

for the CCC for the budget meeting. / *Town Report:* Glynn will write up the CCC blurb for this. *Corinth Community Coalition*: Glynn sent a message to Geoff Spiegel about sharing bottle revenue and responsibility. Geoff was receptive and will speak to his group about this. We are just exploring this possibility. Lindle and Marian noted that this is our only source of revenue. / *Marian is stepping down from the CCC.*

10. Adjournment @ 8:40.

Respectfully submitted, Marian Cawley