

Cornwall Conservation Commission meeting, 12/17/15
Cornwall VT Town Hall

Members present: Brian Howlett (BH), Rene Langis (RL), Mary Dodge (MD), Bethany Barry (BB), Marc Cesario (MC), Mike Sheridan (MS)
Members absent: Marc Lapin (ML)

Designated Recording Secretary: Rene Langis

Minutes from November meeting approved, along with all CCC minutes

The CCC discussed its October meeting with Jens Hilke and his suggestion of holding a Communities Values Meeting. While we felt it was a useful way to proceed, there was a concern that this type of meeting was something more appropriate to the work of the Planning Commission.

ACTION: BH will prepare a first draft summarizing the thinking behind holding such a meeting to which other CCC members will contribute.

Guided Walks:

BH has offered to lead a February walk in Cornwall Swamp under two conditions: the ground needs to be sufficiently frozen and someone with ecological and botanical expertise would co-lead the walk.

Updates:

- 1) Conservation Fund proposal. RL and MD have been leading on this.

The Select Board is still considering the Conservation Fund for the Town of Cornwall (fund) proposal, and is currently adopting guidelines for approval of expenditures from the fund.

The Planning Commission is supportive of the fund.

The CCC will continue working with the Select Board and the Planning Commission in setting up the fund in accordance with the Town Plan.

- 2) Zoning Regulations.

Marc has approached the Planning Commission to offer help with the upcoming review and update of zoning regulations, especially as regards the identification and protection of important natural resources. His participation was welcomed by the PC co-chairs.

- 3) Water quality/increasing buffers along streams and wildlife corridors.

ACTION: MD will invite Lawrence Pyne to next CCC meeting to help identify most potentially active wildlife corridors in Cornwall.

- 4) Outreach with elementary school.

Ongoing discussions with involvement of school in wildlife corridor study.

CCC will keep school informed of oncoming naturalist-led hikes for 2016. MS will continue to coordinate with the teachers to help them build CCC projects that benefit the school.

- 5) Letters to landowners. MD reports that she has sent out over 50 letters to Cornwall landowners in the 13 state-significant sites identified by the Inventory and hopes to complete all mailings by the end of the year. Several property owners have responded with thanks and expressions of interest in further engagement with CCC activities.
- 6) Subdivisions. Nothing to report. ML working to print maps from the Biodiversity Inventory to create an archive of maps at Town Hall for use in land use planning by town citizens and the Planning Commission.
- 7) Inventory shape files – are they completed? ML still on task to print maps for the Town Hall's archive of maps and for public use.
- 8) CCC written report for Town Meeting – needs to present actual expenditures for FY2014-2015 (expenses are assumed to be zero or minimal).
ACTION: MD and ML will prepare.

Town newsletter – per last CCC meeting BB will write something for the December newsletter, while RL will work on the March 2016 newsletter. Will the March newsletter come out before or after Town Meeting? If before, RL will write about the CCC-related issues to be discussed at the meeting, if after, he will write about the results of the meeting.

Meeting with other Addison County Conservation Commissions hosted by Salisbury CC is still being planned for mid to late January.

- 9) Next CCC meeting:

Thursday January 21, 12:00 to 1:30 PM at Cornwall Town Hall.