

Cornwall Conservation Commission Minutes
Meeting Thursday, January 18, 2018
1:00-2:30, Cornwall Town Hall

CC members: Brian Howlett (BH), Rene Langis (RL), Mary Dodge (MD, Chair), Bethany Barry (BB), Marc Cesario (MC), Marc Lapin (ML), Michael Sheridan (MS, recording secretary)

Minutes: Mike Sheridan and Bethany Barry

Old business:

- 1) Review Dec. 7 Sue Morse slide show. Big turnout, big success. We had about 125 people. We could have charged for refreshments – many people were surprised at the free goodies. Several CC members reported giving info to coyote hunters.
- 2) River Watch. The # of test sites monitoring the Lemon Fair watershed will increase to 13 during the 2018 and 2019 sampling season. There will be 5 sites on Beaver Brook. The sampling records levels of phosphorus, total nitrogen, E. coli bacteria, suspended solids, and turbidity. We plan to announce this at Town Meeting and ask for volunteers to help with this sampling.
- 3) Zoning laws. VT Act 171 is being implemented in 2018. It requires towns to identify important “forest blocks” and “habitat connectors” in town and regional plans. VT Dept of Fish and Wildlife will offer 3 webinars on implementing Act 171, on Jan 29, Feb 12, and March 1. Fortunately, Cornwall is well prepared for this because we’ve done the Biodiversity Inventory. MD to contact Planning Commission members about the webinar, and some CC members are planning to watch the webinar.
- 4) Discussion of wildlife priorities with Monica Przyperhart was delayed to later in the meeting.

New business:

- 1) Swamp snowshoe in late February. BH to coordinate a trek into the Cornwall Swamp, maybe Feb 24/25. CC to make announcement 2 weeks prior, through Sue Johnson’s all-Cornwall email list and Front Porch Forum. MS to contact Cornwall school. Our announcement will say that it’s ‘for all ages’ in order to get the kids too. BB offered to help with publicizing the event.

MS contacted Jen Kravitz, Cornwall School principal, the evening of 1/18/18 CC meeting. Jen is eager to have the school co-sponsor this event (which is necessary for them to participate). They have also offered to let us borrow up to 30 pair of snowshoes (!) of various sizes so that anyone who is interested but lacks their own snowshoes can come too. Lisa Beck to send MS a list of snowshoe sizes so we know how many for little kids, teens, adults.

- 2) Town meeting March 6:
 - CC/Planning Commission to announce VT Act 171, MD will contact the PC to check that they know about this. (MD not in town, who will announce?)

- Announce River Watch sampling program (RL).
 - Present a motion on the 'rights of nature' (ecological personhood) (ML)
- 3) Presentation by Monica Przyperhart, VT Fish and Wildlife, on Cornwall Ecological Priorities.

Next Meeting: Continuing discussion of wildlife CC priorities on Thursday, January 25th from 1-3 pm.