

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting
Thursday, January 26, 2017
2:00 -4:00 pm at Fire Station Meeting Room

Members present: Mary Dodge (MD), Bethany Barry (BB), Bryan Howlett (BH), Mike Sheridan (MS), Rene Langis (RL)

Also present: Jens Hilke, VT F&W

Approved Minutes from 12/14/16 meeting

Old Business

- River Watch: status of our request for additional sampling sites
Addison County River Watch Collaborative informed the CC that adding a sampling station in Cornwall is unlikely for 2017, but prospects look better for 2018-19.
- Update of Subdivision Review Procedure with DRB
The Planning Commission has received funding to assist them in updating the town's zoning regulations. ML has contacted the PC and offered to work on the Natural Resources section. Input from all CC members is welcome. Information from the Values Mapping exercise may be referenced in the new regulations.
- Dr. Bingham's Woods, Site #23
The VT Housing and Conservation Board has given its preapproval to support a conservation easement by VLT on 132 acres of the Bingham property's forest and ag land, should the current owner wish to conserve it or sell it to a conservation buyer.
- Cornwall Hiking Trail
MD and BB have approached several Cornwall residents that are interested in helping with this project. BB will share information about the initiative at Town Meeting and invite others to join this effort.
- Sue Morse Slide Show/Talk: Bobcats of Cornwall and the Champlain Valley, on April 20th at 7:00 PM (Town Hall)
CC is sponsoring this presentation. MD is working on funding (cost would be approx. \$350) She has approached the Trustees of Public Funds and will contact the school, alert them to the program and check to see if there might be help with the funding. BB will handle details around publicizing the program.

New Business

- Town Meeting (announcements, CVM display)
CC members discussed items to be covered at the 2017 Town Meeting, including Values Mapping (BH), Bobcat Slide Show/Talk (MD), hiking trail (BB), BioFinder training (MD), River Watch sampling (RL).

- Biofinder Training, co-sponsored with the Ripton Conservation Commission and VT Coverts:
MD reported that a two-session training on using BioFinder, (VT F&W's updated online mapping tool) is being planned. (Since the meeting the dates have been finalized: it will be held at the Ilsley Library on March 27th and April 3rd from 7:00-9:00 pm.) Monica Przyperhart from ANR will lead the meetings.
- Invitation to Stan Gryzb, Cornwall ACRPC rep, to discuss the natural resources section of the Regional Plan
MD will invite him to attend our next meeting and schedule it for the evening meeting of February 28 or March 1, whichever is best for him.
- Photography Project
RL mentioned that a local photographer is interested in setting up a wildlife camera on the Foote Farm. This will be an opportunity to get general wildlife corridor information for the town and add to the ongoing wildlife camera and sand tracking project that the CC and the school's started last spring.

Community Values Mapping discussion with Jens Hilke

- Jens and the CC discussed upcoming March 15 meeting with the CPC and encouraged the CC to attend. Jens recommended that CC develop a list of talking points and identify local contacts for each value identified.
- Potential talking points include:
 - the values map is an expression of a representative cross-section of Cornwall residents (63 people representing different Cornwall interest groups as well as independents citizens);
 - there is distinctive overlap of several types of values such as the 4 value groups that includes scenic, recreational, hunting-fishing, and wildlife;
 - need to celebrate the Cornwall Swamp;
 - many road segments were flagged for different values (scenic and recreation).
- Jens will send us all maps through his ftp link.

Newsletter: April (Marc C)

Date for next meeting: 7:00 pm, Feb 28th or March 1st? Agenda: review Town Meeting announcements and meet with Cornwall's Regional Planning Commission representative, Stan Gryzb

Minutes submitted by Rene Langis