

CCC Meeting Minutes February 25, 2015

Members present: Mike Sheridan, Brian Howlett, Rene Langis, and Marc Lapin

Discussion of how to proceed with developing processes to use the natural resources inventory information from Brett Engstrom and Amy Sheldon.

- Connectivity and linkage habitat
 - state has models that ML showed the others; this can be a basis for developing more that incorporates the on-the-ground info obtained by Engstrom and provided by residents
 - state model is not based on field work, so we can improve on it
- Question of who uses the map and info and at what stages in their processes
 - Cornwall Planning Commission
 - we will be working with Sarah Pelkey on this
 - develop a process based on the needs and desires of PC after we sit down with them or a subcommittee and show the materials we have (once finalized)
 - Regional Planning Commission
 - we've been contacted by Holly Noordsy and Stan Gryzbre: updates to regional maps of natural features
 - once the GIS layers are completed, Brett Engstrom can send them to Kevin Behm
 - landowners
 - may use info at various times in diverse ways
 - will need to use the info if developing/subdividing, as the PC will want to see natural resources info
- Would it be beneficial to develop an interactive version on Google Earth?
 - Charlotte has that
 - How many people would use it?
- Incorporation of natural resources and water quality protection info into revised town regulations/ordinances
 - State has a Riparian Buffer Guidance that we should look at and discuss with PC
 - Overlay districts are a popular tool for protecting different values
 - VNRC has info in their booklet and on the website

- we agreed that based on what we have received from consultants protection of continuously forested lands and of riparian areas and stream water quality are two of the overlay district priorities
 - question of details, such as how far upstream a riparian overlay district might extend
 - how to deal with land uses that degrade water quality?
 - will the town be successful in regulating stronger requirements than, for instance, NRCS demands of farmers for program participation?
 - based on VNRC study, numerous towns have more stringent protections
 - can talk with Jens Hilke of ANR about these issues
 - arrange a May meeting with Jens
- Town Meeting
 - CCC will present brief overview of consultants' work
 - Thanks to Landowners who participated by allowing consultants to conduct field visits
 - Thanks to residents who provided info on the maps hanging in Town Hall
 - Inform meeting that we will be working with the PC re: how to proceed with using the info
- Next Meeting, March 25th, 11 a.m.
 - Marty Illick of LCA will talk with us
 - Venue will be Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest