

Cornwall Conservation Commission Minutes

Wednesday, March 25th, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Present: Bethany Barry, Rene Langis, Marc Cesario, Marc Lapin, Mary Dodge, David Anderson and Marty Illick

Natural Resources Inventory

Dave Anderson and Sarah Pelky (PC), the members of the Select Board, and Stan Grzyb (Addison Co. Regional Planning Commission) have offered to read the first draft of Brett's report and provide feedback on it. John Roberts (SB), Dave and Sarah have also offered work with the CC in the completion of the Inventory.

Marty Illick from Lewis Creek Association shared information about the LCA's Natural Resource Inventory and how Charlotte's Significant Wildlife Habitat Map and Database is organized. Marty emphasized that a town's conservation goals must be clearly defined, the ecological principles which reflect these goals need to be clearly stated, and zoning and subdivision criteria and regulations for protecting significant habitat need to be clearly described. Each of these parts needs to align with the others. She left with us various materials for reference. Questions as we move forward: how are areas of highest public value and importance identified and how can the town come together to protect these resources.

The Inventory timeline was discussed. Feedback on the first draft of the Inventory Report from readers should be sent to Rene by Friday, April 10th. Comments should be in a word doc with page number references. He will assemble this information. Then, Marc L will organize the comments before sending them on to Brett. The revised report will be emailed to CC members on April 24th.

Marc C and Bethany will work on publicizing of the April 29th Forum. Ideas: April newsletter (Mary will do), Sue's email list, Front Porch Forum, Addison Independent calendar and possibly article, and sandwich board announcement at Town Hall. Mary will check with Peter McCormick about creating a publicity flyer.

We will meet again before the Forum. Date suggested was Friday, April 10th.

Other Items

CC's request to increase its membership from 5 to 7 members was approved by the Select Board (3/25/15).

Some landowners, when they gave permission for a site visit, made special requests. Some asked to go with Brett; others asked that his findings be shared with them. Brett's suggestion is that all landowners who gave permission receive follow-up information: 1) those whose property wasn't visited could be sent one letter explaining why no visitation happened, 2) those whose property was visited, but the site lacked major significance and therefore will not be included in the report, could be sent a second letter explaining this, and 3) those whose property has features that will be detailed in the Inventory Report would have this information shared with them before the Forum. Rene and Marc L will work on this.

Cornwall April newsletter will contain information about the inventory, locating vernal pools, and the CC plant swap on Green-up Day, May 2nd.

Submitted by Mary Dodge

Timeline for Completion of Inventory

Tuesday, March 31st: First Draft of Report emailed to CC members for review.

Friday, April 10: End date for CC members' comments. Noontime meeting to plan for the Forum

Friday, April 24: Revisions to Report completed, revised doc emailed to CC

Wednesday, April 29: Noontime meeting with CC, members of the Planning Commission and others to discuss report and forum; Public Forum in evening

Friday, May 8th: Inventory Report and supporting materials submitted to Town Clerk