

Cornwall Conservation Commission meeting, 4/10/15
Hillcrest Conference Room, Middlebury College

Members present: Mike Sheridan, Brian Howlett, Rene Langis, Marc Lapin, Mary Dodge,
Bethany Barry

Minutes written by Mike Sheridan

Agenda

- 1) Inventory draft
 - a. We discussed Brett Engstrom's draft report. Overall the report looks clear, well organized.
 - b. We discussed some of the terminology in the report, such as the word 'significant' to describe the conservation status of a plant species. We will ask Brett to define some of these key terms.
 - c. We discussed how the report will be used by various people and institutions once it goes public.
 - d. We decided to ask Brett to insert something into the report about the problem of poison parsnip.
 - e. We will pull some particularly descriptive paragraphs from the introduction, about the value of the natural features described in the report, for inclusion in the next town newsletter.
 - f. 22 landowners requested further information from Brett (and us) about the site visits. For some landowners, our response is that Brett didn't visit their property. Others will receive information about what Brett found. We hope to contact all the landowners so they will have the information they requested.
- 2) Marty Illick and the Charlotte model
Marty Illick from the Lewis Creek Association met with the CCC on March 25th to discuss the importance of making conservation reports clear and consistent when translated into regulations for zoning and planning. We discussed Marty's insights and the way that the Charlotte Conservation Commission has boiled their conservation data down to a single map of land use and sensitive (critical) areas.
- 3) Public forum 4/29, 7 pm, town hall
 - a. Discussed publicity strategies, the format of Brett's presentation
 - b. Refreshments: Apples from Sunrise Orchard (Mary). Barry, Brian and others offered to bring goodies.
 - c. We will look into making a videorecording of the presentation.
- 4) CCC leadership
 - a. Currently Marc Lapin and Mary Dodge are co-chairs, and it is under their leadership that the CCC has carried out the biodiversity inventory and expanded its membership (hurrah!). Both would like to relinquish this position, but no one else was eager to take over at this point. After a bit of encouragement, Mary agreed to continue as chair while the CCC discusses whether to move to a 'rotating chair' model in order to distribute the administrative work more evenly.
- 5) Next meeting
May 21, 11 am in the Hillcrest Conference Room at Middlebury College.