

Cornwall Conservation Commission meeting minutes,
Thursday, April 21, 2016
1:00- 2:15 pm, Cornwall Town Hall

CCC members: Brian Howlett (BH), Rene Langis (RL), Mary Dodge (MD), Michael Sheridan (MS, recording secretary).

The minutes from the 3/30/16 meeting were approved.

Old Business:

- 1) Paddle excursion 4/9. BH reported on the small armada that explored the clay plain forest along the Lemon Fair on a chilly Saturday morning.
- 2) Community Values Mapping project. The CCC reviewed the draft planning document about the project, and discussed the need to develop a mission statement clarifying project goals. BH to write a draft mission statement. We will hold a preliminary planning meeting on 4/27 at Town Hall with Jens Hilke (VT Dept of Fish & Wildlife) to plan for a Community Values Mapping event. We will invite representatives from the Cornwall School, the Planning Commission, the Selectboard, the Energy Committee, etc. We will send out an email reminder on 4/25.
- 3) Wildlife observations and tracking project. A tracking sandbox has been constructed on Clark Road (on land owned by MS), a second sandbox is to be constructed at the Foote Farm area, date TBA. The Cornwall School is on break, so no results to report yet.
- 4) Site #10 North Ledges area. Should we survey this area of high conservation potential that was NOT visited for the Biodiversity Inventory? We discussed strategies for securing funding to move forward with this, and to what degree we would emphasize conservation vs. recreational values. MD to work on a proposal.
- 5) Spring projects: INaturalist, Green-up Day plant swap, tour of Marc Cesario farm. Discussed, need to promote INaturalist more, publicize plant swap, establish date for MC farm tour.

New Business

- 1) Rt 74 culvert problem – MD has contacted several people in various agencies about the plunge pool at the Rte 74/Beaver Brook culvert without result. It was decided that the situation was not likely to be addressed and that the CC should not further pursue resolution of the problem at this time.
- 2) Cornwall Trails and Recreation Pamphlet (Town Forest?) – Tabled
- 3) Landowner welcome kit. Lisa Sausville from the Vermont Coverts environmental NGO presented her organization's work for landowner environmental education, mostly focusing on silviculture and land stewardship. She described the training activities that her organization puts together to inform landowners of the values of long-term commitment maintain and advance diverse wildlife habitat and healthy ecosystems. She presented the content of the Coverts welcome bag for new landowners!

- 4) Trees grant for stream bank erosion control – Currently tree grants are available through NRCS for stream bank erosion control.
- 5) Beaver Brook Walk – tabled until May meeting

Date for next meeting?

Cornwall town newsletter writing? (MS note – photos from Lemon Fair paddle? Get the Cornwall School kids to write about the wildlife tracking project?)