

Cornwall Conservation Commission meeting minutes
Monday, June 6, 2016
1:00- 3:00 pm, Cornwall Town Hall

CCC members: Marc Cesario (MC), Marc Lapin (ML) Rene Langis (RL), Mary Dodge (MD), Michael Sheridan and Bethany Barry (MS and BB, co-recording secretaries).

The minutes from the 4/21/16 meeting were approved.

Old Business:

- 1) Community Values Mapping project. The 4/27 planning event with Jens Hilke was successful, and we have participation promised from the Planning Commission and the Cornwall School. MD reported that the PC suggests a mid-late October target date for this CVM event. We discussed the idea of having a pre-event before the town-wide CVM, with Jens H facilitating a mapping exercise at the school. The kids would help to recruit parents to the CVM event. BB and MD to plan logistics. Discussed making sure that Jens H includes walking/hiking trails as 'community values' even though most are (we think) neighbor-neighbor relationships ("sure you can walk there") instead of community areas. This is a way that we can create/construct community areas.
- 2) Wildlife observations and tracking project. A tracking sandbox has been constructed on Clark Road (on land owned by MS), a second sandbox has been constructed at the Foote Farm, but this second box does not yet have a camera set up. No updates from the school; RL and MS to check with Mindy Harvey. Remind Mindy of camera available from ML, ask about posting to INaturalist.
- 3) Green-up Day plant swap. MD reported that we made \$55. Some of the plant swap participants have ideas for extending and expanding Green Up Day, with having tables for information, along with food and other festivities – a great way to bring community together!

New Business

- 1) Beaver Brook Restoration project – a Cornwall farmer reported that the area of Beaver Brook to the north of Rt 74 is now fenced off to prevent cows from getting in the water, and an effort is under way to restore vegetation to the streambanks. RL to contact Riverwatch about getting water tested at collection stations on Rt 74, Sperry Rd, and Rt 125. CC to advise and support this restoration project, with possible signage for Beaver Brook, and a school tour of area in fall?
- 2) Zoning bylaws – ML reported that he has been looking at the Cornwall zoning regulations with an eye toward strengthening their conservation aspects, esp. by including the "Significant Natural Areas" from the Inventory. CC to advise on how to include wildlife corridors, Sig Nat Areas, water quality, and habitat connectivity issues into zoning regulations. VNCR is helping to review these by-laws.
- 3) Activity plan for 2016-17 – we're working on several forms of outreach, with Guided Walks along the Beaver Brook, through the Clayplain Forest, and the North Ledges, as well as exploring more about a Cornwall Trail and Recreation Pamphlet.

Michael Sheridan and Bethany Barry