

Cornwall Conservation Commission meeting minutes,  
Thursday, June 12, 2017  
1:00- 2:15 pm, Cornwall Town Hall

CCC members: Bethany Barry (BB), Marc Cesario (MC), Rene Langis (RL), Mary Dodge (MD), Michael Sheridan (MS, recording secretary)

Old Business:

- 1) Trails. Proposal submitted for small grant to get technical advising about creating a walking trail around Douglas Pond. Awaiting August notification. Next Trails meeting is later in the month.
- 2) Zoning meeting 5/31. Several Cornwall CC members attended. We discussed ways for us to integrate what we've learned from the Biodiversity Inventory and Community Values Mapping exercise. into the planning process. Idea of including cows in pastures as being part of scenic values of Cornwall.
- 3) Outreach. MS to reach out to Cornwall School teachers and principal on ways to continue our strong work record for 2016-17 (Wildlife tracking project, Community Values Mapping exercise, bobcat presentation) for 2017-18. MS to reach out to Jen Kravitz and Mindy Harvey before school gets out.

New Business

- 1) Guided walks
  - a. Marc Cesario farm walk 7/20, 6-7:30 pm. There will also be a taco truck. MC to do publicity through Front Porch Forum, but good idea to announce it also in the CC section of the town newsletter.
  - b. Clayplain Forest walk, late August, date TBA. RL to coordinate. MS to check with school as a student activity.
- 2) Wildlife habitat. The Biodiversity Inventory was mostly botanical, but we don't have much direct evidence for wildlife areas and connectivity corridors (although we have a pretty good idea of where they are from community members' reports, the logic of how various town forest blocks connect, and the existence of the Ledges and Cornwall Swamp.) Moving beyond our current state of knowledge might be a multi-year project requiring grant money. Other ideas include building a list of bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian species in Cornwall. Possible goals for what we'd do if we had more wildlife information:
  - a. Build a wildlife sensitivity overlay to advise the Planning Commission
  - b. Propose signage for wildlife crossings at roads
  - c. Advise Road Commissioner on where to install larger culverts if useful
  - d. Outreach to landowners on how to build backyard wildlife habitats
  - e. Provide advice to landowners on how to best manage hedgerows to generally benefit wildlife and make these lines of vegetation serve as wildlife corridors.

Date for next meeting? First two weeks of August. Date TBA  
Cornwall town newsletter writing for July – BB