

Cornwall Conservation Commission (CCC) meeting, 9/13/16
Cornwall Town Hall

Members present: Mike Sheridan (MS), Mary Dodge (MD), Bethany Barry (BB), Brian Howlett (BH), Rene Langis (RL)
Sadly missed: Marc Lapin (ML), Marc Cesario (MC)

Minutes written by RL

After review, the 5/6/16 meeting minutes were approved

Old Business

- 1) CVM (Community Values Mapping) Workshop
The CVM is set to occur on Wednesday October 12, 2016, 7:00 to 9:15 PM. MD presented the CVM to the Select Board on 9/6/16. Training for facilitators will be on Wednesday, Oct. 7th at 7:00 pm. (MD, BB and MS will be facilitators if needed.) Postcards have been mailed this week to all Cornwall households. BB post a note on the Front Page Forum and CC members will follow up with members of their community to encourage them to participate. The school (k-6) will have their own CVM experience with Jens on Thursday, October 6th from 10:30-11:45 am.
- 2) Request for River Watch to include additional sampling sites in Cornwall.
The request will include installing additional stations on Beaver Brook at Sperry Road and at Rte 74 to document anticipated water quality improvements following the 2017 implementation of vegetated buffer zone and riparian setbacks where the creek crosses through a working beef farm. RL will make request to River Watch.
- 3) Update on Zoning Bylaws, work with DRB.
ML and MD will be contacting the DRB board to review the CC's role in subdivision applications. The Planning Commission is applying for a MPG to assist with writing new proposed Zoning bylaws. The application is due 10/31/2016.
- 4) Site #10 North Ledges grant. (Action on this is delayed until 2017.)
- 5) Cornwall Hiking Trails
CC members shared thoughts on the establishment of a hiking trail through Cornwall. CC members will reach out to individuals they know that were involved in the development of the MALT and TAM for guidance and lessons learned.
- 6) School Wildlife Observation Grant and Coordination with CC
MS/RL will contact teacher Mindy Harvey to complete installation of stations (i.e. Foote Farm) started last year.

New Business

- 1) Report on VT Municipal Day
BB reported on her attendance to VT Municipal Day. The concept of creation/preservation of wildlife habitat linkages among core habitat areas and the potential for its inclusion in town plan was discussed among other subjects. MD

- spoke of value of Biofinder and Vermont Atlas. MS suggested that links to Biofinder [and reminder of existence of INaturalist] be posted on the town website.
- 2) CC sponsored hikes
Potential hikes were discussed including a visit of the clayplain forest and organic farm. Visit of clayplain forest is most likely visit at this time. MD will follow up with ML to organize. Given the approach of autumn and the hunting season, it most likely will take place in 2017.
 - 3) Site #23, Dr. Bingham's woods.
This high value land is currently under probate. Its potential to become a town forest was discussed. BB will investigate potential collaboration of the VT Land Trust or Middlebury Land Trust and report back to CC at next meeting.
 - 4) Annual AVCC meeting in Fairlee
No CC members expressed intention of attending this year's meeting.
 - 5) Town Hall Conservation Display Area
MD will talk with Sue Johnson about setting out an area in the renovated Town Hall for CC announcements and news.

Newsletters: September (ML), January (MC), April (RL),

Next meeting was tentatively set for Tuesday, October 25 (2-3:30 pm), at MD's house due to Town Hall renovation.