

Cornwall Conservation Commission meeting, 11/2/17

Present: Mary Dodge (MD), Bethany Barry (BB), Rene Langis (RL), Marc Cesario (MC), Brian Howlett (BH), Michael Sheridan (MS, recording secretary)

Old business discussed:

- 1) Development Review Board meeting 10/4 about Matt Bonner's West St subdivision and development application. Marc Lapin and MD presented the CC view of the conservation issues involved, esp. the new plan for a driveway. The CC suggested that the approval of the entire major subdivision had, in part, been premised upon the boundary line adjustments to Rheaume and Cesario, as shown on the official filed mylar. The driveway change presents no substantial natural resource issue. If the boundary line adjustments are not going to happen, there could be opportunity to have the building envelope of Lot 5 changed, as that envelope and the terminal part of the driveway are in some of the more sensitive parts of the parcel.
- 2) DRB procedures. MD described the procedures the CC's is using in reviewing development applications. A team made up of ML, RL and MD review each application and submit their findings one week in advance of the DRB hearing. In January 2017, ML and MD met with DRB chairs to update a MOU about the CC's role in the Review of Subdivision and Variance Applications. Further clarification about how the CC can best communicate any concerns is needed, whether the CC sends only written advice to the DRB, or attend DRB meetings to pose questions to the applicant(s)? Discussed whether the outline of how the CC relates to the DRB will be a Cornwall by-law or a Memorandum of Understanding on file at Town Hall. Any completed standard form, the "Review Form for Subdivision Applications", will be archived by the Town Clerk as a public record. BB to reach out to other towns' Conservation Commissions to ask how they relate to their DRB.
- 3) Sue Morse slide show 12/7. At the Cornwall School 7-9 pm. Will cost \$450, at this point we have contributions from the Trustees for Public Funds, Vermont Coverts, and from the CC account (money from plant swaps, mostly). To do:
Publicity – RL, MD
Food – MC, BH
School space and set up- MS
Coordination with Sue M – MD
Greeting and Sign-In - BB
- 4) Zoning bylaws. PC is moving forward, but has not yet discussed CC recommendations. To be discussed further in Spring 2018. PC meeting on 12/6 to discuss natural resource conservation, some CC members to attend. The CC can expect more participation going forward.
- 5) Updates –
 - a. Trails Committee – nothing to report.
 - b. Clayplain guided walk with Marc Lapin – big success, we had about 40 people
 - c. Conservation activities at Cornwall School – nothing to report, MS to contact
 - d. Wildlife – there is a new state Fish&Wildlife officer, Monica Pryzperhart., for Addison County. MD and RL to reach out to identify opportunities for CC and VT F&W to collaborate on wildlife corridors.

New business:

- 6) Biodiversity Inventory. Brett Engstrom has finished the ecological data files for submission to the state. Marc Lapin has been asked to review these, to make sure they are complete.
- 7) Conservation Corner. The CC will have a bulletin board in the corner of the main meeting room in Town Hall. To discuss what to put there.
- 8) Ledges North property, new owner interested in having its ecological status inventoried. Estimate cost in it includes a written report and follow-up meeting with site residents would likely be around \$1000. The CC offers its support to the landowner, if he decides to move ahead with such a project.
- 9) Outreach: Cornwall Town newsletter column, writing duties:
 - a. January – BH
 - b. April – BB
 - c. July – RC
 - d. October – MC

Next CC meeting January 18, 1 pm Town Hall.