

Cornwall Planning Commission (CPC)
Cornwall Town Hall
May 17, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Holly Noordsy, Jamie McKenna, Jean Terwilliger, Bobbie Carnwath,
Jim Duclos

ALSO PRESENT: Eric Mortensen, Mary Dodge, Al Calzini, Conor Stinson

CALL TO ORDER: 7:05pm

QUORUM: Established.

AGENDA: Holly requested the Agenda be amended to include Connor under Announcements. Holly MOVED, Jean SECONDED, that the Agenda be approved, with the amendment as noted. *Motion passed* – (4 in favor, 0 opposed).

1. MINUTES

• *February 22, special meeting:*

Jean MOVED, Jamie SECONDED, that the **Minutes of February 22** be approved. *Motion passed* (3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions [Bobbie, Jim not present at that time]).

• *April 10, regular meeting:* Jean MOVED, Jim SECONDED, that the **Minutes of April 10** be approved. *Motion passed* (5 in favor, 0 opposed)

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

• *VLCT Spring Planning Workshop*—June 11.

• *Energy Grant*—See Old Business

• *Conor Stinson*—Conor introduced himself and explained his ties to the Town and his interest in joining the PC. Holly explained the role of the CPC and the development of the DRB and how it has benefitted the functioning of the PC.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

• *Douglas Pond*—[Mary] Holly noted that the PC is not competing for this grant, so there is no conflict in that regard. She also noted that she had conferred with Ben Marks as to the extent of the support required by the grantor, an issue the SB had grappled with as well. Ben indicated he had confirmed that the support is for planning, not developing. She then distributed copies of the three letters from the three Douglas Pond abutting property owners.

Mary described the grant being sought and how it matches the needs and goals of the Trails group. She explained how the several sub-groups evolved, each around a specific goal. The Pond group is particularly interested in this grant because it provides technical assistance with a focus on water issues, something the group anticipates will consume a large portion of their planning efforts. No money is involved, just advise and assistance in planning how to deal with the water issues. The group has received oral support, but written support is proving more difficult.

Eric—Expressed “cautious enthusiasm” and noted the main issues he has concerns with: that the woodland area west of the Pond remain undisturbed; that undesirable activities in the parking area be mitigated (close at dusk? who monitors?); that the area remain peaceful and the project kept small-scale. He also noted that the Pond is rapidly filling in and much has already become just a wetland rather than a pond. The expense of

dredging makes it likely that within a short span of years the Pond—as a pond—may not be there at all. He questioned who will supervise the area to keep it from becoming an “attractive nuisance”. Additionally, he mentioned that as a designated wetland, development of paths or trails may not be permitted.

Al’s primary issue centers on the proximity of the proposed parking area to his house and children, as well as the harmful effects on his water supply of dredging, herbicides, and other efforts to “clean up” the pond—his well already suffers at times. He foresees teen parties, drugs, other illicit behaviors such as tend to occur at other parking access lots. He also enjoys the peace and relative seclusion there, even though on the road, and fears the potential influx of traffic.

Both men noted that although they love the pond area, it is rapidly becoming a swamp.

A discussion then ensued regarding the possible increased use by Town residents, and the educational uses of the area, which the school already takes advantage of.

The PC then determined that they feel it is worth exploring the potentials, but will not commit to supporting a final project, only the initial planning phase. Jamie will write the letter.

- **Landworks**—A public workshop is to be held May 31, hosted by Landworks. The purpose is to introduce planning tools and concepts to the community, and to begin the communication process essential to the crafting of the revised by-laws. Landworks has created a poster to distribute; other possibilities for spreading the word include the newsletter, Front Porch Forum, Facebook, Town website, etc. Landworks will present the results of the workshop to the PC in June. The PC reviewed and discussed the plan for the workshop, noting several items to feed back to Landworks prior to finalizing the program’s agenda.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Covered Bridge**—Nothing new to report
- **Energy Working Group Update**—Bobbie advised that Cornwall had not been selected as one of the three towns for the grant for the ARCP program.
- **Trails Update**—Bobbie attended and reported that there were about 20 people at the meeting. The group will focus on the possibilities for use of Class 4 roads.
- **The Park**—Jamie and Holly will be meeting with Sue J. and Landworks next Tuesday to review plans that had been made, then put on hold during the Town Hall renovation.

ADJOURNMENT: Jim MOVED, Jean SECONDED, that the meeting be adjourned, 9:25pm.. Motion passed (5in favor, 0 opposed)

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Conway, Substitute Minute-Taker