

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting – Sept. 16, 2014

Cornwall Town Hall – Mary, Brian, Rene, Mike and Bethany present. Bethany acting as Recording Secretary.

- Update/brief presentation by Brett Engstrom on his fieldwork for the Town inventory – brought mussels from Beaver Brook for us for show and tell. He was very impressed with the sites, and found remnants of upland forests, with native species: maple, ash, oak and hickory, without many invasives which have been fended off by the canopy. This special area is different from other parts of Vermont. Brett also went over several other sites which would be useful for the inventory, and will submit a more detailed report for us in writing. He also found some rare species, including short-styled snakeroot. He was enthusiastic and appreciative about Cornwall!

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- Mike will email Bruce Hiland to see if the town would like Brett to add an inventory of sites along the pipeline to his work schedule. (The CC assumes that the town would contract separately with Brett for any additional work.)

-CC testimony at the September 17th Planning Commission hearing on Bonner Subdivision Application – Marc and Mary will attend.

-Update on the River Watch Presentation – The Salisbury CC has invited the Cornwall CC to join them in a discussion of the results of River Watch testing on the Lemon Fair and Otter Creek. This meeting would also offer an opportunity for both CCs to meet and talk about the work they are doing in their towns. Potluck? Brunch? Mary will follow up with River Watch coordinator, Matt Witten, and the Salisbury CC chair, Heidi Willis.

-Keeping Track Training Proposal (2015-2016) – Mary went over the possibilities of this for interested townspeople, and will start checking with Sue Morse about doing an evening slide show this fall/winter about wildlife as a way to educate and enthuse us about what's living around us in Cornwall, as well as the impact of climate change. Date to be decided.

- The CC's response to VT Gas of "funding" request was discussed. There

was a concern that any funding projects suggested could be used as an endorsement of the pipeline. Mary will draft an email to Bruce Hiland asking for more information and guidance from the Select Board and share the draft with the CC members before sending it on.

-CC submission for October Newsletter –Mary will write it up.

-The Community Forest Program grants (US Forest Service) helps fund the creation and maintenance of community forests. The deadline for the next application is 1/16/15. Mary suggested that we begin to explore the possibility of a 2016 Cornwall CFP grant. Rene took information about the September 27th program in Barre, "Forests for the People: Return of the Town Summit," and will try to attend.

Cornwall Newsletter publication dates: Early January (**Brian**), April (**Bethany**), July (**Rene**), October