

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 22, 2018
7:00-8:30 pm, Cornwall Town Hall

CC Members present: Mary Dodge (MD), Bethany Barry (BB), Mike Sheridan (MS)

Designated Recording Secretary - MS

Updates:

- 1) Norinsberg Dam. MD called the engineering firm Norinsberg has contracted to assess and/or fix the dam to offer our assistance (information about the ecological status of Beaver Brook). No response.
- 2) Backyards Woods online course at UVM. MD is enrolled and enjoying it. Discussed trying to expand it to others in the Cornwall community for 2019.
- 3) Jim Andrews slideshow/lecture (Wednesday, February 27th) & walk (Sat 5/18) on reptiles/amphibians.
Funding from the Cornwall Trustees for Public Funds for both the Andrews and Trombulak talks. \$50 for Trombulak, \$125 for Andrews. We need to raise another \$175.
MS to contact Jen Kravitz at Cornwall School with dates for Andrews events. Trombulak event already set up with school and town support.
- 4) Cornwall Conservation Brochure. Is done and looks great. We plan to ask Sue J to print 50 copies for distribution at the 11/14 Trombulak event. In the discussion of the brochure content, MS raised the issue of hunters using lead/copper bullets. The lead fragments, can remain in the entrails that hunters leave in the woods/fields, and then can be ingested by scavengers. This puts lead into the ecosystem. Should the CC bring this issue to the Cornwall hunting community and make the case for using lead-free bullets? MS to contact Moncia Przyperhart at VT F&W to ask for state guidance on this issue.
- 5) AVCC Conservation Commission Summit. MD and BB attended, highlights were discussion of climate refugees coming to Vermont and how to prepare for their arrival. There was a discussion by members of area CCs about the possibility of reclassifying Cornwall Swamp as a Class I wetland. An informational and Q&A meeting for reps from the 4 commissions will be set up. BB, BH, ML and RL have expressed interest in attending.
- 6) Lemon Fair guided walk. No updates to report.
- 7) Pushpin Map. The Bristol CC has a map with color-coded pushpins for Bristoleans to show where they've seen which wildlife. The Cornwall CC has a map in Town Hall, but our map is only bobcats. We could change the bobcat map to more species (as many as the available colors of pushpins allows?), encourage Cornwallians to post their sightings, tally up the results every year, and clear off the map for another cycle. BB and MD will work on this idea.

Discussion Items:

- 1) Steve Trombulak: wildlife habitat connectivity presentation (Nov 14th, 7 pm, Cornwall School). Discussed and approved title "Take a Walk on the Wild Side: How Animals Move through the Vermont Landscape". MS to reach out to Steve for a photo and approval of the title. RL to handle refreshments for event. MS to emcee and set up audio/video system. BB and MD to work on poster, advertise to Sue J Cornwall email list, Cornwall website, Front Porch Forum, Addy Indy calendar, etc. Everyone is asked to arrive at 6 pm to set up the room and, at the meeting's end, to assist with clean-up.
- 2) Wildlife Connectivity and Unprotected Road Crossings Initiative. Tabled until next meeting.
- 3) Recruiting new members. We will make a pitch at the Trombulak and Andrews events.

Date for next meeting: 11/29, 7 pm. MD will take on the task of supplying browned-butter dark-chocolate-chip with sea salt cookies or something equally delicious.

Town newsletter updates: October (BB. Done!), January (due December: RL), April (due March: MS), July (due June: MC)