

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting
Monday, March 11, 2019
7:00 pm, Cornwall Town Hall

CC members: Bethany Barry (BB), Marc Cesario (MC), Mary Dodge (MD), Brian Howlett (BH), Michael Sheridan (MS) Sadly missed: Rene Langis (RL)

Visitors: Katherine Branch and another Cornwall citizen

Recording Secretary: Mike Sheridan

Old/Ongoing Business:

- 1) Review of Jim Andrews talk, 2/27/19
 - a. About 40 people attended.
 - b. Next steps: promote 5/18 guided walk with Andrews via announcement on Front Porch Forum, outreach to Cornwall school
 - c. We will print some nice color photos of the species that Andrews suggested we look for (and document) in Cornwall, post them in the Town Hall Conservation Corner.
- 2) Marc Lapin has resigned from the Conservation Commission. We are saddened by this, deeply appreciative of his years of hard work to establish a foundation for the CC in the Town Plan, recruit members, facilitate our Ecological Inventory, and function as the CC liaison with the Development Review Board. We cannot overstate Marc's contributions in keeping Cornwall the biodiverse, beautiful place it is. We wish him well in his new activities! We discussed how to replace Marc's ecological knowledge and who in Cornwall might fill those very large boots. MD to reach out to some potential people who might be willing to assist in an ex-officio capacity with the CC's review of applications for the DRB.
- 3) Town Meeting. We discussed the CC's presentation at the super-efficient 3/4 Town Meeting.
- 4) Swamp Reclassification Project. The next meeting is scheduled for 3/18/19 at Cornwall Town Hall and will continue the discussion with CCs from neighboring towns and other stakeholders about a joint application to reclassify portions of the Cornwall Swamp (and its adjacent wetland areas in other towns) as a Class I wetland. As this discussion progresses, Cornwall CC's major role would be outreach to property owners in the town to inform them about what such a change would mean for their land. To begin this process, we will send postcards to all Cornwall Swamp property owners, telling them of the CC's interest in this project and asking them to get in touch with us with questions. The permitted forestry and agricultural uses for Class I wetlands are the same as for Class II wetlands. The buffer zone around the edge of the wetland would increase from 50' to 100'. (BH, MC, RL and MD are the CC reps.)
- 5) Amphibian Ecology and Road Rescue Training 3/21 (Cornwall Town Hall, 6:30 pm) Biologists from North Branch Nature Center will lead the workshop. Discussion of where to find amphibians crossing roads in Cornwall, how to prioritize where to focus our conservation efforts. MD to advertise event in Addy Indy, Front Porch Forum.

- 6) Unprotected Road Crossings. MD has been assembling a data set and annotated map of where Cornwall's URC's are and what species cross roads there. In effect, MD is ground-truthing Brett Engstrom's maps where likely wildlife crossings are. Some discussion about whether road kill data might be available. There was a preliminary discussion of what to do with this data once it is collected.
- 7) New members for CC discussed.

New Business:

- 1) Ideas for 2019 outreach: Lemon Fair walk? Hill near Swamp Road? MC on Lemon Fair watershed and sustainable agro? Another swamp walk?
- 2) MJS to do town newsletter write-up by end of March, focus on Jim Andrews talk, Swamp reclassification project, thanking Marc Lapin for his service.

Date for next meeting: April 15, 12:30 pm, Town Hall Food: MS

July Newsletter (June: MC)