

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 11, 2019  
7:00-8:30 pm, Cornwall Town Hall

CC Members present: Mary Dodge (MD), Bethany Barry (BB), Mike Sheridan (MS)  
Brian Howlett (BH), Rene Langis (RL), Sadly missed: Marc Cesario (MC), Marc Lapin  
(ML)

Designate Recording Secretary - BB

Updates:

- 1) Zoning Bylaws Hearing – BH and ML attended. Many non-residents were present and spoke about their concerns regarding Airbnb status. 1/3 of all Cornwall properties are owned by non-residents, which changes the sense of our Cornwall community. The CC overlay district was highlighted by ML, and supported by a member of the public.
- 2) CCC new page on town website - MD added links, state statute of what the CCCs do, and some of the educational events we've held over the past 2 years. Conservation ideas for homeowners. Resources. Looks great!
- 3) February 11<sup>th</sup> Swamp Reclassification meeting with Zapata Courage, our District Wetland Ecologist. There are 15,000 acres of wetlands of Otter Creek, ~~and~~ connecting several towns including Middlebury, Cornwall and Salisbury. We passed the following motion: The CCC supports the reclassification of the core conservation areas of the Cornwall portion of the Otter Creek floodplain swampland, in conjunction with other efforts by other Conservation Commissions and other interested parties.
- 4) Jim Andrews' slideshow/lecture (Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>) & walk (Sat 5/18) on reptiles/amphibians. Discussed logistics of set-up, food, etc. MD will handle funding for Jim and ask Peter McCormick for help with a poster, BB will handle publicity through FPF, Sue's Town email list, and the Addy Indy calendar. MD will contact area CCCs. RL will over see the refreshments table. Attendees will be invited to mark on a large map of the town the location of observed amphibian road crossing areas (MD). MD shared information from North Branch Nature Center and their "Amphibian Road Crossing Program." They are also offering a "Vernal Pools Monitoring Training" in Middlebury on 2/20.
- 5) Recruiting new members – discussed briefly, and will invite people at the "Slippery Creatures" event.
- 6) Town Meeting, Monday March 4<sup>th</sup>. CC will mention Jim's talk, and the Follow-Up walk in May and will have a sign-up sheet.
- 7) Wildlife Connectivity and Unprotected Road Crossings Initiative. -New information was added information to the Wildlife Road Crossing Map.

Date for next meeting: March TBD. BB will bring food.  
Town newsletter updates: April (due March: MS), July (due June: MC)