

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Mon. Dec. 9, 2019

7 – 8:30 pm

Attending Members: Mary Dodge, Katherine Branch, Rene Langis, Bethany Barry, Mike Sheridan

Old Business-

Discussed *Cornwall Walk: How Our Lands Reflect Natural and Human History*. Great turnout, with 30+ people, including kids. Craig Zontag was both informative and funny. Larry Clark was the oldest attendee, and spoke about his memories of the orchard, and crop-dusting. Parking was also across the street, at Windfall Orchards, and we had a chance to talk, connect and drink cider afterwards, and to support two local businesses – a win-win for our Cornwall community!

DRB meeting – Cheetham proposed subdivision. The room was full, with many concerned residents. MD reported on the CC's review of the application submitted to DRB on 8/24/19. The hearing will be continued at their February meeting.

Beaver Brook Properties: Next DRB hearing is scheduled for Jan. 9, 2020.

CPC – we are all in this together, so how can we work together for the best outcome for Cornwall's natural beauty and resources? Discussion continues. Next meeting: Dec. 18. SB has submitted a list of their concerns.

Swamp Reclassification Project – discussions continue on this.

Future Programs

Conserving Your Lands – (Winter) What can you do with your land? Planting native species, for birds and pollinators, wildlife habitat, soil renewal, and water protection. How do we educate about it? Discussion of benefit of conservation easements, tax abatements, and matrix. Possible presentation with ANR's Monica Przyperhart. Date TBD. More info will be in Winter Newsletter.

Migration: Welcoming Summer Birds to Cornwall- (Spring) Where do our familiar summer visitors come from and what is their route in getting here? We are working on two presentations by conservation biologist Margaret Fowle from Audubon Vermont. One would be with children at the school during the school day and the second with adults in the evening. Following the school presentation, we will help with a school-side construction project: building bird shelves. Margaret would return in May to lead an early morning bird walk.

Wildlife Road Crossing Documentation – MD is still working on funding for wildlife cameras. cameras.

Possible Winter Presentation on Bees and Beekeeping – more discussion on this.

Outreach:

Town Hall Bulletin Board – We will add books to this as well, through donations of pertinent books to the library. Reminder to residents – keep adding your bobcat sightings to the wall chart!

CC page on Cornwall Town website – MS will check for dead links and changed laws. In general, it looks great!

New Business-

January 2020 Newsletter -RL will write.

Marc Cesario has left the CCC, and we appreciated his time, knowledge and experience. Thank you, Marc, and good luck with your many farming projects!

Commission membership – if someone has a passion or interest for the land, conservation, wildlife, soil protection, and/or knowledge and background on this, please let us know – we'd love to have you join us!

Conservation Fund – Many other towns have one: Middlebury, Ripton, Monkton, Salisbury are local examples. Conservation Funds can serve many purposes that assist in the planning and preservation of the Town's natural and social resources for the continuing benefit of the Townspeople. Funds can be used to support the Town's natural and social resources, and to protect watersheds – all important issues for Cornwall as well.

Next meeting: Mon. Jan. 20 at 12:30 pm at Town Hall – KB will bring yet another tasty treat!