

**Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, March 15, 2021**  
**12:30-2:00 pm, Zoom Teleconference**

CC Members: Katherine Branch (KB), Mary Dodge (MD), Brian Howlett (BH), Mike Sheridan (MS).

Also attending: Don Burns and Paul Urband

Recording Secretary: Mike Sheridan

**Old Business:**

**CC Membership**

MD announced that Brian Howlett will not be continuing to serve on the CC. We thank him for his many years of service

We welcomed Don Burns as a prospective new CC member and will forward a request for his appointment to the Selectboard. Sharon DeHaven has also expressed her interest. Paul Urband is also interested in learning more about the CC's work. Rest of CC to reach out to people in their networks to find potential new CC members. We are allowed up to nine.

**DRB Review Representative**

Rene Langis and Marc Lapin who were members of the CC's review subgroup have left the CC, leaving MD as the sole CC member of the DRB review subcommittee at this time. DB has agreed to help with the reviews. KB volunteered to approach some people in the community with the necessary expertise who might assist.

**Conservation Fund Update**

Conservation Fund – Approved at town meeting 436 yes – 53 no, 20 abstentions. This is a very high rate of support - 86% ! showing strong support for conservation activities in Cornwall. KB reported that she is working on the specific guidelines to govern CF proposal review, approval, payment, and monitoring. Working with two people from the Selectboard, 2 from the Conservation Commission, one from the Planning Committee. Draft to be completed this spring for review by all three Town institutions. The Fund will operate on the basis of fiscal years, July-June

**Trail Camera Project**

MD provided a document outlining the project's goals and procedures for collecting wildlife data. Some discussion of how to use the data, and what criteria make evidence (such as, for example, photos of bobcats repeatedly crossing a particular road) rise to the level of 'significance' for regulation by state agencies; we decided that the purpose of the photos is not to demonstrate what is legally binding on Cornwall landowners regarding wildlife, but instead to assist the CC in its advisory role. We will also build up a town resource of what wildlife is here, which could become a presentation for the Cornwall schoolkids or a general public slideshow.

**Planning Commission Update**

Planning Commission to hold training sessions, CC members invited.

## New Business:

### Preliminary Discussion of Programming: '21-'22

MS reported on effort to recruit a 'student intern' for the CC from MUHS (= a student who could fulfil their Community Action/Service obligation for the IB program by serving on the Cornwall CC) by reaching out to MUHS Biology teacher and IB program coordinator Keith Wilkerson. Keith has announced the idea but no takers yet.

Discussed placing info about conservation easements on the CC part of the Cornwall town webpage.

Discussion of how to promote the new Conservation Fund. Build some programming. Idea of establishing a Cornwall Conservation Club, discussed whether the Conservation Fund should be for large or small projects. DB and KB will work on this idea and bring back for more discussion at next meeting.

Discussed idea of having a fall 2021 presentation on pollinators in backyard conservation, presentation on Cornwall geology. Both very TBD.

## April Newsletter: MD

Date for next meeting. Monday, April 19, 2021 (12:30-2:00)

Newsletter: April '21 (March); July '21 (June) October '21 (September); January '20 (December)