

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 16, 2021
12:30-2:00 pm

CC Members Present: Katherine Branch, Don Burns, Mary Dodge, Michael Sheridan. Sharon DeHaven absent.

Recording Secretary: Katherine

Old Business:

1. Conservation Reserve Fund. Katherine reported that most of the CRF document is loaded onto the CCC web page, and the rest will be once some formatting is completed. There was a discussion of how potential CRF applications would be handled by the CCC, and a preliminary work plan was developed. Katherine and Don will field inquiries and preliminary discussions with applicants.
2. "Get Pollinated" presentation (10/16/21) planning continues. Bethany Barry and Michael Collier will help with the setup and introduction for the presentation; Sharon will be contact person and the person to call for weather cancellation. Andrew Munkres will provide any equipment and supplies he needs. Participants will be invited to bring their own chairs. The possibility of having additional chairs available was also discussed, but not decided on.
3. Welcome Letter with CC Brochure. The new CCC brochure and letters have been printed and sent out by Sharon to four new residents that have moved to town within the past two months.
4. Outreach Programming Under Consideration:
 - a. CC Backyard Blog. The Jericho Conservation Commission has set up a backyard conservation page, similar in its content to the program the CC has been discussing. Mary will contact Jericho's Sabina Ernst for more information about the success of their effort and the possibility of using some of the resources they have referenced.
 - b. Backyard Birds will be postponed until a future date.
 - c. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park and museum tour. The Park is still open as has much to offer as a possible conservation field trip. Don has made a contact with the Park Ranger. It would be tentatively planned for the spring 2022.
5. Wildlife Trail Camera. A residence on Sunset Orchard Road off West Street is a possible location for another trail camera. Mary is looking for other locations as well—all suggestions welcome.
6. PC/SB/DRB Meeting Updates. Katie Raycroft-Meyer, a landscape architect who is employed by the Addison County Regional Planning Commission as a planner, is going to give a presentation on forest integrity at the August 18 Cornwall Planning Commission meeting. The Select Board is working on a technical solution to allow hybrid in-person/virtual meetings.

7. Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan. This is a plan to improve water quality in Lake Champlain, by improving water quality in tributaries. Regional Planning Commission contacted CCC for input from Cornwall. Don and Mary will respond to the RPC invitation, notifying them of the previously completed studies such as the Cornwall Ecological Inventory and Amy Sheldon's water quality assessment of Cornwall including Douglas Pond and Beaver Brook.
8. Douglas Pond. This topic was tabled to a future meeting.

New Business:

CC recruitment of new CC members. Strategies were discussed such as following up on the Welcome Letter with phone call reiterating the invitation to attend a CC meeting. New members are encouraged.

October Newsletter. Mike will write the CCC column. Some ideas include: an invitation to place a trail camera; that the Conservation Reserve Fund information is on the web site; welcome letter; refreshed web site; mention of the Get Pollinated program.

CCC web page discussion. Don and Mary will review the page as well as updating the resource links as needed. Links for forest integrity and flood resilience might be useful, as would more photos.

Date for Next Meeting: Monday, September 27, 2021.

Newsletter: October '21 (September-Mike Sheridan); January '22 (December); April '22 (March); July '22 (June)