

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 27, 2021
12:30-2:00 pm

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

Recording Secretary: Don

Old Business:

1. **"Get Pollinated" Presentation** (Oct. 16, 2021). Katherine has finalized draft flyer and distributed to CCC. It will be distributed for posting. She will also advertise the event on Front Porch Forum and in the Addison Independent. Mike to bring portable mic/handset to event to use if needed.
2. **CCC Backyard Project.**
 - a. Mary discussed her call with Sabina Ernst, designer of the Jericho Habitat Garden Networks. 400 views of JHGN over past couple years. Sabina would be glad to meet with CCC to discuss her experience with the JHGN.
 - b. Andrea Landsberg interested in assisting with the development of and working on backyard conservation concept. Andrea is enrolled in VT Master Naturalist program and would bring research and technical skills to the project.
 - c. Mary presented draft Backyard Conservation Project outline with Mission Statement, Timetable, Considerations and Additional Thoughts for discussion.
 - d. Katherine wondered whether Front Porch Forum could be the platform for the blog.
 - e. Don wondered whether concept should be county wide. Consensus was to start local and perhaps expand more broadly once established.
 - f. Next steps.
 - i. Mary to arrange meeting with Andrea to further discuss the project. Katherine and Don to attend.
 - ii. Mary to distribute draft Backyard Conservation Project outline to CCC for further input.
 - iii. Mary to invite Andrea to next CCC meeting.
3. **Wildlife Camera.** Mary in process of organizing data. Looking for camera sites in south and southwestern parts of Cornwall.
4. **CPC/CSB/DRB Meetings.** CSB approved obtaining videoconferencing system for Town Hall. System with 75" monitor and video bar has been chosen and ordered. Expect arrival and installation in next 30-60 days. CPC working on draft Forest Integrity section of Town Plan. Will contact CCC for its input once first draft is completed.

5. **Newsletter.** Mike distributed draft to CCC looking for some minor additional info. Will revise accordingly.

New Business:

1. **Douglas Pond.** Following up on Commission members' visits summer to the Pond, the consensus was that Douglas Pond is a natural resource that could be much more utilized by residents. While it is a project that would be worth pursuing, it would require a major commitment of time and effort. The decision was made to table this topic and focus on other projects for the time being. Will revisit in future.
2. **Conservation Reserve Fund Donation.** Recently received a \$200 donation. To post in newsletter.
3. **Vermont Backyard Woods Course** (Oct. 1 – Nov. 30). Mary has taken and recommends this course available through Vermont Urban & Community Forestry. Focus is for owners with 5-25 acres of property
4. **Association of VT Conservation Commissions Conservation Summit: Caring for the Land** (Sept. 22 – Oct 20, 2021). Katherine brought up this series of weekly seminars ending with a keynote address on Oct 20. Katherine plans to attend. CCC is a member. CCC members can enroll as members.

Date for Next Meeting: Monday, October 25, 2021 @ 12:30-2:00PM.

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