

Cornwall Conservation Commission meeting  
Monday, April 15, 2019  
12:30 pm, Cornwall Town Hall

CC members: Bethany Barry (BB), Mary Dodge (MD), Brian Howlett (BH), Michael Sheridan (MS)  
Sadly missed: Rene Langis (RL), Marc Cesario (MC)

Visitors: Katherine Branch

Recording Secretary: Bethany Barry

Delectable sourdough bread, baked and brought by Mike, with butter and honey – yum!

Old/Ongoing Business:

- 1) Review of Amphibian Ecology and Road Rescue Training – 3/21<sup>st</sup>, led by Zac Cota, from the North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier - great event!
  - a. About 25 people attended.
  - b. Both informative and inspiring, we now have an Amphibian Assistance team of interested and concerned people from both Cornwall and Middlebury. If you'd like to learn more about or report where amphibians are crossing busy roads or to join us as crossing escorts, please call or email Mary Dodge. We've crossed dozens of wood frogs, peepers, salamanders, and several toads! Cider Mill Rd. has also been identified as having a variety of amphibians, due to the many ponds. We had help from a Middlebury College student on that location, and are looking for interested neighbors along that stretch.
- 2) Swamp Reclassification Project. We're continuing with the Swamp Reclassification project, since Cornwall Swamp is an important and essential area for flood control, as well as wildlife habitat, wetland, forest and birds. We are working with the state, along with neighboring towns who share boundaries and impact. MD and RL will attend the next Select Board meeting to share information about the project.
- 3) Unprotected Road Crossings discussion continues, with MD working hard to assemble data for wildlife crossings with evidence, spreadsheet and tracking. This will be useful for town information in terms to help guide the CPC in its planning and the DRB in its review of applications.
- 4) River Watch Collaborative was tabled, as neither Rene nor Marc C. were at the meeting.

New Business:

- 5) Discussed Robarts DRB application, and concerns. MD and RL will submit review form.
- 6) Residents are invited to come out in the field with Jim Andrews to find vernal pools, and look salamander and frog eggs! Sat. May 18<sup>th</sup>. Location TBD.
- 7) Discussed other possible walks around Cornwall – maybe a farm tour?
- 8) Katherine Branch has indicated her willingness to join the CCC – hooray!

Date for next meeting: Mon. May 22, at 12:30 pm Town Hall. Food: MD

MC to do town newsletter write-up for July, due late June to Sue Johnson