

Approved June 19, 2019

CORNWALL PLANNING COMMISSION (CPC)
Regular Meeting, Cornwall Town Hall
May 15, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Conor Stinson, Jim Duclos, Josh Stearns, Don Burns

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
Quorum - established

AGENDA - Jim D. MOVED / Josh S. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as posted.
Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES

- **April 17, 2019** - Joshua S. MOVED / Jim D SECONDED a motion to approve the latest version of the minutes as posted. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - CPC members welcomed Don Burns, newly appointed by the Select Board, as a new member of the CPC.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Notice from the Town of Shoreham of a hearing of a proposed amendment to zoning regulations.
- Notice from the Town of Salisbury concerning Salisbury's enhanced energy plan.
- Information about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns Zoning and Planning Forum June 18.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

OLD BUSINESS

• **Town Plan Amendments - Flood Resiliency and Forest Fragmentation**

- The Board reaffirmed its' decision made at the last meeting to draft amendments on Flood Resiliency and Forest Fragmentation as a narrowly focused plan to come into compliance with new requirements for town plans.
- Jim D. reported that of the 3 town plans (Whiting, Leicester and Salisbury) he reviewed, only Leicester has a flood resiliency section. Jim D. read Leicester's content on flood resiliency, for the Board to consider. Conor S. suggested that the Town Plan of Weybridge has a good section of flood resiliency and Don B. brought another good example for consideration, from the Town of Chittenden.
- Don B. presented information about steps for municipalities to receive additional emergency relief funds from the State of Vermont through the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF). The Board discussed how data on these steps might be incorporated into the section on Flood Resiliency. Becoming eligible to receive such funds is not the driving force to amend the Town Plan, but may be worth incorporating.
- Jim D. said that the proposed Special Features map of Cornwall begins to address Forest Fragmentation. The State is now requiring towns to include this type of map in Town Plans and most of the data on this map came from the State. While maps must be included, policies may be included. Policy development could be added in the goal section of the Town Plan. Public involvement and input is essential to the process of developing policies pertaining to flood resiliency and forest fragmentation. Jim D. suggested that forest fragmentation is a bigger issue in Cornwall than flood resiliency.

Both are important, but flooding has historically not been a serious problem in Cornwall as it has recently in other towns in Addison County.

- **Next steps:** Conor S. will invite Andrew L'Roe from Addison County Regional Planning Commission to come to speak the the CPC on flood resiliency. If he is available to come in June, the CPC will also invite members of the Conservation Commission (CCC) and Select Board to hear what he has to say. At the July meeting, a discussion about Forest Fragmentation is planned for the agenda, and the CCC will be invited. Conor asked the CPC to review the current Town Plan with the two amendments in mind.
- **LUDR update** - Conor S. and Don B. attended the Select Board meeting on May 7. The Select Board had a special meeting on May 14 to discuss the LUDR, and will hold a hearing on the matter on May 27. Jim D. met with Ben Marks to discuss the LUDR and how it addresses issues that Jim D. as Zoning Administrator had identified as problems with the current regulations.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Cornwall Swamp Re-classification** - At the Select Board meeting on May 7, that Conor S. and Don B. attended, Zapata Courage, wetland ecologist with the ANR, presented information about a collaborative initiative to provide more protection for the 15,000 acre Otter Creek wetland complex, of which Cornwall Swamp is a part. Conor S. suggested that the Board read the minutes of this meeting for more information. Mary Dodge, Cornwall Conservation Commissioner, is on the steering committee for this initiative.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jim D. MOVED / Josh S. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the CPC