

Cornwall Conservation Commission meeting
Thursday, September 26, 2019
8:45 am – 10:00 am, Cornwall Town Hall

CC members: Mary Dodge (MD), Michael Sheridan (MS), Katherine Branch (KB), Rene Langis (RL)

Sadly missed: Marc Cesario (MC), Bethany Barry (BB), Brian Howlett (BH)

Recording Secretary: Katherine Branch

Cranberry-apricot scones, baked and brought by Mike—thanks!

Old business:

1. Swamp Reclassification Project Update. MD & RL continue to represent the Cornwall Conservation Commission on the Swamp Reclassification Steering Committee. Next steps are landowner contact and working on wetland boundaries.
2. DRB Applications: KB reported on the Beaver Brook site visit which occurred on September 9, 2019; according to DRB guidelines, no substantive questions could be posed, so the visit was primarily to see in person where the building envelopes and actual parcels were located. MD, BB & KB attended the September 4 Beaver Brook public hearing. The hearing will be continued on November 6th, at 7:00 pm at the Cornwall Town Hall. In terms of any ecological or natural resources affected by the development (if approved), the Conservation Commission can recommend mitigation; as examples only, setting up bat houses or bird boxes for swifts and flycatcher species. MD reported briefly on the Cheatham application and CCC's response.
3. Walk November 2nd: How Our Lands Reflect Natural and Human History (11/2/19, 12:30-2:30 pm at Cornwall Orchards B&B). Parking is tight at the B&B and MS offered to ask Brad Koehler of Windfall Orchards whether overflow parking could be accommodated at the Orchards [Brad has agreed to do this].
4. Future Programs. Summer Migrants: Cornwall Birds (Spring presentation and walk). Conserving Lands (Winter). MS pointed out that the Commission has been sponsoring more and more programs and suggested coming up with an overall name for these programs, as does New Haven (Armchair Naturalist Speaker Series) and Otter Creek Audubon Society (Cabin Fever Lecture Series). Members will think over possible names and discuss at the next meeting.
 - a. In terms of planning for a Conserving Lands program, RL will be attending the economics and land management session at Association of Vermont Conservation Commission's Summit on Sept. 28.
5. Outreach. VT Coverts: MD reviewed the information that VT Coverts has for new landowners of more than about 20 acres. The Commission thought it would be useful to contact larger landowners who have recently moved to town, meet them and offer them the free documents and brochures that Vermont Coverts supplies. One of the CCC

members will coordinate this effort with a second member offering backup support, along with help from Sue Johnson in identifying the new landowners.

6. Conservation Award. The CCC officially and unanimously congratulated Mary Dodge on receiving the 2019 David Clarkson Award from Vermont Coverts. This award is presented to an outstanding Coverts Cooperator who through action on their own land, within the Coverts network, and within their communities exemplifies the Coverts mission and goals.
7. Cornwall Planning Commission (CPC) Meetings. The Conservation Commission wants to strengthen our understanding of and cooperation with the work of the Planning Commission, and is hoping to have a member attend each CPC meeting if possible. CPC meetings are on the third Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall (2019 dates: October 16th, November 20th, December 18th). KB will coordinate CCC attendance at CPC meetings and should be able to attend the Oct. 16 CPC meeting.
8. School liaison: MS is about to meet with new School principal, Heather Raabe, to talk about how the CCC will complement Cornwall School's science curriculum.
9. Town Hall Conservation Bulletin Board. KB has taken a look at the bulletin board and has some ideas about reorganizing and updating it a bit.
10. CCC page on Town Website: MS will take a look at the page to see if it needs updating.
11. Next meeting. Wednesday, October 23rd (7-8:30 pm). Snack for that meeting will be provided by MD.

Newsletter: October '19 (September deadline: Katherine); January '20 (December deadline: Rene); April '20 (March deadline: Bethany); July '20 (June deadline: Mike)