

Approved June 24, 2020

CORNWALL PLANNING COMMISSION (CPC)

Regular Meeting, via Teleconference

May 20, 2020

Note: All Cornwall Planning Commission meetings will be via teleconference until further notice.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Conor Stinson, Don Burns, AJ Vasiliou, Al Thalen

ALSO PRESENT: Andrew L'Roe, Mary Dodge, Barbara Greenwood, Magna Dodge, Ben Marks, John Roberts

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.

Quorum - established

AGENDA - Don B. MOVED / AJ V. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as posted. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES

- **April 15, 2020-** Don B. MOVED /AJ V. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - none

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW - none

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

OLD BUSINESS

- **Flood Resilience draft amendment to Town Plan - progress update** - Don B. reported that he and Conor S. have had some fruitful meetings with the Select Board in fine tuning the Flood Resilience draft. The final draft is one that the Select Board is in agreement with, and final changes will be incorporated this weekend. Next step is a public hearing. Discussions about the format of a public hearing during the pandemic are ongoing. It was noted that the Development Review Board will be conducting a public hearing via Zoom for the first time, so the CPC is interested to see how that goes. AJ V. offered to draft an introduction to the Flood Resilience document and distribute for review at the next CPC meeting in June.

NEW BUSINESS

Forest Fragmentation Presentation - Andrew L'Roe, Emergency Management Planner, Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Highlights of the Presentation:

- Vermont towns are not required to have a municipal plan, but if they do, the plan must contain certain pieces (Title 24, §4382) and be adopted per Statute (Title 24, §4385) to be regionally approved.

- Having a Town Plan that has been regionally approved has benefits for Vermont towns, including eligibility for certain grants and tax credits, and smoother processes when a Town participates in hearings for Act 250 permits and Section 248 certificates.
- Act 171 states that a section on Forest Blocks be added to the Town Plan as a requirement for regional approval.
- Example from Bristol Town Plan - maps and language
- Recommendations for development of the Forest Block section in Cornwall Town Plan:
 - a. Add “Forest Block” section in Nature & Environment chapter;
 - b. Create map with Priority/Important Forest Blocks, Wildlife Habitat Connectors - start with Forest Blocks and Habitat Connectors that the ANR has already identified;
 - c. Adapt with information from Cornwall Conservation Commission, Community Values mapping project;
 - d. Add goal(s) about maintenance of forest blocks, wildlife habitat, and habitat connectors. The language of goals can be focused on identification, education, and encouragement of landowners to protect the natural resources on their land, and still meet the State requirements of this section.
- Helpful Resources - Cornwall Natural Resource Inventory, Community Values Mapping Project, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) BioFinder, the Act 71 Guide, ANR presentations on YouTube on Forest Fragmentation.
- Encouragement that Cornwall, with an active Conservation Commission, has already done significant work in identifying its’ natural resources and this work can be very useful when drafting the Forest Block section.

OTHER BUSINESS

Town Plan Review - Conor S. noted that the Planning Commission’s current membership have served for two years or less, and would benefit from gaining a more in-depth view of the current Town Plan and the recent history of municipal planning in Cornwall. As a “green” Board, all have agreed that it would be helpful to review and discuss the current Town Plan together, section by section. In preparation for the Town Plan discussion at the June meeting, the Chair asked the members to read the first section of 29 pages, through *The Economy of Cornwall Today*.

ADJOURNMENT

AJ V. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed - 3 in favor, 0 opposed (Al T. was still present, but due to technical difficulties, was unable to participate in the vote to adjourn).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the CPC