

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 23, 2020
12:30-1:30 pm, Zoom Teleconference

CC Members Present: Anna Burns (AB), Mary Dodge (MD), Rene Langis (RL), Mike Sheridan (MS).

Also present: Don Burns

Absent: Katherine Branch (KB), Brian Howlett (BH)

Designate Recording Secretary: RL

Old Business:

Zoom Conservation Panel

RL updated the commission on progress with the zoom conservation panel event. We have 3 confirmed panelists: Justus DeVries (Conservation Easement Appraiser), Bob Eisner (VLT), and Jamie Montague (MALT). The target date needs to be confirmed, but we are shooting for late October. RL would prefer a morning meeting, but will be flexible depending on panel members availability. Goal of the event will be to provide an orientation of the process for putting private land into conservation and discuss some of the options that are available. Target audience would be small to large landowners. ACTION: confirm meeting time and date, get participants to confirm.

PC/SB Work on LUDR: Overlays

MD updated the commission on the status of the LUDR. At this point, it seems likely that the town will continue with the current zoning regulations, with a few modifications. The PC is applying for a Municipal Planning Grant to help them update several sections of the 2013 Town Plan (including forest fragmentation.) Don Burns indicated that there is support for the Overlay concept, but need to be patient.

Swamp Reclassification Project

The response to CC's letters that were mailed to 36 Swamp landowners and abutters to ask if they supported its reclassification as a Class I Wetland was: 12 "no", 4 "yes," 1 "I would like more information."

Outreach: MD has had discussions with the Nature Conservancy, Fish & Wildlife, and the Town about the possible purchase and/or conservation of Swamp properties that are "Not in the Grand List."

Conservation Fund Study Group: There was a group discussion on actions to be taken between now and Town Meeting 2021. Discussion will continue next meeting

New Business:

Membership (Discussion postponed.)

Date for next meeting. Tuesday October 27 at 12:30

Newsletter: MD will draft the October '20 (September)

Other newsletters (January '20 (December); April '20 (March); July '20 (June)) are yet to be assigned.