

Approved July 21, 2021

CORNWALL PLANNING COMMISSION (CPC)

Regular Meeting, via Teleconference

June 16, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Burns, Marge Drexler, Lauren Ringey,, Drew Kervick, Chris Hodges, Conor Stinson (arrived at beginning of OLD BUSINESS)

ALSO PRESENT: Ben Marks, Mary Dodge, Katherine Branch, Andrew L'Roe

Recording of the meeting announced.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Vice-Chair Don Burns

Quorum - established

AGENDA - Marge D. MOVED / Chris H. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as modified by adding the following items in OLD BUSINESS: Update on ARPA Funds, update on Childcare Issue, update on Steering Committee. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES

- **March 17, 2021**- Lauren R. MOVED / Drew K. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes with minor changes for clarification suggested by Don B. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - none

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW - none

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

OLD BUSINESS

- **Town Plan Project - Flood Resilience** - Andrew L'Roe, Addison County Regional Planning **Commission**

Vermont Towns that have a Town Plan are now required by the State to have a section on Flood Resiliency, in order to be eligible for the Emergency Relied Assistance Fund (ERAF), in the event of an emergency in Cornwall resulting in Town expenses relevant to that emergency. The CPC began work on drafting the Flood Resilience section over a year ago. Most of the current members of the CPC were not on the Board at that time. Conor Stinson is the author of the current draft.

Andrew L'Roe presented information on the elements required in a Flood Resilience section of the Town Plan, and reviewed each part of the current draft with the CPC, including goals, policies, and recommended actions. The draft references Cornwall's Hazard Mitigation Plan, which has expired, but could easily be updated for approval by the Select Board, and is on their agenda to discuss at their next meeting in July. Mr.

L'Roe said that all the required elements are present in the current draft. It just needs some updating, and minor changes. He suggested that language could be added about new dam construction, as there are some private dams in Cornwall, and such dams may have potential to impact public roads, in the event of a flood.

- **Audit Workgroup Update** - Drew K. reported that the Audit Workgroup has been populating a table of resources. The next step is to review items to be updated and set priorities, Work session is scheduled for July 28.
- **American Rescue Plan Aid (ARPA) - update** - Ben Marks reported that Cornwall will not be getting the amount of ARPA funds that were expected. Based on expected funds totaling \$346,000, Cornwall voted to allocate \$150,000 to Maple Broadband, to assist in meeting pre-construction costs for high speed internet service. Now that decision will have to be rescinded. Instead of funds allocated for Addison County coming as a pass-through to the towns, those funds were going to the Sheriff's Department and the county courts system. As neither of these agencies could make use of ARPA funds, the funds would then have to go to the State. It was suggested by Andrew L'Roe that people write to their State legislators hat these funds come back to the Towns, as local citizens know best what is needed in their towns.
- **Childcare Issue** - Lauren R. has been in touch with Tonya Byker and they are scheduled to talk later this week regarding the lack of childcare resources in the area and what can be done about it. Lauren R. also plans to attend the next Select Board meeting in July.
- **Steering Committee update** - The Steering Committee overseeing the planning grant met recently to review the process of grant work done, and hours/funds spent. There seems to be a discrepancy between progress of grant work done and the hours/funds billed. The Town has been assured by Addison Regional Planning Commission that the project will be fully completed as written in the contract. However, Ben Marks, Don Burns, and and Conor Stinson will be speaking with Adam Lougee directly to clarify the budget and administrative issues.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Conservation Fund Discussion-** Katherine Branch presented a brief history of the Conservation Fund, since it's inception in 2012. She said the fund has a new name: Conservation Reserve Fund. She presented a document that spells out the guidelines for the fund. One further change to the document as currently written is to clarify on page two that the location of projects must be within the Town limits of Cornwall. Part A is for the Applicant. Part B specifies that process of reviewing applications and allocating funds. Consulting with the CPC is part of the process. This document needs to be adopted by the CPC and the Select Board.

Don B. MOVED / Lauren R. SECONDED a motion to adopt the guidelines for the Conservation Reserve Fund as drafted with the afore mentioned change on page two. Motion passed - 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Format for Future CPC Meetings** - Now that the Governor has ended the emergency declaration and over 80% of eligible Vermonters are vaccinated, the CPC is considering meeting in person in July, with the option of people also attending on Zoom. Conor S. will look into the possibility of meeting at the Route 30 Fire Station in July. The fire department has been successfully holding hybrid meetings for several months.

List of Action Items:

1. Conor S. will update the Flood Resilience section, with assistance from Don B.
2. Audit Workgroup Work Session July 28 to review items to be updated and set priorities.
3. Send Andrew L'Roe a copy of the guidelines for the Conservation Reserve Fund, once fully approved by the Town. He believes this would be a good model for other towns.
4. Conor S. will investigate possibility of meeting at the Fire Station on Route 30, and use their technology for hybrid meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Lauren R. MOVED / Marge D. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed - 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the CPC