

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2021

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**CORNWALL PLANNING COMMISSION (CPC)**

Regular Meeting

Cornwall Fire Station and via Teleconference

August 18, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Conor Stinson, Don Burns, Marge D., Drew Kervick, Chris Hodges

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ben Marks, Andrew L'Roe, Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Mary Dodge

Recording of the meeting announced.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Quorum - established

**AGENDA** - Marge D. MOVED / Drew K. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as posted. ***Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.***

**MINUTES**

- **July 21, 2021** - Drew K. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. ***Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** - Ben Marks reported that the county American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds will be coming to Vermont towns, following strong and effective advocacy by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Cornwall expects about \$170,000 in county ARPA funds over the next two years. Town ARPA funds in the amount of \$58,000 have been received and \$50,000 of those funds have been approved by the Town be allocated to support Maple Broadband's pre-construction work.

**CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW** - none

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - none

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Town Plan Update** -

- **Forest Fragmentation / Integrity - Presentation by Andrew L'Roe, Addison** - Mr. 'Roe presented information about Act 171, the legislation that added forest block requirements in Town Plans; defined terms such as "forest block" and "habitat connector"; outlined the steps for forest block planning; and presented maps (available using Biofinder) of Cornwall identifying highest priority forest blocks, priority forest blocks, highest priority habitat connectors, and priority habitat connectors. He said that the southern end of Snake Mountain and Cornwall Swamp are identified as highest priority forest blocks. Mr. L'Roe recommended using the Natural Resources section of the Town Plan as the place to add language to meet the new State requirements on Forest Blocks, as most towns do. He also made some recommendations about changes to the goals in the Natural Resources section, to meet State requirements while minimizing work for the CPC. He added that Cornwall is ahead of most towns in terms of planning having to do with natural resources, due to the work of the Conservation Commission. Mr. L'Roe also discussed language appropriate for the Town Plan in the goals and implementation section of Natural Resources section. Don B. said that he found minimal information from other towns about Forest Fragmentation that could be used as a model for Cornwall. Mr. L'Roe said that actually Cornwall is a leader in this work among small towns who don't have paid staff, and that Cornwall will be the model for other towns,

after approval of its updated Town Plan. He suggested that if the CPC wants to be in touch with a neighboring town on this issue, Salisbury has an active Conservation Commission.

- **Statistical Update** - Drew K. updated the Board on the work of the subgroup. It was suggested that Cornwall housing data could be obtained from the Listers.
- **Flood Resilience Draft** - is ready for presentation to Cornwall citizens
- **Public Information Meeting Preparation** - Katie R-M recommended a public information meeting as the next step for the Flood Resilience section, because that format allows for questions and answers, while a formal hearing does not. She advised getting the draft document in the hands of the public head of time and that it could be advertised in Front Porch Forum with a link to the document on the Town website. Also a memo needs to be prepared that highlights the main changes in this part of the current Town Plan. Andrew L'Roe added that maps can be used to tell a story.

#### **List of Action Items:**

1. The Board expects draft language from ACRPC on Forest Fragmentation.
2. The Board also expects draft language taken from the natural resources sections of Town Plans of Bristol and Salisbury.
3. All members are asked to review the Natural Resources section of the current Town Plan.
4. Conor S. will prepare a memo to summarize main changes in the Town Plan with the addition of information on Flood Resilience.
5. Marge D. and Drew K. will begin work on draft language about housing and population and will present an update at the next meeting.
6. All members are asked to review existing sections on housing and population in the current Town Plan.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Next meeting: September 15

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Marge K. MOVED / Drew K. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. ***Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.***

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the CPC