

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 18, 2021, 12:30-1:45 pm

Commission Members: Katherine Branch (KB), Don Burns (DB), Sharon DeHaven (SdH), Mary Dodge (MD), Mike Sheridan (MS), Andrea Landsberg (AL)

Also in attendance: Andrea Scott, Bill Roper

Recording Secretary: Mike Sheridan

Discussion Items:

- 1) Backyard Conservation Blog. AL is continuing her work on setting up the blog. She has been considering blog names, based on what is still available. Likely is "Wild Cornwall". She is working on design elements with MD, KB, DB before adding content.
- a) Addison County Wildlife Corridor Project. Invited guests Bill Roper & Andrea Scott (1:00-1:30) described their Master Naturalist Project "Spreading the Word about Wildlife Corridors in Addison County."
 - Its goal is to inform Addison County about wildlife corridors via several public workshops that educate people about connectivity habitats, at scales from a single backyard to farms and groups of properties
 - Discussion of ways to pitch these workshops to all of Addison County and build networks among interested people instead of treating towns as separate
 - Discussion of strategies for marketing and conducting the workshops, esp. by building trust and networks.

Updates/Announcements:

- 1) Conservation Reserve Fund.
 - a. 2022 Funding: A request of \$3,500 will be a line item in the Selectboard's 2022 proposed budget.
 - b. KB described the meeting with MD, Jamie Brookside (MALT) and Bill Roper (Weybridge Planning Commission) to discuss needs and strategies for raising conservation funds in the 3 towns.
- 2) PC/SB/DRB update.
 - a. PC working on the Forest Integrity section of the Town Plan update, to be reviewed by the CC in the coming months.
 - b. DB reported on his work with MD on the review of the Northern Cross Waiver Application scheduled to come before the DRB on December 1, 2021. A draft of the review is now ready to be sent to CC members for comment before its submission.
 - c. Cornwall Town Hall now has new audio-visual facilities for Zoom meetings or even hybrid Zoom/live meetings.
- 3) CC website page update.
 - a. Completed sections: mission, biodiversity, resource links

- b. Yet to be completed: expanding information beyond the Conservation Panel link, CC web guru (DB will be exploring this with Sue Johnson), AL and SdH will create a list of the CC's past activities by reviewing Cornwall newsletters.
- 4) Wildlife Trail Camera. MD is purchasing equipment needed for the Trail Cameras.
- 5) Community Pollinator Initiative. Bethany Barry has begun a "rewilding" initiative focused on building pollinator gardens in backyards and public spaces. AL mentioned the possibility of planting a Pollinator Demonstration Garden next to Town Hall. Bethany and AL are organizing an 11/21/21 Zoom presentation, "Pollinator Pathway of Addison County," with AL and a Midd College student who works on landscape design and pollinator pathways as presenters.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 16, 2021 (10:30-11:45 am)

Newsletter: January '22 (December); April '22 (March); July '22 (June), October '22 (September)