

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 15, 2021
(Zoom Meeting) 11:45 am -1:15 pm

Commission Members Present: Katherine Branch, Don Burns, Mary Dodge, Andrea Landsberg, Mike Sheridan.

Recording Secretary: Katherine Branch

Old Business:

1. Backyard Conservation Blog: Andrea has continued to research the best method for hosting this blog, including investigating no-cost templates. A meeting of the informal blog “advisory” group is scheduled for January 4, 2022 at 2 pm.
2. CC website page update.
 - a. A Guilford Conservation Commission member contacted Mary to find out how the CCC went about posting information about the Cornwall Ecological Inventory on the town website.
 - b. Conservation Reserve Fund history—Katherine will complete for review and posting.
 - c. The CCC Conservation Panel—additional information for this section still needs to be developed.
 - d. Updating the web page. Major changes to the CCC web page will continue to be made by Peter McCormick. Sue Johnson gave Don an introduction to the sorts of updates that the Town Clerk does. Sue will continue to add the CCC agendas and minutes to the Town web page.
 - e. Andrea is working on the list of CCC prior events.
 - f. Katherine plans to have the “Get Pollinated” event description finished by December 17th.
3. Funding of CC activities: Mary reviewed the funds available to the CCC and how past activities have been paid for. Money for CC events has come from participants’ donations, AVCC, Otter Creek Audubon, Vermont Coverts, the Cornwall School, and the Cornwall Trust for Public Funds. Additional yearly funding of \$250 is allocated by the Town to support membership in the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions and conference registration fees. Funding of the 2015 Cornwall Ecological Inventory came from grants awarded to the CCC from the following sources: a Municipal Planning Grant, Vermont Community Foundation, Davis Foundation, the NE Grassroots Foundation, and the Ben & Jerry’s Foundation as well as matching funds from the Town.
4. Wildlife Trail Camera: Mary reviewed the expenses from the recent purchase of equipment for the project. She said that it maybe useful to

consult with a wildlife specialist to help in the analysis of the data that the cameras have captured. She is also beginning to consider ways to share the results of the project with the town. Ideas discussed:

a. Town Hall Photo display.

b. A new iNaturalist project where residents would post their own trail camera photos, adding to the documentation from the CCC Trail Cameras.

c. A public forum or presentation, sharing the results of the project and possibly including a "how-to" segment on using cameras.

5. Northern Cross Waiver Review (by the CCC). Don reported on the DRB hearing. The CCC discussed how it might proactively inform town residents about development actions that could harm important natural resources.

6. Planning Commission update. Don described the CPC's work on the draft forest integrity section of the Town Plan. This has included input from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission and reviewing what several other Vermont towns have drafted for their forest integrity sections. The CCC will be invited to review and comment on the draft.

New Business:

Winter/Spring Programing. Mary suggested a Zoom presentation focusing on Town geology. She will explore this option.

January Newsletter ideas. Katherine volunteered to work on the Newsletter. Ideas: donations to Conservation Reserve Fund, the "Get Pollinated" summary, information on the Trail Camera project and the CC iNaturalist site. Also, possibly something as a "guest paragraph" regarding pollinator project, led by Bethany Barry.

Town Report. Mary will submit the Town Report.

Tentative Dates for Next Meetings (subject to member availability): 12:30, Tuesday, January 18th, 2022. February 15th, 2022. Andrea indicated that having a regular monthly meeting time would be helpful.

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