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CORNWALL PLANNING COMMISSION (CPC)

Regular Meeting
Cornwall Town Hall and via Teleconference
November 17, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Conor Stinson, Don Burns, Marge Drexler, Drew Kervick, Chris Hodges
ALSO PRESENT: Ben Marks

Recording of the meeting announced.
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
Quorum - established

AGENDA - Drew K. MOVED / Marge D. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as slightly amended with discussion of Forest Fragmentation as the last item on the agenda.
Motion passed - unanimously, by voice vote/show of hands.

MINUTES

- **October 20, 2021** - Marge D. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as drafted. ***Motion passed - unanimously, by voice vote/show of hands.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS - none

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW - none

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

Select Board update - Ben Marks

1. The Select Board is now engaged in the budget preparation process.
2. The new audio visual system being used tonight is working very well, has been paid for with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and will serve the Town well for years to come.
3. Steve Rheaume is the new Road Foreman for Cornwall.
4. The Vermont Department of Transportation has completed the scoping study for replacement of the bridge on Swamp Road, that connects the towns of Cornwall and Salisbury. The State has put forth three options for bridge replacement. The two towns together will need to pay 10%, and the State pays 90%. Ben M. said that no matter which option is chosen, combined insurance on the bridge carried by the two towns, is expected to cover the towns' portion. The Select Boards of Cornwall and Salisbury plan to discuss the issue first, and then there will be public meetings and hearings on the matter. The detailed scoping study has been posted to the Town website.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Statistical Update** - Drew K. and Marge D.

Drew K. met with Lister Todd Kincaid. It was a very productive discussion and Todd K. plans to send current data about housing in Cornwall to Drew K. tomorrow. Marge D. has completed her work on the population section. Katie Raycroft-Meyer reminded the Planning Commission to send along any map comments back to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission well before the grant ends in May of 2022.

- **Public Information Session Debrief** - Conor Stinson

A public information meeting was held on October 27, to present the draft on Flood Resilience for the Town Plan. In attendance were town officials and three other Cornwall citizens, who asked some good questions, for example, if consideration of dams should be included in the section. The meeting was recorded and it was suggested that a link to the recording should be posted on the Town website. It was also suggested that news about future Planning Commission information meetings and hearings be posted on Front Porch Forum, and aired on radio stations WVTM and WDEV.

- **Forest Integrity / Fragmentation** - The Board and Ben Marks discussed the section on Forest Fragmentation that Don B. has been working on. Don said that he used Andrew L'Roe's draft as the basis, and added an introduction on the benefits of forest integrity. Points of discussion included the economic benefits of forests and woods (i.e. sugaring), voluntarily conserved land in Cornwall, lands that were protected from development as conditions of major subdivision approvals, State identification of "priority blocks" and other important forest blocks, such as Bingham Woods. Chris Olson, county Forester, and John Roberts, member of the Select Board were mentioned as sources of valuable information for this section. It was agreed that next steps are to work on the draft for another month, adding information discussed tonight (action steps below), send to the Conservation Commission (CCC) by the end of the year for their review, make any changes based on CCC feedback, and then send to the Select Board.

List of Action Items:

1. Drew K. will make the information from the Listers available all.
2. Comments about the maps need to be sent to ACRPC as soon as possible and well before the deadline in May.
3. Chris H. will talk with Chris Olson and pass on any information she learns to all.
4. Conor S. will draft an outline of a narrative about conserved lands in Cornwall and send to Don B.
5. Don B. will contact John Roberts.
6. Don B. will let the CCC know that they can expect to have the Forest Integrity/Fragmentation section to review by the end of the year.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Don B. remembered that at an earlier meeting, it was suggested that a member of the Planning Commission should be on the Capital Committee. Don said he is willing to serve in that capacity. Ben M. suggested that Don follow up with Sue Johnson for more information.
- At a later date, Ben M. would like to talk with the Planning Commission about an improved design for the Town website.

Next meeting: December 15

ADJOURNMENT

Marge D. MOVED /Chris H. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. ***Motion passed - unanimously, by voice vote/show of hands.***

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the CPC