

**Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday, February 15, 2022**  
**(Zoom Meeting) 12:30-1:45 pm**

Commission Members Present: Katherine Branch, Don Burns, Mary Dodge, Andrea Landsberg, Mike Sheridan. Guest: Kristina Sargent  
Recording Secretary: Andrea Landsberg

**Old Business:**

**1. CC Blog**

- a. Setup work continues on the blog. Andrea is using a WIX site, with help being provided by a Midd College student. The goal of the blog is to support residents' conservation efforts through '1:1' conversations on topics they care about
- b. Specific areas discussed:
  - i. Blog name - suggestions include
    1. Get Wild, Go Wild, Walk on the Wild Side, Wild Conversations, Cornwall Goes Wild
    2. Decision still pending
  - ii. Blog 'topics' or 'forums'
    1. Open question: Do we need to have these at all or just see what people want to talk about?
    2. Rationale includes having us have defined topics to write posts about and for people who are interested in only one/few to be able to focus on those topics only
    3. 5 areas currently under consideration: Pollinators, Birds, Wildlife (ie: all other!), Soil Health/Composting, and Conservation News. Kristina also suggested having a seasonal topic and all agreed would be good.
    4. Decisions to finalized by sub-team
  - iii. Blog Posters
    1. Set individuals will be responsible for writing at least the first few posts for each topic area
    2. Mary has written the introductory very 1<sup>st</sup> post and the Wildlife topic
    3. Katherine will handle the pollinator topic
    4. Andrea will handle Soil Health/Composting
    5. Still looking for someone to do the Birds (!)
    6. Conservation News - suggest rotating this; maybe have one CC member handle reviewing legislative activities and write posts on this topic
    7. Mike mentioned that it would be great to have a class at Mary Hogan take on a topic and write a/some post(s). All agreed and he will follow up with this idea and report back
- c. Andrea demonstrated how 'conversations can happen on the site via the 'comment' function. Ideally the 'topic poster' monitors comments originating from their posts to answer any questions that readers might pose (and also to comment back to encourage on-going participation)

**2. Town Meeting:** February 23<sup>rd</sup> Informational meeting in person and via Zoom Meeting 7pm

- a. The budget will be voted on "as a whole," and not line-by-line, therefore CRF funding does not need to be individually addressed unless a question is asked from the floor.

- b. Mary and Don will represent CC and answer any questions about the CC that might arise, most likely about the Conservation Reserve Fund. Potential questions to be ready to answer include:
  - i. Current fund balance
  - ii. Additional donations that have come in outside the \$3,500 town budget funding
- c. An announcement about Will Amidon's talk will be made during public comments at end of meeting

### 3. **CC website page** - Update

- a. Updates submitted to date still pending web editor completion
- b. A new "Land Conservation" heading will include "Conservation Funding" from the CRF and the '20 Panel.
- c. List of prior CC activities compiled by Andrea and reviewed
  - i. Discussed that these are good as reference for current and new CC members
  - ii. Want to post on our webpage also to share with Town what the CC does
    - 1. Discussed how these should be posted - as the running table (vertical years and 'areas' across the top) or potentially as a more visual representation - TBD
    - 2. Andrea will explore other way(s) to present on webpage and present back to group

### 4. **Upcoming Talk confirmed:** Will Amidon "Cornwall Rocks: Exploring Cornwall's Landscape and Geology" (March 22, 2022, Zoom-7:00 pm) - Mark your calendars!!

### 5. **Updates:**

- a. Current Use Legislation has it left the VT House committee. It proposes changes that would add a forever-wild forestland eligibility category to those for working Forest and Ag land. Mary noted that while landowners pay lower taxes if their property enrolled in CU program, the State pays the town the difference so the towns do not see a drop in tax revenue
- b. AVCC - new edition of Handbook available. CC members will review in advance of next meeting so we can discuss if there is anything new of use or that we could be doing
- c. PC/SB - Don shared that the PC will discuss ours and others comments to the Forest Integrity new section for the Town Plan at their meeting on Feb 16. Goal is to update based on comments and send out another draft to relevant groups. The PC hopes this can be the draft to be reviewed at a Public Meeting next month
- d. Mary reminded everyone about the Weybridge Connectivity Workshops coming up this month with the first one being on how to use Biofinder and ANR Atlas. Need to register to attend

Next Meetings: **March 15, 2022 (12:30-1:45)**, April 19, 2022 (12:30-1:45)

Newsletter: April '22 (March); July '22 (June), October '22 (September), January '23 (December)