

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Draft
Wednesday March 16, 2022
(Zoom Meeting) 12:30-1:45 pm

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

Recording Secretary: Mike Sheridan

Mary welcomed Emily May as a guest, and as a potential Conservation Commission member.

Old Business:

- 1) CC Blog. Andrea had sent out a Blog status summary and posting tips prior to the meeting. Mike will review before she sends them to the Cornwall school teachers. Kristina work with Andrea on the blog. Blog posts can also be put up on Instagram and Facebook, and Kristina has the skills to do this. A Midd College student has been working on the blog, helping with setting it up. There is the potential to have Mary Hogan elementary school students do some blog posting, and Mike is following up with that possibility. Kristina has set up a “generic” email for the CCC, so that individual email addresses do not have to be used—it will be posted on the blog.
- 2) March Meetings and events. Amphibian Ecology And Road Rescue Training (March 15th). Several CCC members attended this meeting which gave background information on amphibian crossings, how to safely help amphibians cross, and how to sign-up. The CCC will help coordinate amphibian crossings in Cornwall, including posting on Front Porch Forum about be aware that teams might be out on rainy nights.

Cornwall Rocks! Exploring Cornwall's Landscape and Geology
Tuesday, March 22nd (7:00-8:00) <https://tinyurl.com/cornwallrocks>
Mike to be emcee. Everyone asked to help in publicizing event.

PC Hearing on Forest Integrity, Population and Housing Revisions to the Town Plan. Hybrid Meeting - Wednesday, March 23rd (7:00)
ID: 304 948 3370 Passcode: 968361 Everyone is invited to attend and make comments. Mary said that written comments that accompany oral suggestions can also be useful.

Updates:

- a. PC/SB. Katherine is now on the PC; Don is on the SB and says that the SB expressed interest in a pollinator planter/flowerbox at Town Hall.
- b. CC website page. Still lag between when updates are submitted and when they are added to the CC web page.

- c. Trail Camera. Mary said that a new iNaturalist site (*Cornwall Vermont Selected Wildlife Observations*) has been set up to archive the observations of fur-bearing predators from the project's trail cameras. Residents can also add their photos to the site, if they have been taken after the project started in March of 2020.

New Business:

- 1) Conservation Commission membership. Kristina was welcomed as a new member and shared some ideas about her CC interests.
- 2) Welcomed prospective member Emily May. Emily may be able to help with web page maintenance.
- 3) Pollinator Pathways of Addison County. The discussion focused on the Pathways activities and sponsorship. Andrea said that, in terms of financial assistance for speakers, those costs had been covered. Regarding sponsorship, Katherine suggested that having information about an organization before deciding on sponsorship is important and suggested the CC develop a short list of requested information from the sponsor would be helpful. The next PPAC event is *The Green Corridor: Improving Biodiversity in Backyards and Protected Lands* - March 24th (7-8:30)
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/planting-for-pollinators-in-vermont-tickets-277184866397>.
- 4) AVCC Handbook Discussion. Katherine connected with the importance of fun in CC and CC activities.
 - a. Section 1: Mary: diversity of possible CC activities
 - b. Section 2: Andrea: term limits on CC membership? Incompatible Offices? Diversity of CC membership?
 - c. Section 3: Don: discussion of rules and process
 - d. Section 4: General agreement value of a future discussion of CC priorities and planning

Andrea volunteered to write the April newsletter.

Next Meeting: Friday, April 22, 2022 (12:30-1:45): to be hybrid with Zoom and in person

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

Note from KB – when AL writes the blurb for the April newsletter she can freely borrow material from the 3 potential blog posts that KB sent to MD and AL