

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 25, 2022
12:30-2:00 pm

CCC Members Present: Katherine Branch, Don Burns, Mary Dodge, Andrea Landsberg, Michael Sheridan and Kristina Sargent.

Recording Secretary: Don Burns

Old Business:

1. **Cornwall Swamp Clean Up (Green Up Day).** Successful. Fun. Should do it every year. Consider including clean up along Swamp Road with parking area next year.
2. **CCC Website Page Update – Land Conservation Interviews.**
 - a. Review of Katherine’s proposed interview questions.
 - b. Goal is to find out why people conserve their land and share the stories.
 - c. Mike brought up and described concept of “informed consent”.
 - d. Interviewer should be prepared to answer questions regarding the use and maintenance of data that could come from an interview.
 - e. Phone call vs in-person interviews?
 - f. Mike reported that a student of his interviewed farmers in Addison County, and found that they decide to conserve their land based on word of mouth from other farmers, not based on VLT publications or VLT staff contacts. Therefore, events like ice cream socials or other social gatherings, might be effective.
 - g. Interviews with people willing to be identified could be shared on website/newsletter as a story. Information from interviews with people preferring anonymity could be included in an annual review of conservation projects in Cornwall.
3. **CCC Blog**
 - a. Blog is online but domain needs to be renamed.
 - b. Links with Facebook & Instagram.
 - c. Andrea & Kristina will arrange introductory posting.
 - d. Plan to go live by end of June.
 - e. Posts initially once per week with possibly two per week in the future.
 - f. Five posts are ready.
4. **CPC/CSB/DRB Meetings**
 - a. CPC
 - i. Municipal Planning Grant deadline on May 31. Completion of project with draft Town Plan update submitted as part of project closeout.
 - ii. Future public input.

1. Additional Public Information Meeting.
 2. Planning Commission Public Hearing.
 3. Select Board Public Hearing.
- b. CSB
 - i. See Emerald Ash Borer discussion below.
 - c. DRB
 - i. See MacFadden Sketch Plan discussion below.
5. **Cornwall Swamp Walk & Brochure/Map**
- a. Swamp walk scheduled for September 8 @ 5:30-7:00PM.
 - b. Brochure mock-up with natural history, cultural history and map in process.
 - c. ANR Staff to conduct walk. 30 person max.
6. **Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Park Visit**
- a. Tentatively scheduled for October 1 or 2.
 - b. AVCC Summit Meeting tentatively scheduled for second week of October. Need to confirm there will be no conflict.
 - c. In process of reaching out to Kelly Sczomak, NPS Lead Ranger- Interpretation to discuss concept of visit.
 - d. Katherine and Don to conduct scoping visit on July 7 and then further develop concept for CCC review.
7. **Emerald Ash Borer Presentation to CSB**
- a. Andrea to give presentation at June 7 CSB meeting.
 - b. To propose survey along Town roads.
 - c. Town liability and hazard mitigation issue, not conservation issue.
 - d. Potential bio-control solutions, but under development and long-term.
 - e. CSB initial response: open to survey but need more info (ex. Who does it?, Costs, etc.)

New Business:

1. **Newsletter & Content Suggestions**
 - a. Katherine to put together July newsletter.
 - b. Kristina to put together October newsletter.
2. **ANR Farm Trails**
 - a. Amy Alfieri of ANR said the department is not in favor of developing a walking trail in the Cornwall Swamp.
 - b. She suggested other options for public walking trails and bird watching.
3. **DRB – MacFadden Application**
 - a. Applicant has submitted revised Sketch Plan decreasing the number of subdivision lots from four to three, shifting it from a major to minor subdivision.
 - b. Likely to have less impact on wildlife connectivity habitat.
 - c. Next DRB meeting on June 1 to review revised Sketch Plan.

4. **Misc.**

- a. Seeing the Bigger Picture: The Vermont ANR Atlas for Landowners: On-line workshop via Zoom scheduled for June 8 @ 7:00-8:00PM and lead by Monica Przyperhart.
- b. BioFinder: Consider having Jens Hilke talk to the CCC about future ANR mapping and effectiveness of current mapping. How to better understand wildlife connectivity. Discuss options. Nature Conservancy and VLT property holdings not on BioFinder.
- c. Cornwall Trails Committee History: Conor Stinson of CPC interested in background. Katherine and Mary to assist.

5. **AVC Handbook**

- a. Importance of fun in CCC and CCC activities.
 - i. Jens Hilke Zoom Webinar – *Reinvigorating Conservation Commissions*.
 - 1. Orange County example
 - a. Walks, talks & food.
 - b. Establishing “connection to place” to bridge differing perspectives conservation and environment.
 - c. Connecting with people and sharing values.
- b. Diversity of CCC Activities
 - i. Recent Activities: Cornwall Swamp Clean Up, Will Amidon Geology Talk, Amphibian Crossings,....
 - ii. Future Activities: Cornwall Swamp Walk, CCC Blog, Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Park Visit,....

Date for Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 @ 12:30-2:00PM. Zoom

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