

Approved May 18, 2022

CORNWALL PLANNING COMMISSION (CPC)
Regular Meeting
Cornwall Town Hall and via Teleconference
April 13, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Conor Stinson, Don Burns, Marge Drexler, Drew Kervick, Katherine Branch, Lauren Ringey

ALSO PRESENT: Ben Marks

Recording of the meeting announced.

CALL TO ORDER - the meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

QUORUM - established

AGENDA - Marge D. MOVED / Lauren R. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as posted. **Motion passed** - 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES

March 16, 2022 - Katherine B. MOVED / Lauren R. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. **Motion passed** - 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - none

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- From Marc Lapin, received detailed comments of a technical nature (4 pages in length) on the Forest Integrity working draft. All agreed that it would be both efficient and appropriate to allow Marc L. to edit the Forest Integrity section based on his technical comments.
- Email from Sarah Pelkey concerning recent recreational activity on North Bingham Street. It was agreed that Sarah P.'s concerns bring up important issues to discuss in terms of planning.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ben Marks Select Board update:

- Richard Clark, President and CEO of OTELCO, made a presentation to the Select Board on April 5, during which he asked for Town support for his intended application to the Vermont Broadband Board, for a grant to finish building a fiber network in Cornwall. The Select Board is taking it under consideration. Cornwall is a member of the Communication Union District (CUD) serving Cornwall, called Maple Broadband. In 2021, Cornwall allocated \$50,000 to Maple Broadband in support of its initiative to build a fiber network in Cornwall and all its member towns.
- On April 7, Cornwall and Salisbury held a joint well attended meeting of the citizens of both towns, during which information about 3 options for replacing the Swamp Road bridge were presented. This week, a letter will go out to all active registered voters of both towns, with a return postcard to fill out, indicating which of the 3 choices they prefer. Voters choices will be taken under consideration by both Select Boards, who will jointly make the final decision.
- The recent email from Sarah Pelkey was also addressed to the Select Board. Another issue she raised concerned parking near the Fire Station on North Bingham Street, that presents a

safety concern and, because the Fire Station land is only the footprint of the building, the cars are actually parked on Sarah P.'s property.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Town Plan Education Section** - Drew K. presented the approach he took, the work he did on each subsection, the resources he used, and discussed the comments he received from CPC members. Because this section was significantly out of date because of the transfer of the school property and governance to the district, he had to do a re-write. His main resource was the school principal and she was very responsive and helpful. Drew K. said that one surprise of his research was that the data shows that in the last 20 years, Cornwall School enrollment has been fairly stable. All agreed that the language describing the school district governance structure should be presented in neutral terms. It was noted that if the school is no longer used for educational purposes, the school building ownership reverts back to the Town.
- **Town Plan Economy Section** - Conor S. presented the approach he took, the work he did, and resources used. Conor pointed out that only 3 different industries comprise 72% of the businesses in Cornwall. All agreed that it is important to recognize a range of incomes among those who live in Cornwall, highlight the current land use tension, and mention the issue of affordability. It was agreed not to have a list of businesses in the Town Plan. A list of businesses in Cornwall would be helpful to have, but such a list will need to be updated more often than the Town Plan.
- **Town Plan Goals and Policies - Don B. and Marge D.** - tabled for a work session on April 28

NEW BUSINESS

- **Updates incorporated into Town Plan** - Katie Raycroft - Myer has provided a draft version of the work done by the CPC to date that she has incorporated into the Town Plan.
- **Next regular meeting** - May 18
- **Work session to discuss Goals and Policies** - April 28

ACTION ITEMS

- April 28 work session. Drew K. to send comments, Conor S., Katherine B., Lauren R. and Don B. to attend in person. Marge D. has contributed to the discussion already and will be out of town for the work session.
- Drew K. welcomes any additional comments on the Educational Section
- Lauren R. will work with Conor S. to on language relevant to "a farmer's right to farm"

ADJOURNMENT

Katherine B MOVED / Lauren R SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passed** - 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.
Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the CPC