

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 14, 2022 (7:00-8:30 pm)
Town Hall and Zoom Option

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89192381948?pwd=WnNWMGNrQTBjNHhB0ejFWc1R6OXNaZz09>

CCC Members: Michael Sheridan, Katherine Branch, Don Burns, Mary Dodge, Kristina Sargent, and Andrea Landsberg (chairing this meeting)

Also present: Olivia Audet (Cornwall resident and student at UNH) joined meeting as a part of her class.

Recording Secretary: Kristina Sargent

Old Business:

1. Connectivity Map presentation to PC; review additional documents to share
 - o Mary, Don, Andrea, Katherine, Mary attended Town Plan open meeting & presentation of our map proposal; PC seemed receptive
 - o CC's submitted write up about the need to include Habitat Blocks language and map in Plan and a follow-up email to PC about this request.
 - o Mary will attend the public comment at 2/15/23 CPC meeting to answer questions about the FAQ and draft text that was shared with the PC as well as recommending a change language in Plan Implementation (H3) section.
2. Update on next event – Extinct Mammals program
 - o Going forward! Thursday March 9th, 6:30-7:30 (& beyond for those who don't need to go to bed) at Elementary School
 - o Friends of Cornwall are providing refreshments
 - o Approved \$150 grant from Gilligan Fund for Alexis' honorarium
 - o Open to public, primary audience school kids but also community
 - o Mike needs help setting up if coming, 6pm
 - o Advertising: FPF, Sue email, school newsletter, poster at Town Hall and School, easel in Town Hall
3. Invasive Management Day – review draft letter
 - o Andrea wrote a draft letter after contacting Bernie Paquette, who originated the request
 - o Don asked about significance of this, history of state designated days
 - o Agreed to send to Bernie as a part of a large group, but also "our" reps, Ruth Hardy and Chris Bray
 - o General agreement with sending letter of support, Andrea will revise for further CC comment and then submit
4. Herbicide treatment of Swamp adjacent land – discuss next steps (Kristina)
 - o Kristina will ping Amy Alfieri (F&W main contact) at end of month to ask about updates, add question about when application would be
 - o Do we want to involve Town, TNC, others? Decide to wait for now to get more information
5. Suggestions for Town Website Update
 - o Mary liked Hinesburg's website

- o Andrea: Middlebury has good info, but not attractive
 - o Don mentioned Shoreham and Salisbury
 - o Katherine: usability is most important thing, currently docs are not easy to find, and not in same place or comprehensive, many are “hidden”; logical organization prioritized over looks, **needs to be updated frequently**
 - o Don asked about update interval: some information needs to be posted frequently (daily), other things not. It depends on the content and the purpose for posting
 - o Katherine noted importance of keeping in close contact with developer
 - Don asked her about interest in helping with this
6. Amphibian crossing
- o Kristi Tolgyesi will work with Mary. Goal is to make preparation and scheduling for monitoring this year easier which will, they hope, support the participation of more people
 - o 1 hour logistics training at Mary’s house & site visit tentatively scheduled for 2pm March 12 th
 - o 8 responses from College after Mike’s email. Kristi will coordinate the college students. Alexis M wants to bring her class out for a site visit. Mary will contact her
7. Joint meeting with Salisbury and Weybridge CCs (Katherine)
- o Scheduled for Sunday, March 30th at 12:30 at the Pitch Pine trailhead in Salisbury
8. Ledges property update
- o 12 acre property, house site on top of the Ledges (off of Rte 125), is for sale
 - o Mary and Katherine, along with Marc Lapin, have contacted various conserving agencies to determine their potential interest in conserving the property. TNC says it is not significant enough, VLT says not big enough, MALT not able to take anything new on right now
 - o No clear path forward to protect the property from development at this point. Among the impediments is the absence of a conserving agency willing to protect small properties like this one
 - o Don suggested walking the property would give the CC a clearer idea of the site’s ecological values
9. Reports from Select Board, PC, DRB
- o Select Board: AARPA funds potentially available for education programming- environmental after school program example
 - **all ARPA funds must be obligated by 12/31/2024 and expended by 12/31/2026.**
 - Don encourage members to review the town website link for more information
 - o DRB- nothing to report
 - o PC- see item 1
10. CCC will request mailbox at Town Hall

New Business:

- Town Meeting, Saturday, March 4 10AM

- o CCC members will announce spring events: Amphibians, Extinct Mammals, tools, green up day/EAB tabling
 - Select Chair for March meeting
 - o March 14 Don chairing, Andrea doing minutes
 - o Mary let Sue know that future meetings are set for the second Tuesday of the month, 7-8:30 pm
 - Mary suggested new event of carbon sinks and sequestration
- Newsletter: April '23 (March-Kristina), July '23 (June-Katherine), October '23 (September – Mike)