

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 9, 2023 (7:00-8:30 pm)
Cornwall Town Hall & Zoom

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

March minutes approved unanimously.

Old Business

1. ARPA funds. The group discussed several ideas about projects that the CCC might propose, several of which might involve cooperating with other town groups such as the Recreation Committee, and potentially the elementary school. Andrea and Mike will contact the Recreation Committee to further discuss.

New Business

1. Cornwall Habitat Blocks and Connectors Inventory: Identifying Primary Travel Corridors Proposal. Mary distributed an outline of potential steps, modelled on the steps used for the 2015 Cornwall Ecological Inventory. A project of this type would likely require the services of a consultant. The next step will be to bring in an expert to help the Conservation Commission refine the proposal. Mary will contact a conservation biologist, or other qualified scientist, to come talk to the CCC.
2. Storage has been used up on the blog, for the free version of the program. To get additional storage on the current platform, there would be a fee. Andrea will investigate whether the current content can be easily archived, and the option of using Instagram and Facebook (which we already post to) exclusively instead of the blog will be considered.
3. Choose chair for next meeting and recording secretary. The rotation is appended at the bottom of the minutes.
4. Content for next newsletter. Invasive tools (with photo), advertise firefly with location, EAB, Swamp Green-up, Weybridge-Salisbury-Cornwall informal meet-up of conservation commission members on May 7th. CC members will email Katherine with any other ideas or photos.

Updates, reports and announcements.

1. Reports from SB, DRB and CPC. The Planning Commission is waiting to see if the Select Board will have any substantive questions about the Town Plan. The Select Board has tentatively scheduled Tuesday, June 6th for the S.B. public hearing on the Town Plan. Mary and Mike reported briefly on the April 26th special meeting between the SB, CPC and CCC (Mary/Mike)
2. Green-Up Day, Saturday, May 6. The Swamp Road Parking lot cleanup took place from 10 a.m to noon, with seven people filling a trailer full of trash. Andrea staffed the Emerald Ash Borer table at Green-Up day drop-off at the school and spoke with about 15 people.
3. Mary will send a letter to the owner of a Ledges property for sale.

4. Kristina distributed a series of email exchanges with Vermont Fish and Wildlife about the swamp meadow management plan.
5. Kristina solicited final input for the Swamp brochure.
6. Alicia Daniel and Andrea will determine the date for the “Our Better Nature” program.
7. Pitch Pine get-together w/Salisbury & Weybridge Conservation Commissions. This get-together took place on Sunday, May 7th 12:30-2:30 at the Pitch Pine Trail in Salisbury, with 3 Cornwall CC, 2 Salisbury CC and 4 Weybridge CC members present. Potential areas of cooperation were brainstormed, with consensus around a county-wide conservation commission summit/sharing session. Katherine will continue to follow up.
8. Katherine and Mary met with Simon Schreier of MALT on April 17th about a potential event/program highlighting conservation and/or alternatives to conservation. Katherine followed up with an email about a week later summarizing the conversation and suggesting a possible alternative of a “summit/workshop” with a limited number of conservation leaders in the county.
9. Proposal for possible carbon sequestration program. Tabled until next meeting.
10. Firefly event on July 1st. Andrea is the new contact person. Location will be the south meadow at Andrea Landsberg’s property.
11. Community Forest and Open Space Program ongoing, Kristina and Andrea had nothing to report at this time.

Newsletter: April '23 (Kristina), July '22 (June-Katherine), October '23 (September-Mike)

Rotation of chairmanship; chair will take minutes the month following the meeting they chair:

Alphabetical, starting with Branch (but accounting for Kristina chairing in May and a subsequent “leave” for Kristina).

- a. Branch (April)
- b. Sargent (May)
- c. Branch (June 13; Mike recording secretary)
- d. Burns (July 11)
- e. Dodge (August 8)
- f. Landsberg (September 12)
- g. Sheridan (October 10)
- h. Branch (November 14)
- i. Burns (December 12)
- j. Dodge (January 9, '24)
- k. Landsberg (February 13, '24)
- l. Sargeant (March 12, '24)