

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Agenda
Tuesday September 12, 2023 (7:00-8:30 pm)
Cornwall Town Hall

CCC Members present: Don Burns, Mary Dodge, and Michael Sheridan.

Meeting Chair: Don Burns Recording Secretary: Mary Dodge Meeting recorded.

Minutes from August 8, 2023 approved.

Old Business

1. Inventory of Cornwall Habitat Connectivity Blocks. Mary reported on fund raising efforts to date. Emails were sent out to more than 30 residents and grant requests were submitted to Trust for Public Funds, ARPA and S&C Harvest Foundation. Money has been raised to fund Phase I of the project. There was a long discussion of the draft letter (RFP) inviting consultants to conduct the Inventory. It was agreed that some modifications were needed before the letter was ready to be sent out. The deadline for the consultants' response is October 1st. The Inventory Committee as well (as well as any other interested CCC members) will review applications and make a recommendation at October 10th CCC meeting for the hiring of the consultant.
2. Projects for ARPA funding. Mike continues to wait on an indication of interest from the school.
3. Review and discussion of blog options. (Tabled.)

New Business

1. Winter Wildlife Tracking Workshops. Mary suggested that 2 tracking/camera trapping workshops be scheduled for January, led by the Inventory consultant. The first would be a general introduction to wildlife observation techniques, while the following session would primarily be for people who would like to help with inventory data collection. Both would take place during weekends and be inside/outside events. No decision was made about the workshops.

Updates, Reports and Announcements

1. Reports from SB, DRB and CPC. Don reported the Addison County Regional Planning Commission will recommend approval of the Cornwall Town Plan at their September 13th meeting.
2. Alicia Daniel: Reading the Landscape. Date not yet set. Looking at late October or Spring '24 (Tabled.)
3. Status of herbicide treatment and planting of Swamp adjacent land. Kristina wrote that soy was planted and is now growing in the field. No parsnip there, just along the sides and parking lot where they didn't spray. (This information has been added post meeting.)

4. The impact of Otter Creek Watershed (OCW) Insect Control District pesticide spraying on nearby bat colonies in Cornwall. (Mike still has not heard back from his inquiry to F&W.)
5. CC Website Update (Tabled.)
6. Long-term Transfer Planning for Forest Landowner. (Tabled.)
7. Information Meeting with Ledges property owners. Meeting most likely will be scheduled for January or March.
8. Cornwall Planning Commission invitation (Wednesday, September 20th). Don stressed the importance of CCC members attending. The CCC '22-'23 Work Chart will be distributed to the PC members. Mike suggested that we chose just 3 items from the Plan to briefly present at the Meeting.
9. Community Science Kits. Don described this program created and run by Fletcher Free Library in Burlington. We felt, for the kits to be successful, adult leadership and supportive activities would be needed. Don will check to see if the Cornwall Library might have interest in following up with this. Mike will check with the school.

Save the Date: Addison County Conservation Commission Summit: Connecting and Collaborating. Saturday, November 4th (8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) at Bristol's Holley Hall. Katherine requested that the CCC contribute \$100 to help cover the cost of refreshments and incidentals. There was unanimous agreement to provide this support.

Newsletter contributions should be sent to Mike by Tuesday, September 19th. Mike's list includes Alicia Daniels walk/talk, the Habitat Connectivity Block Inventory funding request and the mention of a possible January tracking workshop. Mary will send Mike a paragraph about the Inventory. (Not mentioned at the meeting but possible additions: the Summit and the June completion of the Trail Camera Project.)

October 10th meeting: Mike Sheridan, chair; Andrea Landsberg, recording secretary

Newsletter: October '23 (September-Mike), January '24 (December-Andrea), April '24 (March-Mary), July '24 (June-Kristina)