

Approved October 18, 2023

**CORNWALL PLANNING COMMISSION (CPC)**

Public Hearing and Regular Meeting  
Cornwall Town Hall and via Teleconference  
September 20, 2023

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Conor Stinson, Don Burns, Mickey Heinecken, Katherine Branch, Lauren Ringey, Chet Van Dellen

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mary Dodge, Mike Sheridan

**CALL TO ORDER** - the meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by the Chair, Conor Stinson

**QUORUM** - established

**AGENDA** - Don B. MOVED / Mickey H. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as presented. *Motion passed* - 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Meeting with the Conservation Commission (CCC)**

Mary Dodge and Mike Sheridan from the CCC, presented information about Cornwall's Conservation Commission - formation and scope by Statute, purpose, and activities. The CCC is an advisory group that advocates for the town's natural resources and works for their protection. The CCC is a very active group, with numerous ongoing activities, and frequent community educational events. They have a presence on the town website, a blog, are active on Facebook and Instagram, and run articles in the town newsletter. The CCC and the CPC have a history of being in close collaboration, and the CCC served actively in an advisory capacity throughout the most recent Town Plan update.

Mary D. described a new project starting in the fall of 2023 and winter of 2024, a habitat connectivity inventory. They have issued an RFP for an ecologist consultant, with the deadline of October 1 for applications.

Mike S. described the close relationship of the CCC to the Cornwall School and the programs they provide for the students, for example, about local geology, birds, insects, and even the extinct mammals that roamed the place that is now Cornwall.

Mary D. added that a first ever county-wide meeting of conservation commissions is scheduled for November 4 and she is looking forward to attending.

**MINUTES**

**August 16, 2023** - Don B. MOVED / Katherine B. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as presented. *Motion passed* - 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Conor S. announced that the Town Plan was officially regionally approved by the Addison County Regional Planning Commission.

**CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW** - none

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - none

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **• Updates about Energy Committee - Don Burns**

Gary Barnett, Cornwall's Energy Coordinator, would like to step down. Don B. looked into the Statutory language about the role of a municipal energy coordinator, and it is somewhat vague, so that the role is basically what the person makes of it. Cornwall has never had an energy committee. Weybridge has an active energy committee. Gary B. is contacting Weybridge to ask about the option of joining together on energy issues and Don B invited Gary B. to the October meeting to talk about it.

### **• Updates about Housing Committee**

Chet V.D. and Mickey H. met to discuss steps for forming a housing committee, with the goal of having one in place by January of 2024. Chet drafted an announcement for the town newsletter and Front Porch Forum. The CPC reviewed his draft and Katherine suggested some minor changes. Chet added that he reached out to Monkton but has not heard back yet, regarding their housing committee. Mickey said it would be good to reach out directly to all officials in Cornwall to see if they are interested in participating on or being an advisory to a housing committee.

### **• Village Center Designation Update**

The application for the Village Center Designation will be reviewed by the Vermont Downtown Board on Monday September 25 at 1:30 pm in Rutland. Marge Drexler, who has been heading up the application process in collaboration with Katie Raycroft - Meyer from ACRPC, will be present at the review. Access on Zoom is available, if anyone else would like to attend. The review is scheduled on the agenda for 10 minutes in duration.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **• Tour of Google Drive - tabled**

• **Possible DRB meeting in early October** - after discussion, all agreed to invite a couple members of the Development Review Board (DRB) to the October meeting, to talk about a game plan for collaboration between the CPC and DRB on the Zoning update.

• **State Lidar Program** - Conor S. shared some information about the State Lidar Program. Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) is a technology similar to RADAR that can be used to create high-resolution digital elevation models (DEMs) with vertical accuracy as good as 10 cm. The raw data available through the Lidar Program may prove very useful for making much higher resolution maps of Cornwall.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Meeting Chair for the October meeting is Don Burns
2. Conor S. will contact Barbara Greenwood to invite to the October 18 meeting.
3. Gary Barnett has been invited to the October meeting.
4. Don B. will report at the October meeting what he learned from Maddison at ACRPC about municipal energy coordinators and committees county-wide.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the CPC