

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 22, 2024 (1:00-2:300 pm)
Cornwall Town Hall

CCC Members present: Don Burns, Mary Dodge, Andrea Landsberg, Kristina Sargent and Michael Sheridan.

Meeting Chair: Andrea Landsberg
Recording Secretary: Mary Dodge

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm and adjourned at 1:55 pm.
Approval of the minutes of February 23, 2024.

Old Business

1. Inventory of Cornwall Habitat Connectivity Blocks.
 - Mary recently submitted a final grant application which, if funded, will provide the money needed to complete the project. Don suggested that when project fund-raising has been completed, letters to prior funders be sent, letting them know and thanking them again for their support. Also, announce in newsletter.
 - Inventory next steps will be to ask for the help if volunteers who are willing to assist with trail camera placement, which Sophie hopes to begin in late April. Volunteers will swap out SD cards a few times over the course of the year, review photos (deleting the non-target species: squirrels etc.), then upload images to an online folder.
 - Residents will be also invited to participate by sending their own wildlife photos. Mary will handle uploading them to the folder.
2. 2024 Work Plan was discussed and activities finalized.
 - Green Up Day. Kristina will oversee the Swamp parking area clean-up. Andrea will once again have a table in the School parking area and share information about invasives and Mary will display the manual hand tools from the Library.
 - Don suggested that a new member of the Planning Commission, Chet Van Dellen, has some background in GIS mapping and its use in wildlife and natural resource management. Don will invite Chet to a CCC meeting to discuss how we might use the Inventory information we are collecting.
 - Long discussion about how best to reach out to Jim Andrews. Don will contact Jim to invite him to share with us how the dangers wildlife face in crossing roads can be reduced through roadside design strategies.
3. Membership Recruitment was discussed. Some contacts have been made. Andrea will draft an announcement that can be a template for announcements in the Newsletter, FPF, on the town website. Also, the blurb could be used to reach people who have attended various CC events. Kristina will follow up with folks who came to the swamp walk and bug black lighting events.
4. West Street Property.

- The CCC has received a resident request to follow up on the State's conservation of the West Street property. Don has agreed to work on this, with the support of the resident.
5. 2024 Amphibian Road Monitoring.
 - Mike has sent information from prior monitoring to Alexis Mychajliw, who expressed interest in the crossing work this year. Mike will ask her to report on what happens.

New Business

1. Website. The new Town website does not have a completion date. Mary offered to be the CC website person in the mean time.
2. Thank you gift for Katherine is in the works!
3. Mary reported on the suggestions she sent on behalf of the CC to Stan Grzyb for ACRPC's update of the Natural Resources section of its Regional Plan.

Updates, Reports and Announcements

1. Reports from CSB, CPC and DRB
 - a. CSB & DRB: No report.
 - b. CPC: Full membership numbers.
2. Alicia Daniel Guided Nature Walk
 - a. Scheduled for Saturday, April 20th 11:00-2:00 pm (rain date of April 21st).
 - b. Andrea is sending out notices and flyers.
3. Gardens/Landscaping for CORA project
 - a. Project received the needed \$20,000 in donations.
4. Cornwall Swamp bat colony and bat house protection postponed until next winter.
5. Community Science Kits ARPA project is now in the hands of the School and the Cornwall Library.
6. Newsletter content: Green Up Day activities, Katherine ending her term, recruiting new members, Inventory, Alicia Daniels walk(?)

Next Meeting: April 26th, Kristina: Meeting Chair, Andrea: Recording Secretary

Newsletter: April '24 (March-Mary), July '24 (June-Kristina), October '24 (September-), January '25 (December-)