

**Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, July 26, 2024 (1:00-2:30 pm)**  
**Cornwall Town Hall**

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032451903?pwd=WW9EQmJrK3VZZjXZlBFV1RRM2tidz09>

Meeting ID: 850 3245 1903 Passcode: 125461

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

Donna Marks attending

Meeting Chair: Don Burns

Recording Secretary: Kristina Sargent

Call to order at 1

All present.

Approval of Minutes from May 24, 2024

Andrea moved, Mike seconded.

Old Business

1. Inventory of Cornwall Habitat Connectivity Blocks update
  - a. Sophie has completed 5 field days, overseeing the placement of 16 project cameras and the training of camera monitors. Collection of trail camera photos is just beginning and will continue into the spring of '25.
    - i. Camera causality: ants moved into one of the CC cameras.  
Replaced it with two new ones using funds from Inventory.
  - b. Request to residents to report wildlife sightings got a photo of a moose (in the swamp) from Dave Guertin.
  - c. Sophie will be back in September to do some solo field scouting and potentially relocate some cameras.
  - d. Timeframe:
    - i. final collection scheduled for Spring/Summer '25
    - ii. report in summer '25
  - e. Billing schedule: billed for Phase 1, paid out. Not yet billed for Phase 2.
  - f. Asking residents to report wildlife sightings:
    - i. Sophie created a draft poster: need to revise by reducing info and improving graphics.
    - ii. A logo could brand the Inventory, bring continuity. Mike suggested involving the school in the creation of the logo. This would have to wait until fall at the earliest. Mary & Mike will continue to consider how to involve the school.
    - iii. Donna will use AI to come up with a draft & follow up w/Mary.
2. 2024 Work Plan
  - a. Bears - No update.

- b. **Pollinator Walk with Emily May**
  - i. Emily has agreed to lead a “walk and talk” on Sept 8th, late morning/early afternoon. The plan is to visit Emily’s native garden (in 3rd year) and Ted and Stephanie Cotton’s (in 2nd) year to see progress: first year to sow, second to grow, third to show. (Or is it sleep, creep, leap?)
    - 1. Number of participants will probably need to be limited, with priority given to residents.
    - 2. Bethany Berry has offered the Cornwall PPAC (Pollinator Pathways of Addison County) as a partner for the event.
- 3. **Follow-up to Chet VanDellen’s May visit**
  - a. All impressed with Chet’s background and energy, want to support his involvement. He will be helpful to consult as we get further along in our Inventory and look to share the results.
- 4. **Membership Recruitment**
  - a. Andrea hasn’t written up the blurb, but will.
  - b. Dave Guertin, who sent in the moose sighting, has been invited to come to the next meeting and talk about his photography interest and citizen science work at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies.
  - c. Donna accepted our invitation to join the Commission. Mary will send recommendation to the Select Board, cc Kristina.

## New Business

- 1. **CPC meeting request re: New Connectivity Map**
  - a. Katherine emailed 6/20/24 on behalf of PC: PC is discussing the new more accurate biofinder map, wants small scale amendment to town to update habitat connectivity map. PC has invited CC members to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss in more detail, Aug 21 is the next meeting (in the evening.)
    - i. We agreed that this is a positive movement.
    - ii. Don background: small amendment to town plan is not trivial; PC trying to make inroads with new zoning regs (2-2.5 year project) that are in process; better to wait for better data, but worth visiting to update/explain.
    - iii. Mary will follow-up with preference for Aug vs Sept meeting: possible to just go ahead, or have Sophie and/or Jeff Howarth join.
- 2. **Invasive Species Guidance**
  - a. Kristina followed up on a suggestion from a resident that the CC offer information about poison parsnip in a town-wide post.
    - i. Natural fit for us to provide information on website/mailers
    - ii. There was one response to the post’s invitation for residents to share the location of large areas of poison parsnip from Stan and Kathy Grzyb.
  - b. Regarding the town's mowing schedule, the road crew must balance its resources with many needs, but setting up a meeting to share perspectives could be beneficial.

- i. Don will facilitate a small group meeting with select members. Andrea is willing to attend. Will do background info dig and bring resources. This meeting could wait until Feb/March 2025 since the mowing cycle for parsnip control for this year has passed.
- 3. Master Naturalist Project
  - a. Andrea asked if the CC might have ideas for projects? Submission in Sept/Oct.
    - i. Don: trees recently planted in town green- signage for story.
    - ii. Send Andrea any ideas.
- 4. Revising Cornwall's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)
  - a. Important to have a voice at the table for what are the natural hazards and what are the plans, do they reflect current/challenges? Andrea volunteers.

#### Updates, Reports and Announcements

- 1. Reports from CSB, CPC and DRB
  - a. Don: SB-quiet; PC-Mary's visit (see NB1)
  - b. Mary: DRB-quiet
- 2. Fish and Wildlife West Street property
  - a. Mary sent a letter to Will Duane requesting information about plans for the property and offering ideas from the CCC for their consideration.
- 3. CORA Project
  - a. Andrea reported on the groundbreaking party hoped for ~Oct 1(state permitting delay- surface water drainage.)
  - b. Fundraising still in process, but is going well.
- 4. State & Town Culvert Map
  - a. Don talked w/Brian Kemp, there is a map (all hazards management plan); Road Foreman Steve Rheaume has software plugging in locations, so a better inventory is in process. Maintenance plan is driven, in part, by ad hoc weather events.
  - b. State projects give notification, but we don't get input, town could lobby using safety as motivation. Mary reported that there is a plunge pool on Rte 125 on the west side of Foote Farm and another one on Beaver Brook where it crosses under Rte 74.
  - c. How might the CC interface with the Cornwall road crew in event that there is a repair/replace project that was strategically sited? Brian is a key person in the scheduling of culvert work. But, there are likely to be very few opportunities in reality.
    - i. One project would be to do an overlay of wildlife crossings with culverts maps (Mary will bring this up with Jeff Howarth; Don with liaison w/road crew and get culvert data to Jeff at that point)
- 5. Expansion of the Library pass program
  - a. Donna shared her work on increasing the number of free passes to state parks and other sites that are available to Cornwall residents. Illsey Library has many, Cornwall Library has only 3: 2 state historic pass, Henry Sheldon, and an Echo discount.
  - b. Running into some trouble with who to connect with/make requests. Library trustee Sue Johnson was suggested and asking to attend a library committee meeting.

6. Don: Shelburne Farms is an amazing resource. Might CCC want to sponsor fieldtrip? Fall?
7. Future Newsletters need to be 2 pages or less, sent in PDF per Laura Fetterolf

Adjourning moved & seconded: 2:34 pm

**Next Meetings:**

- August 23, Mary: Meeting Chair, Don: Recording Secretary  
(revisit depending on Kristina & Mike's fall schedules)
- September 27, Andrea: Meeting Chair, Mary: Recording Secretary
- October 25, Mike: Meeting Chair, Andrea: Recording Secretary

Newsletter: November '24 (October-Mary), February '25 (January-Andrea)