

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

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032451903?pwd=WW9EQmJrK3VZZjJXZlBFV1RRM2tidz09>

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 (Mary)
 - a. Sophie out 5 field days, 17 cameras; just getting going, lots of action
 - i. ants moved into one of the cameras, able to replace with two new ones from fundraising money
 - b. Help email got a moose (in the swamp) response from Dave Guertin
 - c. September- relocating some potentially
 - d. Timeframe (Don)
 - i. final collection scheduled for Spring/Summer '25
 - ii. report in summer '25
 - e. Billing schedule (Don)
 - i. billed for phase 1, paid out
 - ii. not yet billed for phase 2, but not complete yet, not sure about timing
 - f. Ripton's logo
 - i. Mary asked Sophie to put something together
 1. proposal poster: too much info, not enough graphic
 - ii. Why are we looking for a logo? (Don & Kristina)
 1. Andrea: good to have some branding to go with the project for continuity
 - iii. Mike idea to involve school
 1. worried about timing- have to wait until fall at the soonest
 2. Mary & Mike will think more about school involvement for fall
 - iv. Donna will use AI to come up with a draft & follow up w/Mary

2. 2024 Work Plan

- a. Bears (Mary) No update
- b. Pollinator Walk with Emily May (Mary)
 - i. Emily won't join CCC, but will lead a walk and talk:
 - 1. Sept 8 late morning/early afternoon: Visit Emily's native garden (in 3rd year) and Cotton's (in 2nd) year to see progress [first year to sow, second to grow, third to show]
 - a. size limited
 - b. Bethany Berry wants PPAC to be involved

3. Follow-up to Chet VanDellen's May visit (All)

- a. All impressed with Chet's background and energy, want him more involved, but he can't at this time; skills more needed on PC, his strengths will be more important as we get more info, good for specific tasks and asks

4. Membership Recruitment (All)

- a. Andrea hasn't written up the blurb, but will
- b. Dave Guertin: (from Mary) sent in moose sighting, Mary working to recruit- will come maybe next meeting to talk about potential outreach
- c. Mary: formally inviting Donna to join
 - i. Donna accepts
 - ii. Mary will recommend to select board, cc Kristina

New Business

1. CPC meeting request re: New Connectivity Map (Mary)

- a. Katherine emailed 6/20/24 on behalf of PC: PC discussing new more accurate biofinder map, wants small scale amendment to town to update habitat connectivity map; PC wants member to attend upcoming meeting to discuss in more detail, Aug 21 is next meeting (in evening)
 - i. See this as 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 after checking with Jeff/Sophie
 - 1. Possible to just go ahead, or have Sophie and/or Jeff Howarth join

2. Invasive Species Guidance (Kristina)

- a. Request for parsnip info; road crew information; report from Stan and Kathy Grzyb
 - i. Natural fit for us to provide information on website/mailers
 - ii. Road crew- many challenges, but seems like a meeting isn't a bad idea to share perspectives
 - 1. Don- meeting with select members could be beneficial, will facilitate; Andrea willing to go, will do background info dig and bring resources
 - a. wait until Feb/March 2025 since already too late for this year

3. Master Naturalist Project (Andrea)
 - a. Does CCC 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) (Kristina/Don)
 - a. Voice at the table for what are the natural hazards and what are the plans, do they reflect current/challenges
 - i. Andrea volunteers

Updates, Reports and Announcements

1. Reports from CSB, CPC and DRB (Don, Mary)
 - a. Don: SB not much; PC Mary's visit (see NB1)
 - b. Mary: DRB quiet
2. Fish and Wildlife West Street property (Mary)
 - a. sent letter to Will Duane requesting they include CCC, waiting for response
3. CORA Project (Andrea)
 - a. groundbreaking party hoped for ~Oct 1 (state permitting delay- surface water drainage)
 - b. fundraising still in process, going well
4. State & Town Culvert Map (Don)
 - a. Don: talked w/Brian Kemp, there is a map (all hazards management plan); Steve has software plugging in locations, so a better inventory is in process; maintenance plan is pretty ad hoc, could use improvement; state projects give notification, but we don't get input, town could lobby using safety as motivation; if interested need to consider how to interface w/road crew in event that there is a repair/replace project that was strategically sited; Brian seems open to a relationship of communication; 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 up with Jeff Howarth; Don with liaison w/road crew and get culvert data to Jeff at that point)
 - ii. Mary- 125 plunge pool, Foote Farm
5. Donna project
 - a. Library pass expansion
 - i. Town gets 1 free state park pass to "rent"
 1. 2 state historic pass, Henry Sheldon, Echo discount
 2. Illsey has many, Cornwall has only those 3
 - b. Running into some trouble with who to connect with/make requests
 - i. Andrea: Library trustees- Sue Johnson
 - ii. Don: need to join a library committee meeting
6. Don: Shelburne Farms is amazing resource
 - a. Committee field trip? Fall?
7. Future Newsletters need to be 2 pages or less, sent in PDF per Laura

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)