

**Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday December 12, 2024 (3:30-4:30 pm)**  
**Cornwall Town Hall**

CC Members: Don Burns, Mary Dodge, Andrea Landsberg, Donna Marks, Kristina Sargent, and Michael Sheridan

Visitors: Rex C, Dan C, and Alex H (attending by Zoom)

Meeting Chair: Donna Marks

Recording Secretary: Mike Sheridan

Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2024

DM to modify Nov 14 minutes with typo correction

**Old Business**

1. Inventory of Cornwall Habitat Connectivity Blocks updates (Mary, Donna) a. Phase 2 Inventory and Budget update
  - a. We are in Phase 2 of the Inventory: field verification of wildlife movement corridors. Project leader Sophie Mazowita led a Zoom meeting (11/19/24) for trail camera monitors to discuss progress and challenges. Camera documentation will continue through next spring.

With the possibility of snow on the horizon, Sophie has begun to plan for the monitoring road-side tracking areas. She will be offering advanced tracking training on Jan 7<sup>th</sup> (zoom) and Inventory volunteers will be invited to attend. The training will be free, with donations welcomed. Sophie is working with Jeff Howarth and Monica Pryperhart and Alexis Mychajliw to expand the poll of tracking volunteers.

MD to send out request on town email for reports of fishers and otters, two categories underrepresented in the survey so far.

- b. Logo update: What are we/do we want to do with logo.  
Logo shared in the 11/19 meeting. Discussion of future uses tabled until January.  
DM to prepare costs.

2. “Make Room for Wildlife” (All)
  - a. Cover letter & brochure in ZA materials.  
Cover letter & brochure will be included in ZA materials,  
To be sent to Lynn Coale, Zoning Administrator, for inclusion in the building application materials for new landowners. Send to DRB for their reference.
3. Membership Recruitment (All) –  
The procedure for adding new members to the Commission was reviewed. The CC makes a written recommendation to the Select Board for a new appointment and

includes a brief biographical description of the person being recommended. Select Board decides on the approval on the appointment.

4. Library Pass Program (Donna) – tabled until spring
  - a. Tabled until Library committee contacts organizations in Spring
5. CC FB/Instagram link location on website. Additional updates? CC to send updates to Donna
6. Webinar with Gray and Green Infrastructure
  - a. How Vermont's bridges and culverts add to our network of connected lands and waters – functionally as wildlife crossings
  - b. Andrea participated in the webinar in November with Jens Hilke and will write up a brief summary for the group, about VT state databases on maps. New resource.

### **New Business**

1. 2025 Work Plan Schedule Discussion
  - a. Amphibian Monitoring Work March/April (Alexis Mychajliw at College, Kristi Tolgesi, Donna?). West Street. CC members to discuss who might be interested in taking on this project
  - b. Spring Guided Bird Walk (Perchemlides, Guertin, Andrews, OCAS, Worley?) Tabled for January, will look at calendar
  - c. May '25 Green Up Day CC Table (All) KS to do Swamp Road cleanup, table for discussion on our roles. Prefer 2 people at table
  - d. September 2025 Public Forum to Share Inventory Results (Sophie) Tabled for getting on calendar
  - e. Rodenticide education activity (Andrea)  
Protecting birds of prey from rat poison
2. Potential involvement with VAWS (VT Association for Wetland Science) (Andrea)  
Tabled for January
3. Meeting date(s) and time for Spring (Kristina/All) second Thursdays 4-5 pm. Next meeting Thurs Jan 9
4. CC decided to recommend Rex C, Alex H to SB for appointment as Conservation Commissioners – need short paragraphs from these folks to submit with our recommendations

### **Updates, Reports and Announcements**

1. Reports from CSB, CPC, and DRB (Don, Mary) DB update on SB and PC activities
2. CORA Project (Andrea) . Tree planting grant, AD asking for CC letter of support. Discussion of contents of the letter
3. Newsletter (Kristina, Mike)  
Guidelines  
Document format: Word (.docx) is preferred for the newsletter. The meeting minutes/agendas which must come in as .pdf). Photos: must be in .jpg format. Length:, no more than 2 pages. Editing Guidelines: There's no word count limit, less can be more. No QR codes. Only one weblink per article.

### **Next Meetings and Newsletters:**

Meeting day, week and time Thurs Jan 9 4-5 pm

Don Burns: Meeting Chair Donna Marks: Recording Secretary

Newsletter: January '25 (December-Andrea), April '25 (March-????), July '25 (June- ????),  
October '25 (September – ????)