

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 9, 2025 (4:00-5:20 pm)
Cornwall Town Hall

CCC Members: Don Burns, Rex Chamberlain, Mary Dodge, Alex Harden, Andrea Landsberg, Donna Marks, Kristina Sargent (on phone), and Michael Sheridan

Guest: Dan Comar

Meeting Chair: Don Burns Recording Secretary: Donna Marks

Minutes from December 12, 2024 to be amended with Full Names. Mike Sheridan to resubmit. There was a motion agreed to, to have full names used in minutes for future.

Old Business

1. **Inventory of Cornwall Habitat Connectivity Blocks.** With recent snowfall, tracking has started. After snow settles can be ideal tracking conditions. There are preferred tracking areas. They were chosen along certain roads. There is a protocol to document animal movement across the areas. People can contact Mary Dodge (mdodge@middlebury.edu) to get started.

2. **Logo Update.** Discussion of Future Uses. Donna Marks provided cost estimates for Tshirts and associated setup fees. She learned that the AI developed artwork will need some graphic design enhancements in Vector format for high quality printing. Donna Marks will send logo file to Alex Harden to see if she can upgrade. The CCC decided to go ahead with the logo on 2 to 3 inch stickers. Mike Sheridan provided a website address (anypromo.com) for sticker purchases. Donation containers can be set out when the stickers are handed out to recoup some funds and possibly to help accrue funds for set up fees for tee shirts (if there is enough interest from the local Cornwall community).

3. **Membership Recruitment.** Big success from the recent outreach letter sent out through the Town resident email list and posted on Front Porch Forum. The CCC received 2 new members this month and a third likely future member (Dan Comar) has been recommended to the Select Board. Welcome to Rex Chamberlain and Alex Harden.

New Business

1. **2025 Work Plan Discussion.**

Mary Dodge handed out a draft of CCC 2025 Work Plan. Mary will update by removing Bat House and Black Bear topics and adding a field trip (location not known at this time) and the September Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Forum.

a. **Amphibian Monitoring** - Mary Dodge sent out email to past participants, looking for a team leader/participants and got no response. CCC encouraged her to resend the email since it may have been poor timing during the busy holiday season the first time.

b. **Spring Guided Bird Walk** - Mary Dodge to send a request to Otter Creek Audubon to see if they can provide a walk in Cornwall. The CCC will

promote the walk if it is scheduled.

c. **May Green Up Day CCC Table** -Kristina Sargent will coordinate Green Up Day Clean Up. Mary Dodge and Andrea Landsberg will set up a table at the School to share information on invasives, including displaying the tools available for check-out at the Cornwall Library. Dan mentioned he has experience with the tools and offered to also attend.

d. **September Public Forum to Share Inventory Results** - Mary Dodge will work with our speaker - Sophie Mazowita to determine the date. The location of the event is expected to be upstairs at the Cornwall Town Hall.

e. **Rodenticide Education Activity** - Discussed ways to share information about the dangers rodenticide use poses to predator species. Decided that Andrea will do a write up in the third quarter town newsletter.

f. **Other Ideas** - Andrea Landsberg and Alex Harden will work on a survey to ask the Cornwall Community for their thoughts on topics for CC activities and places for field trips. CCC discussed going back to Shelburne Farms.

Continue this discussion at the Feb meeting.

2. **Wildlife Crossings and Road Infrastructure Study Discussion.** Mary Dodge and Don Burns will get together and work on a program for the study. Rex Chamberlain expressed interest in participating.

3. **Potential Involvement with VAWS.** (VT Association of Wetland Science) **Discussion tabled.**

4. **AVCC Membership and Survey.** Kristina Sargent asked that all CCC members fill out the survey. New members not already on the listserv can request to get on it. CCC decided to continue with membership. There is a small fee. With membership comes opportunities for grants. CCC has applied for and received grants from the program in the past.

5. **Confirmed Meeting Chairs.** (All)

6. **Determine Newsletter Leaders.** Donna Marks will coordinate the April newsletter due in March.

Updates, Reports and Announcements

1. **Reports from CSB, CPC and DRB.** Don Burns informed CCC that Rex Chamberlain was confirmed by the CSB as a CCC member. The CPC has been working on updating zoning district uses and dimensional standards in the Zoning Regulations. The CCC is encouraged to take part in the process of updating the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations. **For next mtg: Does CCC want to be a liaison of the Planning Commission for conservation oriented activities?**

2. CORA update: Grant for tree planting submitted. Work on site will progress as weather allows

Next Meetings:

February 13, Mary Dodge: Meeting Chair, Don Burns: Recording Secretary

March 13, Andrea Landsberg: Meeting Chair, Mary Dodge: Recording Secretary

April 10, Kristina Sargent: Meeting Chair, Andrea Landsberg: Recording Secretary

Newsletter: April '25 (March-Donna), July '25 (June-Kristina), October '25 (September-Mike)