

**Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday April 10, 2025 (4:00-5:00 pm)**  
**Cornwall Town Hall**

CCC Members Present: Don Burns, Rex Chamberlain , Mary Dodge, Andrea Landsberg, Donna Marks, Kristina Sargent

Meeting Chair: Kristina Sargent      Recording Secretary: Andrea Landsberg

Called to order 4:01

Minutes from March 13, 2025 – Motion to approve Mary; seconded Rex; all voted to approve as is.

**Old Business**

- 1) Inventory of Cornwall Habitat Connectivity Blocks (Mary)
  - a) Sophie finishing up outside tracking and returning to collecting data from the cameras
- 2) Logo Update: Discussion of Future Uses (Donna)
  - a) Decision to continue to give out stickers and ask for feedback on whether there is interest in T-shirts with the logo for now
  - b) Stickers and donation jar will be on Green Up Day (GUpD) table
- 3) 2025 Upcoming Activities (All)
  - a) Amphibian Monitoring(Mary, Dan)
    - i) Cold, dry spring – team out once but not a ‘big’ night. However, the group did help some cross the road (and unfortunately also saw some that had been killed by cars)
  - b) May Green Up Day Swamp Road (Kristina), Table (Andrea, Dan, Mary)
    - i) Kristina put out an FPF post on Swamp Road clean-up and will send another soon
    - ii) Andrea will send FPF post about the table at the school
    - iii) Will have information about introduced insect pests, the tools for introduced species removal, stickers, etc.
  - c) OCAS/Cornwall Bird Walk
    - i) Set for June 1<sup>st</sup>
  - d) Community Survey (Andrea, Alex)
    - i) Link to review updated survey on Google Docs agenda and also here:  
[Link to Survey](#)
    - ii) Alex requests that we all take a look and give the okay to send out

- iii) Please send email as to your approval to issue to town as we don't want to wait until next meeting to issue the survey
  - iv) We should put link to survey in FPF post – maybe have sign on GUpD table about the survey
- e) Wildlife Crossings and Road Infrastructure Study (Mary, Don and Rex)
  - i) Group met with Monica Przyperhart and Middlebury College student Alina to discuss scope of project that Alina will complete
  - ii) The most potentially important culverts are on State roads and there are no current plans to upgrade these
  - iii) To select which Town road culverts to focus on Alina spoke with Mike Winslow at ACRPC who gave her information from the VT Culverts website. 3-4 selected that are near known wildlife road crossings. Team gave Alina guidance on what information the report should include
  - iv) This can serve as a template for future culvert assessments
  - v) Rex pointed out that there was a culvert inventory completed by the town in 2023. The CC should review this at some point to see if there is something we should be involved with
- f) Energy Navigator Project presentation options (Alex)
  - i) 2 topics were offered that could be presented in Cornwall in May. CCC voted for the home heat transfer topic as these might be less expensive/more accessible to residents
- 4) CCC as a conservation liaison to the CPC in the update of Zoning and Subdivision Regulations. (Don, Mary, Kristina)
  - a) Background packet developed regarding adding an overlay map to fulfill Town Plan goal and circulated to CCC in advance
  - b) Lively and comprehensive discussion took place; Mary explained sources of map data for newer CCC members as well as what an overlay map is and how could be used to guide DRB decisions
    - i) There was a question about what a restoration area is – a definition was sent in the packet provided. It is potentially a confusing term as it does not imply active restoration by humans but more of a 'rewilding' of fields that are no longer in agricultural use
  - c) The map that was developed for inclusion in the 2023 Town Plan update has more defined areas from LIDAR data and additional important elements such as connectivity corridors – this map was not included in the update but a goal to do so was included
  - d) Don put forward that working with the ACRPC to continue to refine a Special Features Overlay Map would be a good step to take; the CPC wants to be sure the CCC agrees and would work with the ACRPC on this

- i) There was discussion as to exactly what an “Overlay” map implies – is it just a reference or does it imply there will be specific regulations about development in the overlay areas? CCC agreed that for now we should table this and focus on the map itself
- e) It was agreed that having the best map delineating “Special Features” is an important first step and the CCC will work with ACRPC on this pending the CPC vote to do so and then putting this request to the ACPRC. Once that is done, the CCC will proactively contact them to begin the process.
- f) The update map could be considered for inclusion in the next Town Plan update whenever this occurs. More specific zoning / development regulations could be considered at some future point.
- g) At our next meeting we will decide who on CCC will work on this with ACRPC

### **New Business**

- 1) Days/Time for CC Meetings June-August (All).
  - a) Decision to delay discussion until Mike and other members can be in attendance.  
Next meeting May 8<sup>th</sup> at 4PM; June meeting TENTATIVELY also the second Thursday at 4PM
  - b) Newsletter plans (Donna, All). Discuss at next meeting

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

- 1. Reports from CSB, CPC and DRB (Don, Mary) - none
- 2. CORA Project (Andrea) - CORA groundbreaking
- 3. Free or Discounted Passes for Library (Donna) Donna spoke to Sue who has ordered a VINS pass and is looking at getting others. In the hands of the Library Committee now.

### **Next Meetings:**

May 8 - Don: Meeting Chair, Kristina: Recording Secretary  
 June 12(?) - Rex Meeting Chair, Don: Recording Secretary  
 July 10(?) - Alex Meeting Chair, Rex: Recording Secretary

**Newsletter(?):** ~~April '25 (March-Donna)~~ – Laura not planning on one at the current time.  
 July '25 (June-Donna), October '25 (September-Kristina)

Meeting adjourned: 5:07