

Cornwall Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 8, 2025 (4:00-5:00 pm)
Cornwall Town Hall

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85985923545?pwd=HbyVnPblHpfbT2Y7M8ZRqgTB79K9Xt.1> Meeting ID: 859 8592 3545 Passcode: 1234

CCC Members in attendance: Don Burns, Rex Chamberlain, Dan Comar, Mary Dodge, Alex Harden, Andrea Landsberg, Donna Marks, and Kristina Sargent

Meeting Chair: Don Burns

Recording Secretary: Kristina Sargent

Called to order at 4:03

Approval of Minutes from April 10, 2025

Old Business

1. Inventory of Cornwall Habitat Connectivity Blocks and Project Budget Updates (Mary) no updates; budget appears on track; not heard from Sophie recently; time for volunteers to collect photos from cameras again
2. Logo Update: (Donna) stickers earned \$49.75 in donations, Donna has this money; big hit on green up day; still distributing; idea to put basket with donation request in town hall; Donna paid and has been reimbursed \$87.83.
3. 2025 Upcoming Activities (All)
 - a. Amphibian Monitoring (Mary, Dan) lots of interest and volunteers, but weather didn't help; went out twice, only saw things once (6 blue dotted, 3 jeffersons, 2 alive, 2 dead peepers)
 - b. Green Up Day Swamp Road – May 3 (Kristina) Don & Kristina only ones @ Swamp Road, Table (Andrea, Dan, Mary) Good turn out at table at school; tools all showed up; Dan did a great job demonstrating tools; we should keep doing it!
 - c. OCAS Cornwall Bird Walk at Scove Hill with Dave Guertin – June 1 (Mary) Mary shared flyer draft to be sent out soon
 - d. Community Survey (Andrea, Alex) good response so far; Alex will resend on FPF & Laura again too; will summarize for next meeting
 - e. Wildlife Crossings and Road Infrastructure Study (Mary, Rex and Don) Alina Scott has done 5 site “visits” and reports and put up some cameras in a couple of spots; will be helpful when we decide exactly what to do with the inventory report; Mary/Andrea will share out the final report; need to make a connection w/highway department to share this info and learn of future work plans- schedule a meeting with Cornwall Road Commissioner and/or Foreman; will reach back out to Middlebury College (Alexis Mychajliw) in fall to see if another student might want to continue work on road assessments

f. Energy Navigator Program - May 14 (Alex) Next Wednesday- Home Energy Use 6-8pm informally open around 5:30, light refreshments; Laura sent town email (2), will post on FPF

4. Update of Zoning and Subdivision Regulations (Mary, Kristina, Don; Andrea) Waiting for go ahead to start with Addison County RPC to work on habitat connectivity map; no word from Chet; Mary will reach out again; Mary heard back from Monica Pryzperhart, who had conferred with Sophie Mazowita and Jeff Howarth. They are not ready to work on a draft version of a map, want to wait for final version; discussion of "special features overlay" vs "connectivity map" and importance of clear language in the town plan; PC wants a set of maps featuring different natural features, so we'll share the inventory map once it's ready

Landscaping review: Andrea looked at regs, mentions, existing guidance etc and shared out info; recs about consistency and importance of goal of landscaping plan; current things are pro-forma; "landscaping" used throughout, but not well-defined, Don would like to recommend some version of Andrea's report to be adopted; Zoning work group session tomorrow Don will share

New Business

1. CCC Private Bird Outing with Ron Payne – June 1 (Andrea) 7 or 8 am start; Andrea will be in touch
3. Days/Time for CC Meetings June-August (All) June 12; July 3 4-5pm
4. Confirm Meeting Chairs (All) All good (below)
5. Determine Newsletter Leaders (All) All good (below)
6. Succession Planning - Transfer of Knowledge & Projects (Mary) Mary leaving mid-August; Mary put together a list of things she does; will work on transfer of knowledge and tasks offline with full allotment confirmed at June meeting

Updates, Reports and Announcements

1. Reports from CSB, CPC and DRB (Don, Mary) CSB working with Listers to understand new assessment, avg increase was 90%; CPC zoning work; DRB Don sent out our report for Palmer subdivision, meeting 5/7 made clear that parties had read the CCC report and that the CC suggestions were feasible, chair of DRB encouraged a waiver to move house site farther from woods (connectivity block)
2. CORA Project (Andrea) no updates
3. Newsletter (All) Tabled

Next Meetings:

June 12 - Rex Meeting Chair, Don: Recording Secretary
July 3 - Alex Meeting Chair, Rex: Recording Secretary
August ?- Andrea Meeting Chair, Alex: Recording Secretary

Newsletter: July '25 (June (?)-Kristina), October '25 (September(?)-Mike)

Adjourned 5:12