

In the past year, the commission took on a variety of initiatives, as we continued to define our role and how we can be most effective amidst the many town and regional land planning agencies.

- ⑩ We worked extensively with experts on a potential update to a Natural Resource Inventory.
- ⑩ Our working relationship with P&Z was better defined, which is primarily to explore initiatives posed in the Town Plan of Conservation and Development.
- ⑩ Brochures were published on stone walls and Low Impact Development (LID), with a mass mailing of the latter, and a public seminar in cooperation with the Northwest Conservation District.
- ⑩ The commission collaborated with Housatonic Valley Association and Cornwall Land Trust to curate a collection of maps by which the commission and the public could easily define areas, such as those in need of protection, critical habitats, trails and watersheds, and consider their own properties and practices within the bigger picture.
- ⑩ An ongoing collaboration with Cornwall Consolidated School science students was established, and an LID presentation became part of their ongoing curriculum.
- ⑩ We track findings of ongoing water testing at Cream Hill Lake, and monitor proposed projects including “The Bend” and HouBike Trail additions.

We began 2017 with a list of goals and initiatives that are mostly a continuation of our recent efforts, and found a lot of energy in a brainstormed idea for **Public Awareness** - by developing a page on the Cornwall website, where we plan to post links to all sorts of information, and regularly highlight subjects, such as how to use online mapping.

Also;

Education – Continued collaboration with CCS students.

- Host seminars, i.e. how farmland, conservation land, etc. is taxed.
- More brochures.
- Another LID presentation that may also showcase related projects by CCS students.

Land Use – Assist P&Z on the 2020 update to the Town Plan of Conservation and Development, initially by reviewing initiatives noted in the current plan to determine what has been resolved and what remains viable.

Town awareness – Get to know Cornwall's geographical features, particularly hiking trails and other recreational opportunities, in order to be able to see the bigger picture and to look for ways to promote Cornwall via its natural resources. This means field trips that will bring maps to life for us.

Natural Resources Inventory update – Continue work on this with specific focus, starting with the Hollenbeck River and watershed.

Filling vacancies with individuals who have enthusiasm, with experience and expertise as a bonus.

In any of our endeavors, we want it to be clear that we have no regulations to enforce, and no desire to do anything more than help us all be good stewards of the land. Our primary goals are education and connecting our well-meaning citizens with the wealth of resources available for land management and conservation.

Karen Bartomioli, Co-chair of the Cornwall Conservation Commission