



## **Cornwall Conservation Commission**

Minutes of the Meeting of January 9, 2020 held 10:30 am, at the Cornwall Library

Commissioners in attendance: Patrick Mulberry, Katherine Freygang and Debby Bennett. Nancy Berry, representing the Cream Hill Lake Task Force, Hector Prud'homme and Margie Purnell; members of the public were present.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am

The minutes of the special meeting of November 21, 2019 were approved

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Katie Freygang reported that the commission has \$1450 in its account for fiscal year 2019/2020

### **2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET REQUEST**

Patrick submitted a draft budget request which requested substantial funds to hire a consultant to assist the commission to compile a List of Cornwall Places for Priority Protection. In an effort to satisfy a long standing CCC, P&Z and Land Trust goal; taking up this effort is meant to provide a town document which explicitly states which sites should be protected and a concise rationale for their protection.

Katie thought such a document could provide a basis for collaboration with other organizations in town and promote Cornwall by emphasizing "place making". Debby suggested Patrick meet with the P&Z chair (Jill Cutler) to discuss this approach. Hector reiterated that the effort to up zone would be a top priority for P&Z and thus helpful for the Commission to have such a list to lobby P&Z along with the Go/NoGo map produced as part of the POCD. He also suggested Jocelyn Ayers might be a good professional candidate to assist the commission.

Margie was unsure why such a list was necessary given the efforts to make specific recommendations included in each topic of the Natural Resources Inventory. Patrick felt that the list would be an opportunity to organize in one place, the various recommendations incorporated in each of the diverse chapters of the NRI.

Debby mentioned that funding for a ridgeline protection map would also be needed in the coming year. Debby volunteered to ask if Darrell Cherniskie (prime mover of Kent's Ridgeline protection effort) would be willing to make a presentation to P&Z.

#### NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY:

Discussion of draft Forestry Resources chapter addressed:

- Patrick suggested that the work done to date on the Forestry Resources chapter was a strong foundation to move towards completion. Margie tentatively agreed while stating that additional information would be useful to fill in any gaps and complete the chapter.
- Debby contributes Forestry Threats and offered additional information on climate change impacts.
- Preliminary discussion took place on what the next topic might be, Water Resources or Geology were mentioned.

#### CELEBRATE OUR FORESTS

The commission discussed joint cooperation with the Land Trust on the possibility of hosting special events focused on Forestry. A Forest Festival might include speakers such as Harry White and or Peter Del Tredici and other fun ideas such as having the event in a forest location. Katie will coordinate with the land trust.

#### SUSTAINABLE CT

Katie presented to the selectmen an award plaque received for attaining SustainableCT Bronze status and letter summarizing Cornwall's accomplishments that led to the award. Silver is in sight.

#### CREAM HILL LAKE TASK FORCE

Nancy Berry discussed a report that Heidi Cunnick recently completed on the state of health of Cream Hill Lake. The lake is in good health presently but vigilance is necessary to keep invasives at bay. The commission will coordinate safeguard efforts with the task force.

***MOTION*** to adjourn at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Mulberry