



Cornwall Conservation Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of February 13, 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 was present.

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 am

The minutes of the special meeting of January 9, 2020 were approved

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

COMPLIING A LIST OF PLACES OF PRIORITY PROTECTION

The 2020/2021 budget request was modified and submitted to the selectmen requesting funds to hire a consultant to assist the commission to generate a List of Cornwall Places for Priority Protection. In an effort to satisfy a long standing CCC, P&Z and Conservation Trust goal; taking up this effort is meant to provide a town document which explicitly lists various sites that should be protected and a concise rationale for their protection.

Katie suggested that an outline of the methodology be drafted which would explain how the commission would go about devising such a list. Patrick agreed to draft such an outline.

A discussion took place as to how to integrate the Priority Places list into the various topics of the Natural Resource Inventory. Patrick thought the priority places pertinent to each topic (Forests, Water Resources, Open Spaces, etc.) should be incorporated in the NRI under the recommendations sections of each topic as well as creating a separate document that lists those places in its entirety. It was felt that this would provide a more accessible resource for town stakeholders.

It was decided that the commission should solicit input from the various stakeholders in town. In addition to the community input the commission received from its series of Community Forums held last year, the commission should seek consensus from various stakeholders such as The Board of Selectmen, P&Z, the Conservation Trust, the Economic Development

Commission, the Housatonic River Commission, HVA, the park ranger at Mohawk Mountain, and possibly others.

RIDGELINE PROTECTION MAP

The commission discussed how to fund the cost of producing a map identifying ridgeline protection zones. It was agreed that the commission would use a sizable portion of this year's remaining budget and solicit funds from other organizations in town such as the Conservation Trust, the Cornwall Association, and the Board of Selectmen. Debby will coordinate with Margie Purnell in an effort confirm the current cost of the map.

Patrick will pen a letter to P&Z requesting permission to give P&Z a presentation on the proposed regulation. Patrick will also pen a letter formally requesting funding support from the Conservation Trust.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY:

Discussion of the NRI addressed:

- Debby will coordinate with Margie to further refine and wrap up the Forestry Resources chapter of the NRI, and will update the Forest Threats portion of the chapter
- Margie relayed in an email communication that she expects a more complete draft of the Forestry section in the next few weeks as well as a detailed outline for the Geology chapter and perhaps even Water Resources.
- Preliminary discussion took place on what the next topic might be, Water Resources or Geology were again mentioned. Nancy Berry mentioned interest in taking on the role of "facilitator" of the water resources chapter

SUSTAINABLE CT

Katie is working to identify three projects for the upcoming year.

CELLULAR INFRASTRUCTURE

Katie reported that discussions have taken place with the Cornwall Association to sponsor "top down-bottom up" approach incorporating both the NW Connect proposal and an informal panel of local businesses to identify needs and solutions. A task force would report to the Board of Selectmen and local organizations

A motion was made and approved to sponsor a town event with other organizations such as the Cornwall Association, the Economic Development Commission, and the Conservation Trust.

MOTION to adjourn at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Mulberry