



Cornwall Conservation Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of October 8, 2020 held 10:30 am, conducted as a Zoom Session

Commissioners in attendance: Patrick Mulberry, Katherine Freygang and Debby Bennett. Nancy Berry and Heidi Cunnick of the Cream Hill Lake Task Force, and Hector Prud'homme, member of the public was present.

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 am

The minutes of the special meeting of September 10, 2020 were approved

TREASURER'S REPORT

- The commission has \$1500 in its account for fiscal year 2020/2021. Katie mentioned that funds associated with the Energy Task Force were available for use to be applied to energy related issues.

RIDGELINE PROTECTION MAP

The commission is awaiting the first draft of the horizonline map being produced by HVA. Patrick will follow up with Stacey Deming for status.

Debby re-confirmed that Darrell Cherniskie would be willing to make a zoom presentation to P&Z.

Debby will also pen a letter to the Cornwall Foundation to assist with funding.

Once the mapping is in place, discussions will be held lobby P&Z chair & members to solicit support for ridgeline protection.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY:

Lack of expertise has delayed progress on NRI update efforts. Katie suggests that a schedule of tasks be drawn up to define the tasks at hand and who may assist with each portion of the work. Heidi Cunnick volunteered to assist with some of the tasks. Katie reminded the

commission that Amy Johnson has offered to assist with the writing portion of the work.

COMPLIING A LIST OF PLACES OF PRIORITY PROTECTION

Patrick expressed concern that a comprehensive listing of priority places might be too repetitive to be effective, and that some expert planning help was needed to organize how the information could be conveyed to stakeholders in a manner that would be useful and accessible. Gordon Ridgway mentioned that Janelle Mullen could be available to assist. Katie suggested creating a chart of Cornwall places and natural features that could be prioritized and organized by category (critical habitat, scenic value, cultural and historic importance, etc.). Heidi suggested that a map could be created that identifies geographically the various areas and features that warrant note or protection.

Patrick will develop a "Statement of Purpose" to be submitted to P&Z in an effort to inform the planners of our approach and obtain feedback on its suitability for P&Z purposes.

CREAM HILL LAKE TASK FORCE

Heidi presented a chart describing the results from water quality testing (phosphorous, nitrogen, and oxygen levels) comparing historic data to current results. The lake is in relatively good shape though a spike in nitrogen levels (at the deepest water level) was noted.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Debby reported ongoing efforts to eliminate Japanese knotweed are underway at the infestation site near the covered bridge and the town gravel pit.

OUTREACH

Debby reported the success of several conservation themed events such as the Sept. 12th zoom presentation to be given by Peter DelTredici and Bill Bakaitis, and a Riparian Restoration presentation conducted on October 3rd. These presentations received very enthusiastic responses from the public and more will be planned in conjunction with the land trust and the library as co-sponsors.

As part of the selectmen's newsletter it was suggested that a brief explanation of CCC activities should be submitted on an occasional basis.

SUSTAINABLE CT

Katie reports that efforts are underway to make the program more relevant to small towns such as ours.

MOTION to adjourn at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Mulberry