



Cornwall Conservation Commission

Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 16, 2021 held 10:30 am conducted by Zoom Session

Commissioners in attendance: Patrick Mulberry, Sean Quinn, Katie Freygang, Heidi Cunnick, and Debby Bennett, with Nancy Berry of the Cream Hill Lake Task Force and Margie Purnell member of the public in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 am

The minutes of the special meeting of November 18, 2021 were accepted without changes

TREASURER'S REPORT

- A budget amount of \$2317 remains for the commission expenses for fiscal year 2021-2022.
- Mulberry reminds each sub-committee head to submit budget requests for the following year's budget allocation:

NRI	Margie Purnell
Ridgeline Protection	Deb Bennett
Noteworthy Places	Heidi Cunnick
Lake Task Force	Heidi & Nancy Berry
Sustainable CT	Katie Freygang
Outreach	Deb Bennet/Katie Freygang

OUTREACH/WEB SITE

- The commission approved a **MOTION** to add an archival section to the CCC website accessible to commissioners and supporters that would serve as a repository for the temporary storage of drafts and commission working documents. It was agreed that as documents were finalized they would be made available in the portion of the web site accessible to the general public.
- Debby and Katie are progressing with efforts to create labels for tree specimens along the Wells Preserve hiking trails. Patrick suggests that this approach may be

expanded to include notable or unique natural features throughout Cornwall.

- Katie suggests organizing a presentation on invasive insects affecting Cornwall's forests and residential plantings. Rob Ericson Clark was mentioned as a possible expert to speak to this topic.
- Heidi is working with Dee Salomon of the garden to address barberry invasives which will likely take the form of a walk and learn session, and a visit to a native nursery to learn what can be planted instead of barberry.
- The commission discussed participating with other local conservation organizations to address "pollinator pathways" (managing the landscape to promote healthy pollinators).

RIDGELINE PROTECTION

- The Sub-committee is advancing it's work to aim for an late January 2022 presentation to the Planning & Zoning Commission
- Sean is continuing with the development of a Power Point presentation of the proposed Ridgeline Protection measure. Mulberry suggests that the document also serve as an outline of the essential key features of any proposed regulation.
- Patrick will coordinate with Anna Timell P&Z chair, as to the optimal time to make a presentation

RURAL CHARACTER

- Mulberry submitted a draft description of what might define Rural Character. This brief two sentence paragraph could serve as a headline or sound bite for a more detailed explanation of what rural character is comprised of. Commissioners will review and comment.

CREAM HILL LAKE TASK FORCE

- Nancy reports that a meeting is planned for early 2022 to set out the Task Force agenda and budget request for the upcoming year.

REMOVAL OF TREES AT HOUSATONIC MEADOWS STATE PARK

- After vocal protests, the removal of trees at the state park has been paused. Though significant damage has already been done. The uncoordinated and clumsy effort on the part of the Connecticut DEEP suggests the need to reorganize it's operational methods
- Deb and Mike Nadeau, (ecologist, arborist, and Sharon resident) have assessed and marked a number of diseased trees at the state park that warrant removal. These trees represent a significantly lower number of trees than what the state has slotted for removal.
- Katie will write a draft statement of the commission's position on this issue

MOTION to adjourn at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Mulberry