



## **Cornwall Conservation Commission**

Minutes of the Meeting of January 20, 2022 held 10:30 am conducted by Zoom Session

Commissioners in attendance: Patrick Mulberry, Katie Freygang, Heidi Cunnick, and Debby Bennett, with Nancy Berry of the Cream Hill Lake Task Force and Anna Timell as member of the public in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 am

The minutes of the special meeting of December 16, 2021 were accepted with changes

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- A budget amount of \$2317 remains for the commission expenses for fiscal year 2021-2022.
- Mulberry needs budget requests from the following sub-committees for the 2022-2023 fiscal year:

NRI	Margie Purnell
Noteworthy Places	Heidi Cunnick
Sustainable CT	Katie Freygang

### **OUTREACH/WEB SITE**

- Katie reports that the following categories of events are planning for the upcoming year:
  - Barberry Invasives
  - Intro to Cream Hill Lake Monitoring
  - Welles Preserve plant species labeling
  - "Bug Guy" talk
  - Educating the public on the merits of Ridgeline Protection (Anna Timell's suggestion)

### **RIDGELINE PROTECTION**

- Anna Timell explained that P&Z could not immediately take up the ridgeline protection regulation since P&Z would be occupied with other issues for the near term. However,

Anna speaking now as P&Z chairperson, committed to take up the issue at some later date and advised the commission to use the meantime to educate the public as to the benefits of such a regulation and to build a consensus for the issue.

#### RURAL CHARACTER

- Heidi Cunnick submitted memo defining “Rural Character”. The memo opened with a law review definition of rural character and went on to tell the story of why Cornwall physical characteristics are the way they are, concluding with mention of physical features of our town (such as open space, farms, forests, stone walls, etc.).
- Mulberry remarked that the law review definition included mention of “single family homes”, an inclusion which would not be well received.
- Nancy reiterated that the definition should focus on land use and designing for current needs, along-side physical features in order to comply with state of Connecticut edicts.
- Katie elevated the conversation with three aspects of the physical world that influence emotional wellbeing: height, light/dark and enclosure.
- Deb spoke of delineating a logical rationale for each aspect of Cornwall’s physical features to be put forward.

#### CREAM HILL LAKE TASK FORCE

- Heidi and Nancy put forth a budget request for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, of which \$650 would be coming from the Conservation budget and \$1250 from other sources.

#### REMOVAL OF TREES AT HOUSATONIC MEADOWS STATE PARK

- Katie penned a letter outlining the commission’s position on the removal of trees at the park, Mulberry passed it along the officials at DEEP and state government.

#### SUSTAINABLE CT

- Katie reported on dealings with the state organization and concluded that our efforts should focus on Cornwall’s particular situation which may or may not align with other communities in the state.
- Katie also requested that the town appoint a coordinator (someone other than herself) and fund the position.

#### P&Z ANNUAL CONFERENCE JANUARY 27<sup>th</sup>

- Commissioners submitted statements on commission activities for the past year. Mulberry will make a brief opening statement and then asked if each issue could be summarized in a one minute time frame. Anna Timell suggests to present the information in a manner that entices the public to take interest in the issue presented.

**MOTION** to adjourn at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick Mulberry