CCC Minutes Special Meeting May 25, 2023

Location: In person, Deb Bennett House, 107 Cream Hill Rd, West Cornwall, CT

The agenda was approved.

Attending were Commissioners Heidi Cunnick, Kate Freygang, Nancy Berry, Deb Bennett and public member M Purnell

Meeting called to order 11:32 am

The meeting opened with a discussion from the Chair as to the objective of the meeting. This was to develop goals for the coming year 2024. Members concurred and added it would be best to extend the one-year plan to a three- year plan. The following notes convey these plans which were based on the 2020 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

Katie is interested in engaging with CCS on **energy monitoring** and possibly expanding the solar program. Deb is interested in working with the CCS Science Department under the guidance of Joe Markow about gardening and soil health. It was noted that a new principle will be coming to CCS so perhaps Nancy would ask for an exit interview with Mary Kay to see how CCC could be most helpful to the new team. Discussions about the best approach for engagement with Housatonic High School followed. Margie shared her experiences with the Washington Garden club’s efforts with their grade school. Leads for CCS efforts are **Katie** and **Nancy.**

On the **Waste and Composting** front, CCC will support the development of the facility as well as educational components reinforcing the links to sustainability. Leads on this effort: **All**

The discussion of **Ridgelines** recognized that there will be difficulties in getting P&Z approval. Additional work may be required by the Land Use Officer as well as other impediments to its easy adoption. It may be necessary to take this to a public forum. Heidi will touch base with Anna Timmell about this. Leads on this effort: **Deb** and **Heidi.**

It was decided that Cornwall’s **Watershed Plan** would be a major focus next year. Heidi had sent to all the EPA Handbook on Watershed Development Plan to help the endeavor. What would the objective be for the CCC to develop such a plan. Leads: **Heidi** and **ALL.**

**Katie** reported that we would be supporting ongoing air monitoring efforts.

Katie also proposed that we pick up the banner of updating the **NRI.** She proposed that the sections of the NRI be applied to the website so that we could have a working platform rather than a document that is updated every ten years. Katie said she would work with Margie on this.

Regarding **Ongoing/Support,** Heidi offered to create a grid on various ongoing topics (website, Ag Fair, Invasives, etc.) to see if what we discussed fits in with the POCD. At that point, we would discuss this grid with Gordon to see if our priorities align.

In the same vein, the question was raised : what groups do we want to meet with and how do our various roles intersect? The purpose of answering this question is simply to create less work for all commissions and groups. Lead: **Katie**

The question was raised if all commissioners could take turns attending the BoS meetings and then report back at meetings.

Regarding Scenic Roads, it was noted that this subject was voted down when introduced in a previous year by CCC under Ron Hummel’s Chairmanship. **Heidi** will check with Pat Mulberry on this topic.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09