

Corinth Conservation Commission

January 6, 2020

Present: Glynn Pellagrino, Linda Tobin, Jon Spanier, Bradley Wheeler, Ken Arkind, Marian Cawley, Kevin Eaton and Ginny Barlow (guest)

Absent: Lindle Lawton-Sutton, Kevin Buchanan

I. Call to order: 7:05

II. Agenda Changes: add town orchard

III. Approval of July minutes: Glynn moved to approve, Linda seconded, All in favor.

IV. Town Orchard. Ginny reported that one apple tree is likely dying and requested approval for up to an \$80 expenditure for a tree replacement (possibly Russet to replace the Gayla). Marion made such a motion (Glynn seconded) and it was approved. April 25 was chosen as the orchard clean up day. Dean has not been paid yet for mowing; Glynn will follow up. The swamp oak by the town hall was totaled by one of the town trucks; whether or not to replace it was discussed, but no decision reached. It was decided to ask Louise Graf if she would be available to teach a pruning workshop in late March.

V. Town Forest Logging. Continuing last months discussion, the Forest Plan (by Redstart) showed that logging was not indicated through 2026; and that stands 1, 2 & 3 contained only 5%, 9% and near 0, respectively, of Ash. Given this information, the discussion as to whether or not to log the Town Forest was tabled.

VI. Act 171 Education Program. Per the Town Plan mandate to protect Corinth wildlife corridors, Ken prepared a packet of educational ideas and meeting suggestions for the Committee to discuss. (That packet is attached to these minutes.) Education of the Corinth population and determination of landowners in critical corridor areas were determined to be ideas that the Committee would act on near term. Towards that end, it was decided to try to have Jens **(last name?)** present a general information seminar to the town sometime in April at his convenience. At the same time, it was also noted that implementing Act 171 ideas is a 10 year plan, and would not be accomplished quickly.

VII. Tracking Walk. Is set for March 8 for the town; 2 sessions of 12 each. Brad will talk with Waits River school. \$900 was authorized to cover costs.

VIII. Bottle Duty: 1/11 Dutton; 1/18 Jon; 1/25 Kevin E; 2/1 Glynn

IX. Adjournment: 9:02 - Glynn moved, Jon seconded, All in favor.

ACT 171 Education Program

“Taking the Long View for Corinth”

January 6, 2020

Appendix C: 2018 Survey Results

Question		Strongly Agree		Agree	Neutral		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total	Average Favorability	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count			Percent
1	Our Town's major strengths are its people and its beautiful rural character.	129	59%	77	35%	11	5%	1	0%	0	0%	218	4.53
2	Corinth should have zoning regulations to protect the rural character of our Town.	58	27%	61	28%	34	16%	33	15%	29	13%	215	3.40

IMPLEMENTING ACT 171 REQUIREMENTS

This document provides a suggested process, which is built on the ACCD Planning Manual's five-step process, to help implement the requirements of Act 171. This five-step process includes:

STEP 1

ASSESSMENT OF FOREST BLOCKS AND
HABITAT CONNECTORS IN MUNICIPAL AND
REGIONAL PLANS

STEP 2

IDENTIFYING COMMUNITY VALUES AND
ENGAGING THE PUBLIC

STEP 3

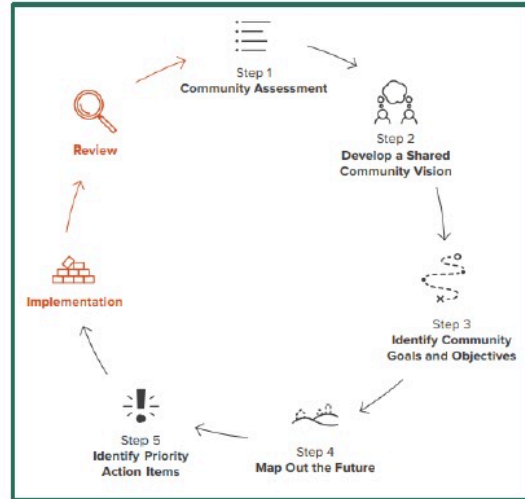
GOALS AND POLICIES

STEP 4

CREATING YOUR FUTURE LAND USE MAP
AND PRIORITIES

STEP 5

IMPLEMENTATION AND ACTION – MAKE IT HAPPEN



Picture 1: Image from ACCD Planning Manual

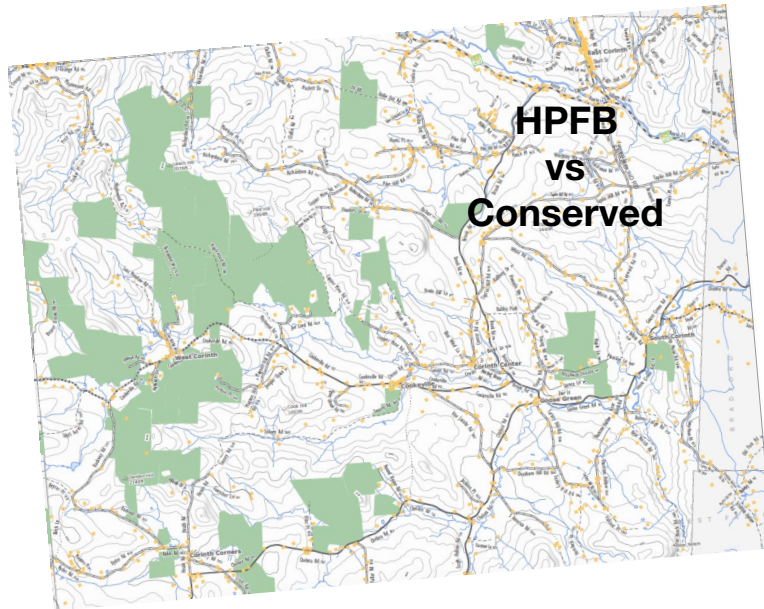
Vermont Agency for Natural Resources Act 171 Guidance

Outline

- Primary Objective
- Additional Objectives
- Program Outline
- Meeting Agendas
- Inter Town Possibilities
- Planning Commission Interaction
- State Resources Required
- Yearly Reporting

Program Objectives

- Establish Corinth's long term commitment to the protection of our high priority forest blocks and wildlife corridors.
- Develop a Future Land Use Map that Indicates those areas that are important as forest blocks and habitat connectors. Create a plan for land development in those areas to minimize forest fragmentation and promote the health, viability, and ecological function of forests.(From Vermont Agency of Natural Resource's Act 171 Guidance Document)



Additional Objectives

- Identify individual landowners within Corinth's HPFB/WC
- Develop landowner tool kit to help individuals maintain existing HPFB/WC
- Create guidance for Planning Commission Land Development Reviews
 - Act 250 Reviews, Conditional Use Standards, and Site Plan Review Standards for Zoning Reviews
- Help develop town ordinances needed for HPFB/WC preservation

Program Outline

- Conservation Commission will lead 4 town workshops over the next year to educate residents and/or landowners on the importance of Continuous Forest Blocks and Wildlife Corridors. Land owners will be encouraged to take actions that will maintain the character of their property as well as its contribution to HPFB/WC.
 - 2 sessions will be held at Town Hall
 - 2 sessions will be outdoor naturalist led tours
- Working with necessary Vermont Agencies, Land Trust experts, and local officials a process to support individual landowners' action plans will be developed.
 - Action Plans include Current Use, Conservation Easement, Tax Abatements, Legacy Planning, Forest Management Planning and Forestry Operations

Meeting Agendas

- March 10 - Town Hall
 - Main topic - What are Forest Blocks, Wildlife Corridors and why do they matter.
 - Guest Speakers - Jens Hilke
- June 9 - Town Forest??
 - Main Topic — Forest management, wild life corridors, wetlands, riparian and connectivity
 - Guest Speaker - TBD Vermont Fish and Wildlife, Marcus Bradley
- September 8 - TBD Conserved Property tour?
 - Main Topic - all you wanted to know about land conservation
 - Guest Speaker - Bob Linck and host landowner
- December 8 - Town Hall
 - Introduction to landowner tool kit
 - Guest Speaker - TBD

Planning Commission Interaction

- Provide a “Kick-Off” briefing at the next PC Meeting
- Jointly develop guidance materials for Development Reviews
- Participate in potential ordinance developments

Inter-Town Possibilities

- Engage with Topsham, Washington, and Bradford in their ongoing Act 171 activities
- Hold joint educational events
- Identify Forest Blocks and Wildlife Corridors that cross town boundaries

State Resources

- Seek training in the use of Bio Finder Application
- Guest speakers from VNR, Fish and Wildlife, County Foresters, Forest, Parks and Recreation
- Forest Carbon Legislation participation

Yearly Reporting

- Monitor the status of Corinth's designated Forest Blocks and Wildlife Corridors
- Establish goals for conservation easements, current use, and forestry management within blocks and corridors and monitor progress