



TOWN OF CORNWALL RESOLUTION

DATE: May 27, 2020
DEPARTMENT: PARKS & RECREATION
MOTION NUMBER: PR-03-2020 Naturalization Areas

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

MOTION LOST _____

MOTION WITHDRAWN _____

Moved by Councillor  **Corey Frizzell**
Seconded by Councillor  **Elaine Barnes**

Whereas: The Town of Cornwall commissioned a Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Master Plan for the Town, and the Master Plan identified certain areas in the Town that would be ideally suited for “naturalization” areas,

And Whereas: Naturalized areas will help promote the biodiversity and ecological potential in the Town and have generally positive environmental impacts,

And Whereas: The Town of Cornwall has consulted with the Cornwall Area Watershed Group regarding the proposed naturalization areas, and they have provided insight and favourable comments on the areas,

Therefore, be it Resolved: That the Town of Cornwall designate the areas encompassing all or portions of PID #'s 1027416, 846071, 874305, 881573, 884304, 884312, 1027416 as shown on the attachments to this resolution as naturalization areas on a trial basis.

Naturalization Area of Town of Cornwall 2020



PID 1027416 Size: 3.28 acres Recommendation: Naturalize

Riparian area of Hyde Creek between Ferry Road and MacArthur Drive, includes White Pine tree stand behind Hillside Meadows Drive.

This area is predominantly floodplain, an area of low-lying ground adjacent to a river, formed mainly of soft river sediments and subject to flooding. This area has been worked on extensively from 2011-2015 by the local watershed group who brush matted to consolidate the flooded sediments and rebuild a natural river channel. Tree planting was completed between 2015-2018, to naturalize this riverside, with larch, willow, dogwood, hemlock, white pine, common elderberry, Red-berried elder, and more.

Behind Hillside Meadows Drive there is a young White Pine stand, the stand is healthy and heights average 12 ft. tall pine. A full grown pine will stand 150 ft. tall and span 30 ft. at maturity. The area is gently sloped, accommodating precipitation flows to the creek, and provides wildlife corridor. The area is habitat for migratory songbirds and provides year round habitat for others songbirds. Here is a list of songbirds that favor white pine stands.

The populations of songbirds significantly declined (30%) since 1966. As habitat for the conservation of key migratory bird species, we recommend naturalizing this area and promoting bird watching in the area as the pine stand matures.

- | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| • American Robin | • Cedar Waxwing | • Evening Grosbeak | • Pine Siskin | • Warblers |
| • Blue Jay | • Crossbill | • House Finch | • Purple Finch | • White-Breasted Nuthatch |
| • Brown Thrasher | • Dark-Eyed Junco | • Kinglets | • Red-Bellied Woodpecker | |
| | | • Northern Cardinal | • Tufted Titmouse | Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker |

Naturalization Area of Town of Cornwall 2020



PID 846071 Size: 3.11 acres Recommendation: Naturalize

Adjacent to Cornerstone Baptist Church, and parallel to Fulton Drive, there is a green space including a hedgerow of White Spruce.

The contour lines indicate that this area provides draining of precipitation and groundwater from behind East Wilshire, past Susan Drive, to the stream adjacent to Keough Court. Therefore, this location is part of the drainage basin, an area of land where precipitation collects and drains off into a common outlet, such as into a river, bay, or other body of water. This location is wet in the fall and spring.

There is wetland habitat approx. 150 ft. to the east of this location and naturalizing this area would be a complementary habitat, as well as, create a corridor for plants, seeds, and wildlife. **Recommendations are to plant long grasses, wildflowers, and other meadows plants to increase the soils capacity to absorb precipitation and recharge groundwater levels. There is the opportunity to plant trees and shrubs that prefer well drained soils, and tolerate wind and full sun.**

Naturalization Area of Town of Cornwall 2020



PID 874305 Size: 5.03 acres Recommendation: Naturalize

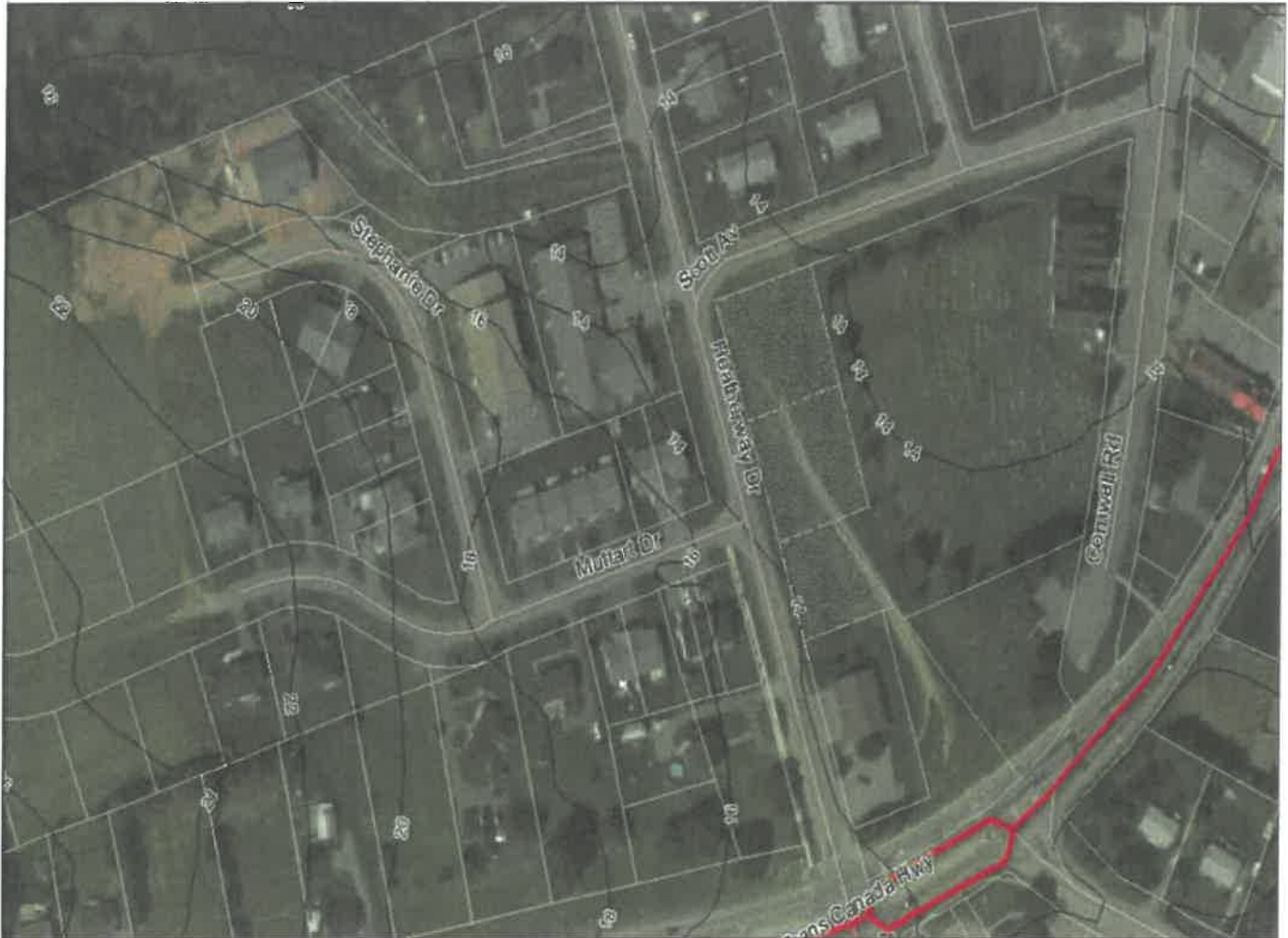
The greenspace in between and parallel to Jake Drive and Patti Lee Drive, including the riparian areas alongside Hyde Creek parallel to Lacardy Drive, and up until the end of, Kellow Drive.

The sharp and abrupt contour lines within the greenspace area indicate that there was originally a stream here draining into Hyde Creek, but it's been plowed under during development and planted with White Spruce. The area is saturated (wet) most of the year, except for low-flow season (July- August). This location is a drainage basin, an area of land where precipitation collects and drains off into the creek, but it is predominantly groundwater flow. Groundwater flow is defined as the "part of streamflow that has infiltrated the ground", it flows through soil layers and the aquifer until it meets the creek and seeps out into surface flows of the creek. This is a key area to accommodate high flows and mitigate flooding. **Recommendations are to naturalize the area with a diversity of trees and shrubs that tolerate wet soil and promote absorption into the soil. Long grasses, wildflowers, and ferns are also a complementary species to be planted in this area. This area is rich habitat for wildlife species and provides resilience for the community against the impacts from climate change.**

The riparian area adjacent to Hyde Cree, between Kellow Drive and Lacardy Drive is a sensitive area that experiences erosion rates higher than 10% a year (a natural amount is 10% for disturbed riparian). The river is unstable in this section in an attempt to reproduce its floodplain. As higher water events occur in spring and fall, the river accommodates those flows by pushing against the curves of the channel. Of which some curves are mowed and cannot withstand the pressure, so they erode. **Trees, shrubs, and particularly long grasses provide the best support for the creek bank against erosion. The recommendation is for any residents alongside the river not to mow within 5 meters. This area can be naturalizes with wildflowers, long grasses and shrubs.**

Note (Red X): This area contains a bridge stream-crossing, with this type of infrastructure, with the soft soils of PEI, in a creek attempting to reproduce floodplain characteristics, wash outs of bridges are common. The best thing to do when building a stream crossing is not to install support structures in the creek or at the sides of the creek, but to install supports 5 meters inland of the creek banks. This can be more expensive in the short term, but prevents wash outs in the long-term.

Naturalization Area of Town of Cornwall 2020



PID 881573, 884304, 884312 Size: 0.95 acres Recommendation: Naturalize

Behind the Post Office and parallel to the stormwater/freshwater channel to the east there is an un-treed grass greenspace.

These three parcels denote the area highlighted on the map. The location is part of the drainage basin, an area of land where precipitation collects and drains off into a common outlet, such the channel nearby. This location could be considered a meadow, as it is wet in the fall and spring, due to the flatness of the general surrounding area, soils are poorly drained. This location is also a site for snow buildup from plowing roads.

Naturalizing the area with native meadows grasses, wildflowers, ferns and species of tree and shrub that tolerate wet soils and full sun. A hedgerow could be planted, or several stands of white spruce, white birch, and green ash, relatively fast growing species. This would allow protection for the more delicate low tolerant species (Red Oak) during the harsher months. A diversity of trees could be planted to naturalize the area, granted the area never becomes developed for commercial or residential.

PID # 1027416

