

**TOWN OF WARREN
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 27, 2007**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Margo Wade, Chair, Tara Hamilton, Erin Russell-Story, Damon Reed, Robin Bennett, Jim Edgcomb

GUESTS: none

- AGENDA:**
- I) 7:40 PM – Call to Order
 - II) Wildlife Inventory
 - III) Eaton Parcel Forest Plan
 - IV) Ancient Roads
 - V) Town Meeting Preparation
 - VI) Newcomb Subdivision
 - VI) Other Business:
 - a. Approve meeting minutes
 - b. Items for next meeting
 - VII) Adjourn – 10:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Margo Wade called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

II. WILDLIFE INVENTORY

Margo Wade circulated copies of the proposed project scope of work and contract with Arrowwood to the CC members via email prior to the meeting.

MOTION by Margo Wade seconded by Damon Reed, to accept the documents as written. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

Margo discussed with Zoning Administrator Miron Malboeuf about scheduling an informal kick-off meeting of the project sometime in late April. Margo will ^{draft} a sample flyer from Arrowwood to hand out at Town Meeting (i.e.: a save the date flyer.) A possible date for the meeting is Monday, April 23. The Conservation Committee will strive to get as much public participation as possible in this event. Arrowwood will be asked to present maps of certain public and privately owned forest areas of the Town that may have the most interesting habitats.

III. EATON PARCEL FOREST PLAN

The final version of the proposed forest management plan for the Eaton parcel has to be approved and signed by the Select Board. The Conservation Committee will recommend that the Select Board adopt the plan.

MOTION by Tara Hamilton seconded by Damon Reed, that the Conservation Committee adopt the Forest Management Plan for the Eaton parcel as an interim management plan, pending additional outstanding studies and plans; motion carried. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

IV. ANCIENT ROADS

Susan Hemmeter called Paul Gillies, a Vermont land use attorney working on the ancient roads project in Berlin. Susan and Margo will meet with Mr. Gillies on March 1 when he is in Warren on other business. This meeting should help them get a better sense of how to tackle this big project. Margo will then write a recommendation as to how the Town should proceed on the ancient roads project.

Susan suggested that a good possible first step might be to gather different maps on the area, and find roads that are missing on current, modern maps. A persistent question is who does the vault research? It was suggested that ultimately this work should be done by someone from outside the Valley to avoid any potential conflict of interest. It may be possible to get an intern from Vermont Law School.

Robin volunteered to get in touch with someone from VLS to see if this is possible. Damon is willing to take on more Ancient Roads work from other CC members.

V. TOWN MEETING PREPARATION

According to the Town Report, there is \$195,385 in the Conservation Reserve Fund. \$20,000 voted in by the Town at Town Meeting 2006 was deposited, but not until January of 2007.

In 2006, \$6,000 of the CRF was expended for the Belanger parcel.

The Aldeborough/Rowe affordable housing project is moving, but very slowly. It should be noted that the CC approved that expenditure from the CRF because it was understood that the land would be conserved and that the CRF would be reimbursed.

Fayston is not implementing a Conservation Commission as CC members originally thought, but rather a Natural Resources Committee.

Erin presented a draft fact sheet on Conservation Commissions to the group. The group approved, and Erin will make 300 copies for distribution at Town Meeting.

VI. NEWCOMB SUBDIVISION

Tara expressed concern that documents regarding the proposed subdivision of the Newcomb parcel do not fully list primary and secondary conservation resources on the property. The other CC members agreed. The group discussed submitting written comments to the DRB stressing the importance of assessing and mapping such resources, and that until such resources are documented, no further approval should be granted.

Erin agreed to draft a letter that will include the language and comments the group discussed, citing the Town Plan and town development regulations.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes:

MOTION by Tara Hamilton, seconded by Robin Bennett, to accept the minutes from the January Conservation Committee Meeting.
VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

NOTE: Starting in March, the Conservation Committee meetings will be held on the 4th Tuesday of every month, from 7:30 – 10:00 PM.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION by, seconded by Robin Bennett to adjourn the meeting.
VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Russell-Story

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Robin Bennett 3/27/07
Robin Bennett (date)

Jim Edgcomb (date)

Tara Hamilton 3/27/07
Tara Hamilton (date)

Damon Reed 3/27/07
Damon Reed (date)

Erin Russell-Story (date)

Margo Wade 3/27/07
Margo Wade (date)