

TOWN OF WARREN
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 27, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Bennett, Jim Edgcomb, Tara Hamilton, Susan Hemmeter, Damon Reed, Margo Wade, Chair,

GUESTS: none

AGENDA:

- 1) 7:00 PM – Call to Order
- 2) Wildlife and Natural Heritage Assessment Project
- 3) Project Updates: Town Forest, Management Plans, Ancient Roads, Trails Inventory, Brownfields, Newcomb Subdivision
- 4) 8:15 – Check-In with the Selectboard at the Town Hall
- 5) Executive Session – discussion of conservation parcels/priorities
- 6) Other Business:
 - a. Approve meeting minutes
 - b. Items for next meeting
- 7) Adjourn – 10:00 PM

1) CALL TO ORDER

Margo Wade called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

2) WILDLIFE/NATURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

The kick off meeting has been schedule for May 14th from 7:00-8:30. We will be meeting with the Planning Commission in April to discuss co-hosting the meeting. Margo will contact Kevin Russell to have the flier from the Waitsfield/Fayston kick-off meeting updated. Other media will include articles/press release for the Valley reporter, flier to Channel 44, PSA for WMRW. Margo will also contact Miranda from the Friends of the Mad River to see if she can determine what Warren residents participated in the Keeping Track trainings so specific out reach can be made to these folks.

3) PROJECT UPDATES

Town Forest: There was some discussion about where the grant money from the Northern Forest Alliance should be direct. It was determined that it should come through the town rather than going directly to the consultants. Consultants will then bill the town.

A key component for the Northern Forest Alliance is that the trail building portion of the project include community effort, therefore it will be important to build public participation into the project.

Management Plans: Tara provided updated copies of the Eaton Parcel Timber Management plan by Russ Barrett to the group with copies for the Selectboard and PC. At our last meeting the CC approved the Timber Management Plan and will recommend to the Selectboard tonight that they adopt the plan as an interim plan that will be incorporated into the Eaton Parcel Comprehensive Management Plan once complete.

Inventories and assessments currently underway to be incorporated into the comprehensive management plans include: natural communities assessment, natural heritage inventory, trails project, Audubon assessment, timber management plan, and interpretive program. We anticipate

that the comprehensive management plans for the Eaton and Austin parcels and Riverside Park will be dynamic documents that will be user friendly and easily updated.

We hope to hear from the VT Dept of Forest, Park and Recreation in April about grant rewards for the VT Recreation Trail Grant application we submitted in January. That application proposed development of an educational/interpretive program on the Eaton and/or Austin parcels.

Ancient Roads: Susan distributed a status summary of the project and a proposal from Paul Gillies to conduct deed research for the town. It is anticipated that implementation of the project will be conducted in phases to allow determination as we go as to how in depth the town wished to go. She asked the group to review the information and get back to her shortly via email so she could contact Mr. Gillies and let him know if he should begin the research.

Trails Inventory: Jim will develop a plan of action to begin mapping of trails in town. This will include discussion about how to categorize trail types (public, private mappable, private unmappable, etc). Sensitivity to private land owners was raised as a key factor. Current trails that exist in GIS form that the CC is aware of include: Long Trail, Catamount Trail, VASS trails, 4th class roads, Mad River Path, Austin Parcel logging roads.

Brownfields: Robin reported that the CVRPC has accepted our application which will now be forwarded on to the EPA with their recommendation to conduct an initial assessment. Some additional paper work is required and Robin will continue to work with CVRPC to submit the necessary information.

Newcomb Subdivision: The group reviewed and approved Erin's letter to the DRB regarding the subdivision. Margo will send (and email) a copy to the DRB, applicant and Don Swain (the applicant's consultant).

4) CHECK IN WITH THE SELECTBOARD

Each member gave brief updates on the status of the CC projects. (See Project Updates above). In addition the groups talked about ways to improve communication between the boards, which includes the monthly check-ins. The CC asked to be copied on the Selectboard agendas electronically and also suggested a yearly or bi-yearly meeting with all boards may be beneficial in allowing the groups to understand what each board is working on.

Items to follow up on included:

- Checking in with Linda Lloyd, MRVPD, about what we have learned to date on the ancient roads protect.
- Develop a frame work for mapping town trails.

At the April check-in the CC will submit an updated charter and at that time the Selectboard can formally dissolve the Conservation Committee and form the Conservation Commission.

