

**TOWN OF WARREN  
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MAY 22, 2007**

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

**GUESTS:** none

**AGENDA:**

- I) 7:00 PM – Call to Order
- II) Ancient Roads and Trails Update
- III) Project Updates
- IV) Check-In with Selectboard
- V) Executive Session
- VI) Other Business:
  - a. Approve meeting minutes
  - b. Items for next meeting
- VII) Adjourn – 10:30 PM

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. PROJECT UPDATES / REVIEW TASK LIST**

**1. Ancient Roads** Susan and Robin attended an information meeting on Ancient Roads. Sheila Getzinger presented her position that AR will be a legal nightmare and recommended that the Town not pursue this. The other position was also discussed: that the Town has an asset in the AR's and an obligation to pursue them, especially if the town is committed to an inter-connected network of trails.

**2. Mad River Path Summit Meeting** (Robin) Robin attended this meeting last Thursday. The meeting was well-attended and the group reviewed the current path layout and alternate locations including Volkstown Road. The Path is picking up momentum with the Rte. 100 scenic byway designation. Need to develop spurs for the path like the Sugarbush snowmaking pond trail out to Gold Hill Rd. Need to investigate: grant possibilities, getting easements and paying for easements.

**3. Trails Inventory** (Jim) We discussed the need to develop one big map which would show categories of trails. Tara will take the lead on developing the base trail map with the information currently available (using Arc-View). The town has the program and a computer for use by the commission. One critical issue is to get landowner permission to GPS trails and then to put them on a map. The Town Plan calls for a town-wide network (Chapter 10.17). The identification of trails should be part of the DRB review and/or creation of the town's Official Map. Discussed the idea of a work session(s) with different groups to gather existing info on where the trails are. Priscilla will follow up by getting a recommendation for purchasing a GPS Unit.

4. Brownfields (Robin) Claire Bootle, CVRPC Assistant Planner, is seeking a committee member from Warren for the Brownfields review board. Regional planning commission will hire a consultant to assist the town. The Warren Town Garage hired a consultant to study their work. Need to put together an article for the paper. Notification of neighbors.

5. National Heritage Assessment (Margo) There was poor attendance at this meeting, but the people who were there were enthusiastic. The map is at the Warren School. Need to put the map up at other locations including, Golf course, Sportscenter, Schoolhouse Market, Warren School, public events, farmer's market, etc. Margo will follow up on whether to post multiple maps or not.

Priority permission list, divided into top priorities: those with vernal pools. Margo will come up with a list of who's contacting who. We need an electronic copy of the Waitsfield's Natural Heritage assessment.

**MOTION by Margo Wade seconded by Damon Reed, that the Conservation Committee approve Invoice #1 of May 1 from Arrowhead Environmental for \$1810. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.**

6. Management Plans (Tara) The draft management plan is in from the forester. Need to send out an RFP for the overall plan. Plan should address existing data, county forester timber management plan, past uses, draft recommendations, community input in public meetings. Trail designer Josh Ryan is starting next week, with a site visit June 1<sup>st</sup> @ 3pm. He will take all the existing data and come up with a proposal for the Eaton and gravel pit parcels. Brett Engstrom will start the natural communities mapping next week on the Gravel pit, Eaton parcel and Riverside park. Discussed putting this off until after the natural heritage assessment.

7. Town Forest (Tara) Presentation of final report. Discussed how to use the final recommendations. Myron will put it up on the Town's website. Send to management plan consultants and Arrow wood.

### **III. CHECK-IN WITH SELECTBOARD**

The CC and SB presented to the Selectboard on Ancient Roads, Natural Heritage, and Forestland.

### **IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no progress made on real estate matters, so Executive Session was cancelled.

### **V. OTHER BUSINESS**

CC Chair rotation. Responsibilities include: writing the agenda, running the meeting, being the point person with Town of Warren and SB, and posting of all minutes.

Approve April 24<sup>th</sup> minutes with changes.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Susan Hemmeter, seconded by Robin Bennett to adjourn the meeting.

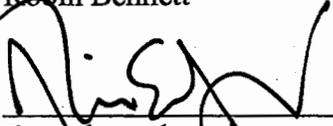
**VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Edgcomb

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

  
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Robin Bennett (date) 8/28/07

  
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Jim Edgcomb (date) 8/28/07

  
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Tara Hamilton (date) 8-28-07

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Susan Hemmeter (date)

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Damon Reed (date)

  
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Margo Wade (date) 8/28/07