

**TOWN OF WARREN
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
JULY 24, 2007**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Margo Wade; Chair, Tara Hamilton, Susan Hemmeter, Jim Edgcomb
GUESTS: Josh Ryan, Linda Lloyd
AGENDA: I) 5:30 -- Site visit at Eaton parcel with Josh Ryan, Trail Designer
II) Management Plans
II) Newcomb Subdivision
III) Project Updates
IV) Executive Session

I. SITE VISIT WITH TRAIL DESIGNER AT THE EATON PARCEL

Attendees on the walk included Carol Thompson, ED of the Path Association; Linda Lloyd, ED of the Planning District and village resident; Carl Lobel, board member of the Path Association and village resident; Mac Rood and Kirsten Reilly (village resident) representing the Warren Secectboard; and Margo Wade, Jim Edgcomb and Tara Hamilton from the Conservation Commission.

II. PRESENTATION TO SELECTBOARD AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION AT THE TOWN HALL

Josh Ryan presented the trail designs and answered questions about the process and the content of the plans. The plans will be used to inform the management plans being written for the parcels during which public input will be sought on the trail proposals as other collected data and stewardship proposals. The plans are on the town's web site.

III. CALL TO ORDER

Margo Wade called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

III. AUSTIN FOREST PLAN

Reviewed plan submitted by the County Forester and discussed process of submitting changes. Tara will ask him to fix typos and provide us with a clean copy. The final version of the proposed forest management plan for the Austin parcel has to be approved and signed by the Select Board. The Conservation Commission will recommend that the Select Board adopt the plan.

**MOTION by Margo Wade seconded by Susan Hemmeter, that the Conservation Commission adopt the Forest Management Plan for the Austin parcel as an interim management plan, pending additional outstanding studies and plans; motion carried.
VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.**

IV. MANAGEMENT PLAN PROPOSALS

The proposals submitted in response to the RFP were reviewed and it was decided to invite both the RJTurner and Fountains groups to meet with us to discuss their proposals. We agreed to check the references they provided and to ask for additional materials they may have available. It was reiterated that the management plans need to be clear, concise, and user-friendly. There was significant discussion on needing to clarify current and anticipated uses/needs for the gravel pit area with various stakeholders in town, as there seems to be a fair amount of miscommunication on this. If town boards are not clear on its uses and potential, how can we create a management plan? It was suggested that perhaps plans should be done for just Riverside and Eaton at this time until there is more clarity on the Austin/gravel pit parcel, though in the end it was decided to move forward on all three. The consultant hired will need to gather additional "political history"

on both the Eaton and Austin parcels. It was also agreed that whether housing would be appropriate for Eaton would be assessed in the plan. Susan suggested this process: amass data, present compiled data at public forum wherein community reacts, from this write draft plan, hold additional meeting for input on draft plans, write and vote on final plan. In sum, we need to discuss with the hired consultant the best process for seeking and including community input on use and management of parcels.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

MOTION by Susan Hemmeter to go into executive session to discuss prospective conservation projects; Jim Edgcomb seconded the motion. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

MOTION by Susan Hemmeter to come out of executive session; Jim seconded the motion. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

No action was taken.

VI. NEWCOMB SUBDIVISION

The WCC reviewed the status of the proposed project after a summary had been provided to the Selectboard earlier in the evening. Susan and Margo inquired whether the DRB would add language to the permit that addresses the wetlands and wildlife habitat but the DRB was not receptive to changing the permit at this point. The landowner, however, is willing to amend the subdivision plat. It was noted that if the primary and secondary conservation values are not shown properly or in conflict with the location of the proposed house sites (i.e., if the natural resource information conflicts with the development as proposed), the DRB would have to amend the subdivision permit. Further, it was noted that the landowner can request an amended permit. Members of the WCC will continue to work with the landowner. Landowner will provide a new plan showing conservation values -- getting a biologist out there and a surveyor to map those values. It was noted that these need to be reviewed prior to 30 days of permit being issued.

VII. TOWN TRAIL PLAN

Jim provided an outline of a plan to address the trail inventory and it was agreed to set a meeting to discuss on early August.

VIII. MINUTES

MOTION made by Susan Hemmeter to postpone approval of April 2007 minutes until they could be reviewed and edited; Tara Hamilton seconded the motion. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

IX. Invoices

MOTION made by Jim Edgcomb to ratify two invoices totaling \$3,500 from Timber and Stone for the trail work; Margo Wade seconded the motion. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

MOTION made by Susan Hemmeter to pay an invoice of \$1,000 from Brett Engstrom for the natural community inventory of the Eaton, Austin and Riverside park parcels; Jim Edgcomb seconded the motion. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

Susan Hemmeter

MOTION made by ~~Jim Edgcomb~~ to pay two invoices of \$478 and \$332.50 from Arrowwood for work on the ecological assessment and wildlife inventory; Jim Edgcomb seconded the motion. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

X. Adjournment

MOTION by Susan Hemmeter, seconded by Jim Edgcomb to adjourn the meeting.
VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tara Hamilton

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Robin Bennett 8/28/07

Robin Bennett (date)

Jim Edgcomb 8/28/07

Jim Edgcomb (date)

Tara Hamilton 8-28-07

Tara Hamilton (date)

Susan Hemmeter (date)

Damon Reed (date)

Margo Wade 8/28/07

Margo Wade (date)