

TOWN OF WARREN
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Robin Bennett, Jim Edgcomb, Tara Hamilton, Susan Hemmeter, Margo Wade, Chair.
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Kirstin Reilly, Warren Selectboard member
- AGENDA:**
- 1) 5:00 PM – Call to Order at the Municipal Building
 - 2) Ancient Roads – next steps
 - 3) Trails Inventory – update
 - 4) Executive Session – discussion of real estate matters (if needed)
 - 5) Other Business:
 - a. Approve meeting minutes
 - b. Kingsbury Farm
 - c. Mike Brodeur
 - d. Land Use & Development Regulations
 - 6) Adjourn – 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Margo Wade called the meeting to order at 5:20 PM.

II. ANCIENT ROADS – NEXT STEPS

Kirstin Reilly, chair of the Ancient Roads subcommittee is taking over administration of the DHCA ancient roads grant.

Possible process:

- identification of ancient roads using historic maps (the roads easily identifiable)
- approach property owners for town to acquire trail easements on three priority roads identified in the subcommittee's June recommendations to the Selectboard
- use the grant monies to research 'hidden' ancient roads (the roads not easily identifiable)

The subcommittee will meet again to clarify project direction and next step.

III. TRAILS INVENTORY – UPDATE

Jim Edgcomb reported a productive meeting with Priscilla Robinson (GIS Coordinator), Miron Malboeuf (Zoning administrator) and Bryson (town mapping consultant) discussion the town's new mapping data base and the trails inventory project. He proposed the following outline and statement to guide the project.

Trail Map Inventory Plan (July 24, 2007)

The Town Plan calls for strengthening the subdivision regulations to require the designation of public access to support the creation of a Town-wide trail network and the protection of important existing trails. (Section 10-17)

To this end, the 1st step is to map the existing trails. The following is an outline of a process to achieve this.

Mapping Process

- I. Develop base map/contours, property lines (Ski trails/Cross country)
- II. Map previously located trails (Catamount/Long Trail)
- III. Find trails from flown photos with mappers
- IV. Gather info/hearsay on trails: Small gatherings w/ markers and maps
 - Public posting/locate on one map all possible trails
 - Small group and individual mapping sessions
- V. Categorize trails
 - A. **Public/Public** (Catamount, Long Trail, GMC, National Forest Trails)
Publicized, Membership
 - B. **Private/Public** (Sugarbush, Ole's, Blueberry Lake)
 - C. **Private/Semi-Public**
Owner open to local mapping
 - D. **Private/Secret**
Owner doesn't want mapped but okay to use
 - E. **Private/Keep Out**
Owner doesn't want used
- VI. Prioritize trails to be mapped
- VII. Locate all priority trails with GPS unit

A base map will be developed identifying the trails info currently available. Once the base map is created the mapping of additional trails can begin. It made the most sense to include the trails from categories A and B as these would be the least sensitive to include.

Jim also discussed the type of GPS unit the CC is interested in purchasing. Priscilla will also be purchasing a GPS unit, but that unit will have a higher level of accuracy (and cost). For the purposes of the trails project accuracy within 1 or 2 feet is unnecessary. The units will be available to other departments within the Town. Coordination for such use will have to be arranged in advance for the CC unit as with the unit Priscilla will manage.

Jim will follow up with Priscilla to discuss development of a base map.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION – DISCUSSION OF REAL ESTATE MATTERS (IF NEEDED)

V. OTHER BUSINESS

a) Approval of meeting minutes

MOTION by Jim Edgcomb, seconded by Robin Bennett, to approve the August 28, 2007 minutes as submitted. **VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.**

The September 2, 2007 minutes were not approved. Margo will distribute copies of the minutes that include and highlight Alec Newcomb's comments. Commission will review those minutes and make associated comments. The minutes will be finalized for signing at the September 24 meeting.

b) Kingsbury Farm Project

The project steering committee continues to meet to determine how all project priorities could be met. Issues have arisen regarding wording of the CC motion recommendation Warren Conservation

Susan Hemmeter 09/25/07
Susan Hemmeter (date)

Tara Hamilton 9/25/07
Tara Hamilton (date)

Damon Reed (date)
Margo Wade 9/25/07
Margo Wade (date)