

**TOWN OF WARREN
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 18, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Edgcomb, Susan Hemmeter, Damon Reed, George Schenk, Ken Blair, Caittin Noel, Margo Wade, Chair.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Shallow

AGENDA:

1. 7:00 PM – Call to Order
2. Discussion with Jim Shallow of the Forests, Wildlife and Communities Project
3. Conservation Projects – process discussion
4. Dump Parcel – next steps
5. Natural Heritage Assessment – update and scheduling of public presentation meeting
6. CC Structure Discussion - working committees, chair, vice chair, treasurer, secretary, minute takers, keeper of the task list, etc.
7. Project Updates (action items and as time allows):
 - Ancient Roads (Susan/Robin)
 - Trails Inventory (Jim)
 - Management Plans (Margo)
 - Aldeborgh/Roe Parcel (Damon/Susan)
8. Executive Session – discussion of real estate matters (if needed)
9. Other Business:
 - a. Approve Invoices
 - b. Approve meeting minutes
 - c. Selectboard Check-in
 - d. Items for next meeting
10. Adjourn – 10:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Margo called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

II. DISCUSSION WITH JIM SHALLOW OF THE FORESTS, WILDLIFE AND COMMUNITIES PROJECT

Discussion with Jim Shallow, Conservation Policy Director with Audubon Vermont about the Forests, Wildlife and Communities Project (FWC). The FWC Project is a grant funded wildlife conservation project. The project is a partnership of Audubon Vermont, Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC), Vermont Coverts, the Northern Forest Alliance and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. The project seeks to reduce future forest fragmentation to better protect Vermont wildlife, especially “species of greatest conservation need” (SGCN) as defined in the VT state Wildlife Action Plan. Focus areas for the project are the Mad River Valley and Upper Valley (near Orange). There is a community visioning session hosted by the project on April 7th from 7-9pm at the Big Picture Theater.

Also, Audubon Vermont and Vermont Coverts have developed a series of four landowner workshops that aim to help individuals manage their woodlots with an eye toward improving wildlife

habitats. Available on staff at Audubon is a conservation biologist (to conduct habitat assessments), and at VNRC is a policy consultant (Jamey Fidel--to assist with planning at the town level).

Shallow requested that a member of the Warren CC join the FWC steering committee. Jim E. suggested that a member of the Valley Futures network Habitat Committee would also be a good addition to the steering committee.

III. CONSERVATION PROJECTS/CC STRUCTURE DISCUSSION

Discussion of various committees currently in place. Discussion moved to possible restructuring of committees. Possible committees suggested: conservation projects, town owned parcels, trails & ancient roads, outreach and education. Tabled to a future meeting.

Discussion about CC structure. Jim E. offered to be vice chair, Caitrin offered to be secretary, Margo offered to continue as chair and treasurer. Tara Hamilton has stepped down from the commission; Margo will advertise the open slot.

MOTION by Ken, seconded by Damon, that Margo Wade is elected as chair and treasurer, Jim Edgcomb is elected as vice chair, and Caitrin Noel is elected as secretary for the period of one year. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

IV. DUMP PARCEL

Updates on progress: the engineers have completed Phase I assessment, and recommend completion of a Phase II assessment. Contrary to prior information, there is currently no funding available to the town for clean-up of the parcel.

Damon would like the CC to stay involved in the project. Ken suggested the project is more appropriate for the Selectboard to deal with, general consensus within group to this effect. George noted that the CC should seek legal counsel and report information to Selectboard, urging further action. Susan recommended putting recommendations in a letter to the Selectboard.

Motion by Susan, seconded by Ken to pass Dump Parcel project to Selectboard with a formal letter describing the status of the project, the recommendations for future action, and requesting to be apprised of future actions. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

Margo and Robin will draft the letter for circulation and present it to the Selectboard at the 3/25 meeting.

V. NATURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

Update on assessment: consultants working on the project are still gathering data. The CC will hold a public meeting to present the assessment report towards the end of April. Margo will send a press release to the Valley Reporter. The CC could also send a mailing to landowners included in the assessment

VI. PROJECT UPDATES

Update on town owned parcel management plans from Margo: there is a steering committee meeting on 3/19 to finalize the plans.

Update on Ancient Roads project from Susan: there is a public meeting April 9th at the Warren Town Hall.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – DISCUSSION OF REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Motion by Susan and seconded by Jim to move into executive session at 9:25pm. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

Motion by Jim and seconded by Ken to move out of executive session at 10:24 pm. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Approval of payment of Arrowwood invoice #9, dated 3/3/08, for the amount of \$472.50

Motion by Caitrin, seconded by Ken, to approve payment of Arrowwood invoice #9. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

- b) Approval of meeting minutes

MOTION by Jim, seconded by Damon, to approve the minutes from February 19, 2008 as submitted. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

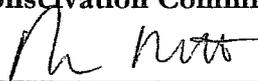
IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Damon, seconded by Caitrin, to adjourn the meeting. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

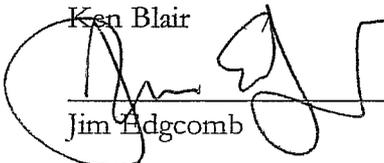
The meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Caitrin Noel

Conservation Commission



Robin Bennett (date) 4/15/08

Ken Blair (date)


Jim Edgcomb (date) 4/15/08

WARREN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 18, 2008

Susan Hemmeter 04/15/08

Susan Hemmeter (date)

Caitrin Noel 4/15/08

Caitrin Noel (date)

Damon Reed 15 April 2008

Damon Reed (date)

George Schenk 4.15.08

George Schenk (date)

Margo Wade 4/15/08

Margo Wade (date)