TOWN OF WARREN
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kenny Blair, Robin Bennett, Caitrin Noel, Margo Wade, chair.
OTHERS PRESENT: Dan Eckstein, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton.
AGENDA:

1) 7:00 PM – Call to Order
2) Executive Session – discussion of real estate matters
3) Hamilton Discussion (amendment to original agenda)
4) 2009 CC Budget - discussion of draft
5) Project Updates
   a. Trails Inventory (Jim)
   b. Management Plans (Margo)
   c. Mad River Valley Forests, Wildlife and Communities Project
6) Other Business:
   a. Approve Invoices
   b. Approve meeting minutes
   c. Selectboard Check-in
   d. Items for next meeting
7) Adjourn – 10:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Margo called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM. Margo made an amendment to the agenda to include a discussion of the Hamilton residence currently before the DRB.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session.

III. HAMILTON DISCUSSION

The Hamiltons are proposing to include a deck on their new residence (Prickly Mountain) that will extend into the 50-foot buffer of a Class 3 wetland on the property. Members discussed possible impacts of this, as well as alternative scenarios. Due to several natural conditions and the desire for maximizing the solar gain and garden space at the property, there are few other options for the location for the deck. CC members expressed that they would support the construction of the deck since potential impacts are likely to be minimal, and as long as several mitigation measures are undertaken. The purpose of these measures would be to negate any potential impacts to the wetland and in effect improve habitat at the site. Margo will compose a letter to the DRB explaining suggested measures.

IV. 2009 CC BUDGET

Margo presented and reviewed a draft budget for 2009. Members suggested adding a "special projects" line item to simplify the listing of multi-year projects and single year projects over time.

V. PROJECT UPDATES

Trails Inventory
No update

Eaton Management Plan
Margo presented the plan to the Selectboard on November 10. They would like us to check in again on December 16.

Austin Management Plan
The CC needs to check plan to ensure it does not preclude citing the town garage on the lower portion of the parcel. Margo suggested working on the Riverside Plan first. She will send it to everyone again via You Send It.

Forest, Wildlife, and Communities Project
There was a great meeting on 10/30 at the 1824 House. Margo, Jim, George and Caitrin attended. Margo will check in with Jamey about any recommendations he has for the zoning language. Caitrin will check with Jens about data/mapping.

Eaton Trail
Recommendation to hire Josh to lead community group in trail construction. CC needs to vet construction of higher elevation portion of trail.

Dump Parcel
Check in with Selectboard and encourage follow up.

Ancient Roads/Trails
Robin, Susan and Kirsten will do an update at next CC meeting.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

a) Invoices

MOTION by Caitrin and seconded by Ken to approve payment to Yestermorrow in the amount of $1479.54 for materials used in the construction of the kiosk. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

b) Minutes

MOTION by Caitrin and seconded by Robin to approve minutes from the September and October CC meetings as submitted. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

c) Items for the next meeting

Riverside Management Plan, conservation priorities, Forest, Wildlife and Communities project update, and Ancient Roads/Trails update.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ken and seconded by Robin to adjourn the meeting. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Caitrin Noel

Conservation Commission

Robin Bennett 3/17/09
Robin Bennett (date)

Ken Blair 3/17/09
Ken Blair (date)

Jim Edgcomb (date)

Susan Hemmeter 03/17/09
Susan Hemmeter (date)

Caitrin Noel 03/17/09
Caitrin Noel (date)

Damon Reed (date)

George Schenk 3.17.09
George Schenk (date)

Margo Wade 3.17.09
Margo Wade (date)