

TOWN OF WARREN
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Edgecomb, Ken Blair, Caitrin Noel, Susan Hemmeter, George Schenk, and Margo Wade, chair. *and Robin Bennett*

OTHERS PRESENT: Don LaHaye, Jens Hilke, Jamey Fidel, Brian Shupe, and Barry Simpson

AGENDA:

- 1) 7:00 PM – Call to Order
- 2) Mad River Valley Forests, Wildlife and Communities Project
- 3) Byways Grant Application
- 4) Chair, chair who's going to be chair?
- 5) Project Updates
- 6) Other Business:
 - a. Approve Invoices
 - b. Approve meeting minutes
 - c. Selectboard Check-in and Dec meeting
 - d. Items for next meeting
- 7) Adjourn – 10:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Margo called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM.

II. BYWAYS GRANT APPLICATION

Joshua Schwartz couldn't attend the meeting to discuss the project. Members discussed the project and expressed the desire to ensure that there will be a conservation easement developed as part of the project. Margo will send an e-mail to the group so we can decide the details of the commission's recommendations for items to focus on as part of the conservation of the parcel.

III. MAD RIVER VALLEY FOREST WILDLIFE AND COMMUNITIES PROJECT

Brian Shupe and Jamey Fidel from the Vermont Natural Resources Council (and working on the Mad River Valley Forest Wildlife and Communities Project) were present to update the Commission on this project. Brian and Jamey have begun working with the Commission on regulatory-based options to promote conservation. There are also non-regulatory options, which the group should also consider in conjunction with the broader initiative in the Valley. There is a steering committee meeting for the project the week of January 24, and these options will be discussed further.

The group discussed the memo (about suggestions for strengthening conservation language in the town regulations and plan) written by Brian and Jamey. They agreed to help with the re-write of Chapter 3 of the zoning regulations. The group decided to form a subcommittee to work on the re-write: members include Susan, George, Robin and Caitrin. A sub-committee member will e-mail Jamey and Brian to set up a meeting.

IV. PROJECT UPDATES

a. Austin Parcel/Town Garage

There was a brownfields study completed on the Town Garage parcel. Result showed no significant pollution on the site. Barry Simpson gave a presentation describing the possibilities for re-locating

the Town Garage to the town-owned Austin parcel. The commission will send Barry any additional thoughts and/or comments.

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. CHAIR DISCUSSION

The group is still undecided about who will take over the role as commission chair in March.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Jim and seconded by Caitrin to adjourn the meeting. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Caitrin Noel

Conservation Commission

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

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

Jim Edgcomb 3.17.09
Jim Edgcomb (date)

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

Caitrin Noel 3/17/09
Caitrin Noel (date)

~~*Damon Reed* (date)~~

~~*George Schenk* 3.17.09~~
George Schenk (date)

Margo Wade 3/17/09
Margo Wade (date)