

**Town of Warren
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2010**

Members Present: Damon Reed, Susan Hemmeter, George Schenk, Robin Bennett, Margo Wade
Others Present: none

Agenda:

- 1) 7:00 PM – Call to Order
- 2) Mad River Path BDR
Review Baseline Documentation Report for the Kingsbury Farm section of the Mad River Path.
- 3) Town Plan Re-Write Discussion
Update from subcommittee, next steps.
- 4) Outreach Discussion
Planning for additional outreach before town meeting.
- 5) Updates
 - a. Kingsbury Farm Trails & Solar Panels
 - b. Eaton Trails
 - c. Forest Wildlife and Communities
 - d. Other
- 6) Other Business:
 - a. Approve Invoices
 - b. Approve meeting minutes
 - c. Selectboard Check-in
 - d. Items for next meeting
- 7) Adjourn – 10:00 PM

1) Robin called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

2) Mad River Path BDR

The Baseline Documentation Report for the Kingsbury Farm section of the Mad River Path was reviewed. This document sets out the baseline conditions of the easement area before the path is constructed.

- Based on the map included in the BDR, it appears that that path crosses Mac's property. It was noted that the easement does not extend into the Mac's land. Discussions are underway with Mac's to see if the property owners would be willing to grant a path easement and/or allow the path, but that is a separate discussion.

- The BDR will be shared with the Foodbank for their review. Should they request substantial changes the CC would like to review these changes prior to it moving on to the Selectboard for their approval.

- A question was raised about how the land would be treated after damage caused by a flood event. Would the land be repaired or would the river be allowed to set a new course and naturalize? This would be a question to ask the Foodbank.

3) Town Plan Re-Write Discussion - next steps:

- read the info Susan pulled together as it relates to the changes suggested by Brian and Jamey

- Find out the timing of the PC's town plan update process

- How do we get more buy in for the changes?

- Susan will check in with Brain and Jamey about how to make the language flow better, make it less scientific

- consider recommending that all permit application go through a habitat review if the project development is within critical habitat

4) Outreach Discussion

There was discussion about the recent letter in the Valley Report by Tim Senif regarding his perspective on the Kingsbury Farm project, which was less than supporting. A response will be drafted by Margo with assistance from Susan and George to discuss the positive aspects of the project, which include:

- CRF money contributed by the town purchased the easement for the land
- the farm will return to production of local food
- ownership of land can change over time, but this farm will remain open in perpetuity

Town Meeting preparation:

- Robin will begin work on the annual CC report
- Damon is working on the tax info as it relates to conserved land and also allocation to the CRF
- George will begin drafting an article for the Valley Report with submissions for the Feb 11 issue (Feb 25 back up date). Margo, Robin, Damon and Susan to provide additional info to George for the article.

5) Updates – none at this time

6) Other Business:

a. Approve Invoices

Motion by George Schenk, seconded by Susan Hemmeter to pay the Arrowwood January 4, 2010 invoice for \$240 for additional mapping work. Vote: unanimous, motion carried.

b. Approve meeting minutes

Motion by Damon Read, seconded by George Schenk to approve the November 11, 2009 meeting minutes. Vote: unanimous, motion carried.

Motion by Margo Wade, seconded by Damon Read to approve the December 19, 2009 meeting minutes with one correction. Vote: unanimous, motion carried.

c. Selectboard Check-in

There was some discussion about the status of the Ancient Road work. Susan will forward to Cindi the recommendations made by the Ancient Roads Committee some time back. These recommendations had previously been given to the Selectboard, but it was unclear if any further progress had been made on the project.

d. Items for next meeting – none discussed

e. MISC:

The Ridge View subdivision proposed for lands east of E. Warren Road is under review by the DRB. This project has potential to impact identified wildlife corridors. The site visit is this Friday. Susan will draft a letter regarding the conservation values and circulate it to CC members for comment prior to sending along to the DRB.

7) Adjourn – 10:00 PM

Motion by Damon Reed, seconded by Susan Hemmeter to adjourn the meeting. Vote: unanimous, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM.

