Town of Warren
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2010

Members Present: Caitrin Noel, Jim Edgcomb, Damon Reed, Margo Wade
Others Present: Bob Barron, Brad Cook, Barry Simpson

Agenda:

1) Call to Order – 7:00 PM
2) Commission Membership
3) Solar Panels
4) Management Plans
5) Updates
    a. Knot Weed
    b. Tri Town Meeting report
    c. Mad River Path
    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) Call to Order
Caitrin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2) Commission Membership
Tabled for the next meeting.

3) Solar Panels / Energy Committee
There was discussion of forming a Town of Warren energy committee, how to form it, who over sees the committee and what the committees responsibilities/focus would be. It was agreed that and town energy committee would function under the Selectboard purview. Several topics were put forth regarding an energy committee, including:

- the Valley Futures Group has an energy committee that looks at the valley current and future energy needs, where energy is coming from and renewable sources foe the valley.
- other State initiatives include Central Vermont Community Action and Button-Up Vermont.
- there was a general sense that a better understanding was needed about current local groups and state wide groups to determine what resources are available to us as a town, as a community and as individuals.
- local production of energy
- efficiency and reduction initiatives
- PACE Program (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Financing
- possible Warren residents who may be interested in the energy committee: Matt Sargent, Jim Sanford, Jeff Schoellkopf, Brad Cook, Roni Donnenfeld, Scouch Norton.
- Caitrin will check in with Josh regarding creation of an energy committee

Barry distributed maps of town owned parcels that are currently under consideration for installation of solar panel arrays. The parcels include the Dump Parcel (off Dump Road), the unused field at the Brook Recreation Fields (clearing behind the trail kiosk), and the Austin Parcel (adjacent to the fire pond and town gravel pit (off Rt 100). A goal would be for the town to generate a quantity of power to off set the current demand for town owned buildings. The school consumes 150 kWh annually while the remaining town buildings consume 77 kWh annually. Several factors are under consideration include, number and ownership of panels, proximity to existing power lines, how the project would be funded, payback of the project and ownership after the initial 5 year term.

4) Management Plans
Item tabled for a future meeting. Riverside and Austin plans to be redistributed.

5) Updates
a. Knot Weed
Susan Hemmeter continues to work with the Selectboard and Road Crew to control knot weed along the upland areas of town (Lincoln Gap Road, West Hill Road, Access Road, Fuller Hill Road).

b. Tri Town Meeting - report

5) Other Business:
a. Approve Invoices
- none at this time

b. Approve meeting minutes
- none at this time

c. Mad River Path
The Whiteside parcel adjacent to the Golden Lion remains for sale. The Path Association is continuing discussions with Anna and is seeking grant funding for the purchase. The CC remains interested in participating in the conservation of the parcel is prepared to make a recommendation to the Selectboard for ownership of the parcel and a contribution from the CRF to help fund permanent protection of the parcel, the path alignment, river protection and also partial funding of an appraisal of the parcel.

Executive Session:
No executive session needed.

NOTE: Jim departed at 8:45 PM at which time we no longer had a quorum. No formal actions were taken after his departure.

7) Adjourn – 10:10 PM
Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Margo Wade

Conservation Commission

9/21/10

Robin Bennett (date)

9/21/10

Jim Edgcomb (date)

9/21/10

Caitrin Noel (date)

09/21/10

Damon Reed (date)

George Schenk (date)

9/21/2010

Margo Wade (date)