Town of Warren
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2010

Members Present: Robin Bennett, Caitrin Noel, Damon Reed, George Schenk, Margo Wade
Others Present: none

Agenda:

1) 7:00 PM – (Call to Order)
2) GMNF Proclamation Boundary Management Areas
3) Riverside Park Management Plan
4) Updates
    a. Eaton Trails - Discussion about next steps, Vista Trail
    b. Commission Membership
    c. Forest Wildlife and Communities status update
    d. Other
5) Other Business:
    a. Approve Invoices
    b. Approve meeting minutes
    c. Selectboard Check-in
    d. Items for next meeting
6) Adjourn – 10:00 PM

1) Caitrin called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

2) GMNF Proclamation Boundary Management Areas
The Forest Service is asking us to weigh in on designations of management types for certain areas of town contained within the proclamation boundary. Based on the map we had, we were uncertain where the boundary was and what the proposed management types meant (what was uses are allowed within each FS designation). More information is needed on the following:

- ask the FS for a full map of the town showing the proclamation boundary in its new configuration
- definition of the management types
- is there a ration of management types the FS is looking to balance or are designations based on what a given area is most suited for
- how does the FS prioritized wildlife linkages/corridors
- how are wetland habitats treated

3) Riverside Park Management Plan
Item tabled for the next meeting. The plan will be redistributed and the schedule of management activities will be developed.

4) Updates
a. Eaton Trails – status
A Vermont Youth Conservation Corp crew is on site and spending three days working on two specific locations. The crew is made up of school instructors who are using the project as a training session prior to the commencement of the school year. The cost of the crew is favorable ($4,598) and will lead approximately $2,000 in the budget to hire additional construction assistance. An MOU needs to be signed between the Town and VYCC. Margo will call Cindi to determine who on behalf of the town may sign.

Draft signage and text for the interpretive trail and kiosk was distributed to CC member for review and comment. Thoughts on the current design and content should be emailed to Margo.

b. Commission Membership
A notice has run in the Valley Report advertising the vacancy. The notice is also posted on warrenvt.org under the CC page. CC members will reach out to individual community members to get the word out that we wish to fill the vacancy.

c. Forest, Wildlife and Communities Project – no update this meeting
Caitrin, Brian Shupe and Jamey Fidel are working draft language for the Town Plan (chapters 3 and 10) and have attended PC meetings to discuss the merits of the proposed text. Assistance at the PC meetings is needed to bolster support for the proposed changes. Caitrin will continue to be the liaison with the PC and let us know when this is up for discussion again. We wish to continue to assist the PC with Town Plan language that works toward clearer habitat protection (contiguous habitat units, core habitat, wildlife corridors) and discourages forest fragmentation.

There was discussion about seeking grant funding to hire a consultant to ground truth high priority habitat corridors/crossings. Arrowwood may be able to give us an estimate of cost.

5) Other Business:
a. Approve Invoices
- there were no invoices to approve

b. Approve meeting minutes
- we need to catch up on minute review and approval for next meeting…

Executive Session:
- no executive session was held

7) Adjourn – 9:50 PM
Motion by Damon Reed, seconded by George Schenk to adjourn the meeting. Vote: unanimous, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Margo Wade

Conservation Commission

9/21/10
Robin Bennett (date)

Damon Reed (date)

Jim Edgcomb (date)

9/21/10
Caitrin Noel (date)

George Schenk (date)

Margo Wade 9/21/2010
Margo Wade (date)