Minutes from the Warren Conservation Commission
May 24, 2011

Present: Robin, Rocky, Damon, and George
Absent: Jim, Margo, Kate, and Caitrin

Robin called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm

1. A discussion on priorities for conservation: Corridors

G. The central and east Warren corridors appear to be at greatest risk. How important are these corridors?

Roc. What tools do we have access to?

G.

a. ground truth research,
b. communication / education with landowners of unique wildlife corridors,
c. corridor signage.

D. We did something similar in Mass. With good results.

Roc. Hunters might focus on these areas, but I think the pros outweigh the negs.

D. Lincoln Brook up by my way has a lot of moose sign.

Roc. Moose like it wet.

Rob. How do we tie in the proclamation area of the U.S.F.S.?

G. If we had three primary corridors, N., Central, and S. I think we would have accomplished a lot for Warren's far ranging wildlife. I think we will also want to look at critical habitat in the center of the Valley, especially wet lands in and around DeFreast's and Warren pinnacle.

D./ Roc. Waterways are critical.

Roc. Most of our roads follow waterways.

G. Yes, and for this reason it would be helpful to find ways to limit development along the waterways.

Rob. How do we take the Arrowwood corridor data and put it on ownership maps?

D. Can we bring in an Arrowwood person to help us determine how best to proceed?

Rob. I will ask Caitrin if she will call Arrowwood when she returns. I think it is important to identify a project....a property to acquire or secure an easement on this year.

2. Forest, Wildlife, and Communities Project

The discussion was tabled awaiting new information.

3. Welcome Wagon Mailing

There were more questions than answers. It was decided to put this on next month's agenda.

4. A more general discussion ensued:

Rob. It seemed the U.S.F.S. wanted us to give them a list of prioritized properties. Is there money available for acquisitions? Even if there is not it would be good to give them our recommendations.

5. Tri-Town C. C. Meeting.

Rob. We are to be the host.

G. I would be happy to have the meeting at Lareau Farm, with Flatbread. We are coming quickly into the summer. It may be better to schedule the meeting in Sept. I need to check on the availability of the Inn dining room.

Rob./G. The tentative date is Thur. Sept. 8, at 6:30.

6. Invasive species

Roc. Where can I bring knotweed?

G. Last year we brought it to a spot Barry designated at Alderberg-Roe. I will give Barry a call.

Roc. Can we have a sign out on Rte. 100?

G. I think that would help. Maybe we could put a W.C.C. Logo on the sign showing the town's people one of the things we are doing?

7. <u>There were no invoices to approve</u>.

There were no minutes to approve from last month's meeting.

No Selectboard check-in was planned.

8. <u>Items for next month's meeting:</u>

a) can an Arrowwood rep attend the next meeting to discuss process and cost of ground truthing some number of wildlife road crossings?

b) Forest Wildlife and communities project update.

c) Welcome Wagon update.

d) Knotweed update.

e) Tri-Town meeting.

f) Invoices

g) minutes.

h) Selectboard check-in

i) Summer project?

j) Interpretive Trail up date

k) project of the year ideas?

G. Move to adjourn.

D. Second.

Rob. All in favor? Unanimous.

Robin adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m.

Minutes recorded by George.