

**Town of Warren
Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
August 16, 2011**

Members Present: George Schenk, Robin Bennett, Kate Wanner, Jim Edgcomb, Rocky Bleier, Damon Reed

Others Present: n/a

Agenda:

- 1) 7:00 PM- Call to Order
 - 2) Wildlife Corridor Follow-up Study
Discussion of options for potential wildlife study
 - 3) Tri-Town meeting
Discuss agenda for Tri-Town meeting
 - 4) Updates (30 minutes)
 - a. Priorities for Conservation
 - b. Forest, Wildlife and Communities Project & Welcome Wagon
 - c. Summer/yearlong project ideas
 - d. Other
 - 5) Other Business (30 minutes)
 - a. Approve invoices- N/A
 - b. Approve meeting minutes- N/A
 - c. Selectboard Check-in
 - d. Items for next meeting
 - 6) Adjourn- 9:20 PM
-

I. Call to Order

Robin Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

II. Wildlife Corridor Follow-up Study

Jim said he talked to Myron, who is interested in having more information about wildlife corridors, and would like more confidence in the current corridor info. Myron thinks it will be hugely valuable in terms of his day to day work, the Planning Commission rules and data for the Town Plan. Commission discussed Arrowwood's proposal and agreed to move forward with a Rapid Road Tracking (cost estimated at \$1,620) for this fall/winter while we apply for grants and look for additional funds for detailed corridor assessments. Jim will get back to Arrowwood and ask for more details and a longer description of the Rapid Road Tracking analysis. WCC should also check with Planning Commission, DRB & Select Board to discuss the project and see if there are any funds available to help fund this study.

Kate & Margo will follow up with Myron about funding ideas. Kate will also write a letter to VT Community Foundation to see if our study matches with any donor-advised funds.

We'd also like to engage hunters and the general public to use their local knowledge of wildlife movement. Kate mentioned an example of a web-based way to input wildlife sightings. She will send

link around. This might be a great way to educate and involve the community, as well as get additional data, if we could find a volunteer web host and/or web developer to create the site and manage it. It may also be good for WCC to become more involved in the amphibian tracking/crossing studies in the spring and post signs at high crossing areas.

George discussed possibility of small signs posted at wildlife corridor study areas to raise awareness. This could be a future project once some corridors have been identified and confirmed.

III. Tri-Town meeting

Scheduled for September 8th, 6:30 PM at Lareau Farm. Robin Bennett will follow up to find out response from other commissions.

Ideas for agenda:

- other town's responses from Welcome Wagon? - *Jane*
- Future collaboration on wildlife corridors that cross town lines
- Mad River Path issues
- Community Relations/PR: are other commissions receiving pushback? How do we best tell our story? Do other cons comms want to request funds?
- Knotweed
- WCC's experience with involvement with revision of the Town Plan

- Flood impacts repairs

IV. Updates

- a. Priorities for Conservation- no updates
- b. Forest, Wildlife and Communities Project & Welcome Wagon- no current updates, we'll check with other commissions at Tri-Town meeting to see their response
- c. Summer/yearlong project ideas
- d. other: The Open Space Institute has announced this year's Community Forest Grant, with applications due September 30th. It is unlikely these grant funds will be available in the future, thus if the town ever wanted to conserve the Town Forest with an easement, now would be the time. Kate will talk to Margo and go to the Selectboard to discuss the opportunity with them. The grant will provide funds to reimburse costs associated with conserving the property (survey, legal, other costs), except for stewardship funds.

V. Other Business

- a. Approve invoices- none
- b. Approve meeting minutes- none available for approval.
- c. Selectboard Check-in- Kate will talk to Margo and get on Selectboard agenda for next available meeting to discuss potential for easement on Town Forest.
- d. **MOTION by Damon Reed to enter Executive Session to discuss real estate issues. George seconded. VOTE: Unanimous; motion carried**
MOTION by Robin Bennett to come out of Executive Session. Damon Reed seconded. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.
- e. Items for next meeting-
 - Arrowwood approval
 - selectboard's opinion of easement
 - reaction to TriTown meeting and whether it changes our short or long-term plans

VI. Adjournment:

MOTION by Kate Wanner, seconded by George Schenck to adjourn the meeting. VOTE:

unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Wanner

Conservation Commission

Robin Bennett 9/20/11
Robin Bennett (date)

Robin Bleier 9/20/11
Robin Bleier (date)

Jim Edgcomb 9/20/11
Jim Edgcomb (date)

~~Caitrin Noel (date)~~

Damon Reed
Damon Reed (date)

George Schenk 9.20.11
George Schenk (date)

~~Margo Wade (date)~~

Kate Wanner (date)