

Town of Warren
Conservation Commission
Meeting Location: Warren Library
July 8, 2014

Present: Kate Wanner, Damon Reed, Jonathan Clough, Carole Crossman, Carolynn Schipa, Rocky Bleier

Guests: Corrie Miller (Friends of Mad River), Jeff Parsons and Aaron Worthly (Arrowwood Consultants), Andy Cunningham (select board)

- 1) 7:09 PM CALL MEETING TO ORDER
- 2) Arrowwood Environmental Update on Wildlife Corridor Study Aaron Worthly & Jeff Parsons gave a presentation on the results of the wildlife tracking and game cameras in 5 wildlife corridors in Warren.

Positive Correlates with wildlife use: conifer cover, streams, vegetated riparian areas, hedgerows, wetlands provide dense cover and high productivity, less traffic

Negative Correlates: paved roads, high traffic, hard break topography (ledges) and open fields

Next steps: WCC should share the results with the landowners that gave us permission to post the cameras. Arrowwood will give us a copy of the power point presentation, data points, a full write-up and full set of photos. WCC needs to work with planning commission to decide how to use these results. We could recommend a wildlife overlay district, create policies to encourage landowners to plant hedgerows, maintain or restore vegetation along streams, remove old barbed wire, landscaping that encourages wildlife movement, zoning ordinances that promote riparian vegetation, encourage larger culverts or bridges when one needs to be replaced, use these results to guide future conservation priorities, involve school in wildlife tracking and game cameras. Route 100 crossings are likely very important and we should put some effort in trying to keep them permeable to wildlife.

- 3) Discussion of Management Plans: Town Parcels

Seniff Rewinsky Parcel. Select board wants us to write a brief management plan for them to consider. Cindy has applied for riparian buffer plantings. Riverside park was just planted last year, Corrie suggests we go see what is doing really well. (Alders and shrubby willows.) Cottonwoods grow fast. Friends of Mad River will organize volunteers with Green Mountain Valley School and True North. Plant in early spring. FMR can also find funds if the Ottaquechee Regional Planning Commission grant is not successful. Take out invasive bushes such as honeysuckle, japanese barberry. Kate will expand upon FMR letter to a simple management plan. Kate will also follow up with Kris Hammer to figure out if VHCB easement is required or just requested.

- 4) Andy Cunningham joins meeting and would like to talk to us about a possible land donation to the town. Kate moves to go into Executive Session, as if town refuses it could affect the landowner's ability to sell the land at fair market value. Jonathan Seconds. All in favor. Motion passed.

Damon moves to come out of executive session. Jonathan seconds. All in favor. Motion passed.

5) Riverside Park: discussion with Andy Cunningham. What is the value of park to the town, what are our goals for the park? The select board wants to increase mowing in the open field and continue to prevent the river from splitting the park in half. Don't want their hands tied with a river corridor easement or a management plan they don't agree with. WCC wants to allow the river to be able to move, per expertise of hydrologists. WCC will send our 2008 Riverside Park Management Plan to selectboard after Corrie reviews it and sees if the science has changed with regards to any particular management recommendations (such as for prevention of knotweed).

6) New Business:

- Kate moves to renew our membership to Association of Conservation Commissions. Rocky seconds. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Kate makes a motion to accept June 10th minutes as written. Jonathan seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Corrie updates us that a culvert replacement in town of Warren is high priority for aquatic passage - FMR and USFWS hope to work with Town to replace. Possibly will require a bridge. Some money from USFWS/GMNF, hoping town will provide in-kind.

7) Next meeting's agenda:

- Wildlife corridor recommendations for Town Plan
- River management plans
- Discussion of wind power recommendations
- Discussion of new open meeting law requirements
- August 12th, Tuesday, 7 pm. in library

Motion to adjourn meeting by Jonathan. Damon seconded. All in favor. Adjourn at 9:49

Jonathan Clough (date)

Carole Crossman (date)

Kate Wanner (date)

Carolynn Schipa (date)

Damon Reed (date)

Rocky Bleier (date)

cc: Selectboard, PC, DRB, MRVPD, web, post