

Town of Warren
Conservation Commission
Meeting Location: Warren Library
November 10, 2015

Present: Kate Wanner, Jito Coleman, Jonathan Clough, Damon Reed, Carolynn Schipa, Amy Polaczyk

Guests: Holly Knox (Green Mountain National Forest)

1. 7:04 PM CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. **Discussion of additional Arrowwood Study.** Kate will follow up with Aaron and get contract for natural history review of Warren Corridor Conservation Area, and send it out to WCC. Tito makes a **Motion** to approve a contract with Arrowwood up to \$5,000 of this year's budget for a natural history analysis of the Warren Corridor Conservation Area (a.k.a. Top Gas parcel), pending review by majority of members. **Seconded** by Jonathan. All in favor. **Motion passed.**
3. **2016 Budget:** request same budget as this year, although modify slightly to include costs for new signs at Town parcels as part of line item for Studies and Analyses. Kate makes a **Motion** to approve suggested budget. **seconded** by Amy. All in Favor. **Motion passed.**
4. **Blueberry Lake management:** Holly Knox from Green Mountain National Forest updated us on various management activities on the Blueberry Lake GMNF parcel. David Rafael and his UVM Recreation Management Class looked at different components of recreation management on Blueberry Lake parcel. GMNF is hoping to hold a public meeting to engage public comment on future plans. David also teaches design and build class and they would like to build structure to house the port-a-let near the parking lot. They are also looking at connecting the trail system on adjacent private land. Holly is also engaged in the Mad River Valley Active Transportation Plan.
Berry management: If the Warren Cons Com would like to assist with managing the berry bushes at Blueberry Lake, we will need to sign an official volunteering agreement which gives us extra protections with regards to insurance and liability. GMNF is planning on putting in more berries to hide the boulders that line the western parking lot on Plunkton Road. Holly has been working with Vern Grubinger from UVM extension, who has been out to the site a number of times. He recommends mowing them down low, and they will regrow healthier. Since it will take a number of years to grow back, Holly recommends we divide the area into three sections and mow (with a brushhog) one section each year (or even longer spacing). WCC can help by organizing volunteers to prune some of the bushes to create paths and better access and remove the raspberry canes that are hampering access. There is some concern about changing the character of the place and managing it too much. Holly has also been considering a trail along lake with back access to bushes. Potential long term goal of trail around the lake, but would need to deal with wildlife access.
5. **Management Plans** Jito will send management plans to Damon, edited with new names, Damon will revise and submit to Miron. Select board accepted all of our suggested names for

the Town-owned parcels, except changed one to “Quayle Bend Conservation Area”.

6. **Language for signs:** needs both rules (in pictures/symbols) and educational information. Amy and Jonathan will work on presenting final language at next month’s meeting. For Warren corridor, Kate suggested using examples from a few specific species: Example of wildlife connectivity language at http://216.92.98.160/assets/whatishabitatconnectivity_final.pdf or stayingconnectedinitiative.org We should consider using existing infrastructure at Top Gas, maybe by posting a big map of public lands in Warren. Bonnie Coleman can do the design. Not likely larger than 11x17. Warren Conservation Commission on bottom of sign.
7. Planning Commission: Kate updated WCC on the 11/23 Planning Commission meeting regarding Chapter 3 updates to the Town Plan. They are going to strengthen the language, draft a vision statement, potentially send out a survey to the public and review all the historical documents cited in the chapter and update them. Kate promised to draft a paragraph for PC review regarding climate change and the importance of connectivity. Kate will get shape files of Jens’ data to share with Amy and Miron.

Next meeting: Jan 12th, Tuesday, 7 pm. in library

Motion to adjourn meeting by Jonathan at 9:01 PM. Damon seconded. All in favor.