

Town of Warren
Conservation Commission
Meeting Location: Warren Library

May 26, 2015

Present: Kate Wanner, Damon Reed, Jonathan Clough, Carolyn Schipa, Rocky Bleier

Guests: Amy Polaczyk, prospective member
Jens Hilke, VT Fish & Wildlife, Jamey Fidel, VNRC

- 1) 7:12 PM Call meeting to order.

- 2) WCC introduced Amy to our priorities and our backgrounds. Amy gave us a little information about her background in environmental science modeling, especially water systems.
- 3) Discussion regarding management plans for town-owned river properties. We reviewed the maps created by Jito and Miron.
Alderburgh Roe: trail should connect under the bridge, remove trail/mowing along route 100 where we want some trees planted.
Rewinski Conservation Area: should be 2 paths mowed to river
Riverside Conservation Area: incorporate Corrie's map which shows tree planting, check with Corrie to make sure it hasn't changed since planting

- 4) Discussion regarding names for town-owned river properties
Riverside Conservation Area. Difficult coming up with names for other three parcels. Damon will ask Cindy whether Quayle is completely done with her garden. Carolyn will check with Historical Society on Native American names or town founders.

- 5) Discussion regarding town plan language update - wildlife chapter
 1. Primary Conservation Area Map based upon current definitions in subdivision standards, Jens needs to get meadowland overlay district and flood hazard areas from Town and then can finish that map.
100 ft life zone around vernal pool...put in Primary Conservation Area?
 2. Significant Wildlife Habitat Map:
 - we need to be clear about buffer size around wetlands and vernal pools- 110 ft and 750 ft life zone buffer as recommended by Arrowwood- follow AMPs within the buffer
 - wetlands are not buffered, but Warren buffers streams, lakes and rivers by 50 feet, add wetlands to first tier
 - Jens used mast stands and riparian habitat from Arrowwood study
 - Fisheries? Reflects public use, not natural conservation attribute....streams are already included

- High elevation bird habitat = forested areas above 2500 feet
 - ledge, talus and cliff habitat with 100 ft buffer
 - state rare and endangered species habitat, add state significant natural communities? Decide not to, as they cover a lot of Warren and some are fairly widespread (northern hardwood) but only included because of their current quality/past management.
3. Anti-fragmentation policies based on Contiguous Habitat Units, lower threshold = limit fragmentation within CHUs

Overall theme is that these maps and language are not new, but we are working to clarify what is already in there, and provide maps and definitions to make the current regulations clearer and more straightforward, and thus, easier to use and understand. The new work we've done is with regards to wildlife corridor prioritization, and update regulations so there is some consideration with regards to preventing undue fragmentation.

Kate moves to approve the new language that has been provided by Jamie and accept the changes discussed tonight in the Town Plan, which clarifies buffers for vernal pools, adds streams to secondary conservation areas, changes all mention of "critical wildlife habitat" to "significant wildlife habitat", and adds definitions to CHUS. Jonathan seconded, all in favor. Motion passed.

5) Other business: none

Next Meeting: to be determined. Damon will let us know when the date of our discussion with the Planning Commission about the Wildlife Habitat chapter.

6) ADJOURN: Damon moves to adjourn 10:05, Jonathan seconds, all in favor. **Motion passed.**

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