

Town of Warren
Conservation Commission
Meeting Location: Warren Library
February 09, 2016

Present: Damon Reed, Jonathan Clough, Amy Polaczyk, Jito Coleman, Rocky Bleier, George Schenck

1) 7:08 PM CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Jito volunteered to speak at the town meeting. Amy volunteered for 2017 Town meeting.

George suggested that with regards to the request for conservation fund money, we are setting money aside for a larger high-quality project in the future. A “marquis property in terms of conservation priorities.” It is noted that as a rule, we leverage money with VHCB and other state/federal agencies. Putting a little money in the coffer now leads to a strong long-term commission.

Arrowwood study -- Amy talked with the landowner at Cold Spring Farm. As long as Arrowwood will park away from the distillery and the house, and use no powered vehicle on the property, Arrowwood is free to traverse to study the wildlife on the new town parcel. Amy called Aaron right away. Tracking weather hasn't been good to date, but this week the snow should provide good tracking weather.

A question was raised regarding baiting cameras. Arrowwood has stated that this is short-distance baiting, to attract only the local animals. Our recollection was that Jens Hilke was concerned about the baiting in the past when reviewing our previous Arrowwood reports. Amy looked up literature on baiting cameras but didn't find a “state of the practice guide.”

Commission suggests that Arrowwood should call Jens if they are willing. Question: “Are we looking for pictures or hard data?”

Blueberries at Blueberry lake – our group agreed that the WCC wants to have some impact on the maintenance practice and have some concerns regarding the “industrial pruning” suggested by the forest service. It was suggested that instead of using large machinery, that we and other volunteers could use hand tools to cut down every fourth bush, for example. Amy volunteered to call Holly Knox to see if this approach would be amenable to USFWS. Maintenance would have a March or April timeline. Jito could have wood-chip guys dump some there.

George asked about management of Eaton Town parcel and the town management plan was reviewed.

A discussion ensued regarding access to the new town “topgas” parcel, and use for recreation vs.

habitat.

Amy is continuing to work on sign language for new town parcels, she asked question about Warren Corridor spot (TopGas) and where the sign would go. WCC will research who maintains the kiosk the building and whether we can add some signage there.

Damon noted that the Selectboard is leaning towards not putting a road sign on Route 100 at Quayle Bend to keep down traffic. No consensus in the group as to the best approach. Rocky: "The more people know about existing conservation areas the more they support future conservation." Jito expressed concern regarding parking capacity and the sign. A vote was taken. "The WCC would recommend to the selectboard that they not use the state highway signage for Quayle Bend." Vote was 5-1.

Susan Hemmeter has requested time to discuss an outdoor lighting issue at Sugarbush.

Next meeting at 7pm on Tuesday March 8th. Agenda to include,

- Meeting with Susan if she is available
- Town meeting results
- Arrowwood report
- Sign information update

Motion to adjourn meeting by Jonathan. Rocky seconded. All in favor. Adjourn at 8:26

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