

Town of Warren
Conservation Commission Meeting of July 12th, 2016
Meeting Location: Warren Library
August 8, 2015

Present: Kate Wanner, Jim Edgcomb, Jonathan Clough,Carolynn Schipa, Rocky Bleier, Damon Reed

- 1) 7:10 PM CALL MEETING TO ORDER
- 2) Discussion regarding the update of town plan language: chapter 3 use of conservation reserve funds based on conservation priorities. Do the priorities remain the same.

Since that 2004 town survey was completed, there have been a lot of new recreation areas conserved and trails created on public and private land. We also have done significant new analyses on prioritization of wildlife corridors in Warren over the last few years. Considering the impacts of Tropical Storm Irene, other significant flooding and future severe weather events, we consider protection of water quality, wetlands and riparian areas to increase flood resiliency are major priorities. Thus we'd like to swap 1 and 3. Also tweak language from "critical" to "significant" to match new prioritization maps and proposed town plan language. New or changed language in red.

Kate moves to exchange 1 and 3, wildlife corridors as number 1 and recreation as number 3. Rocky second. All in favor. Motion passed.

Proposed Town Plan Language below:

"To use the reserve fund most wisely, the town has established open space priorities. Considering the results from the 2004 Questionnaire (Appendix A), the impacts of Tropical Storm Irene and other severe weather events since 2004, Warren Wildlife Corridor Field Analyses by Arrowwood Environmental (2014), and recent investments in new trails and conservation of recreation areas, the Conservation Commission has established the following list of conservation priorities, in the order of importance:

- 1) Land with identified wildlife values, including significant habitat for endangered species, black bear (including the Slide Brook basin), and identified wildlife corridors;
- 2) Resources that would protect or enhance water quality, such as wetlands, headwater areas, and riparian buffers along the Mad River and its tributaries;
- 3) Land with outdoor recreation resources, including parcels with existing or potential trails, river accesses (especially the Mad River and its tributaries), hunting areas, and potential playing fields and recreation areas;
- 4) High elevation forest (ridgelines and prominent knolls) and farmland and meadows visible

from well-traveled town roads and Route 100;

- 5) Productive farmland, especially land currently under farm management or with the potential for active farm management;
 - 6) Productive forest, especially lands that are contiguous to other undeveloped tracts of forest and conserved parcels;
 - 7) Land that contributes to the town's historic settlement patterns, including upland areas with poor access to town centers; undeveloped parcels that define the contrast between an open countryside and village centers; and, open space that contributes to the character of Warren Village."
- 3) Discussion of vegetation cutting around blueberry bushes at blueberry lake: Jito suggests we should brush hog raspberries on a periodic basis. Town will pay for one cutting, Cindy says all other cuttings should come out of conservation commission budget. Damon will follow up with Jito.
 - 4) Discussion on Front Porch Forum of management plan for riverside conservation area. Commission members all support response from Friends of Mad River and Select board about complaint regarding Riverside Park management.

Next meeting's agenda, September 13, 7 pm:

- Arrowwood report on Warren Wildlife Corridor natural analysis
- sign update
- Blueberry Lake brush-hog update

Motion to adjourn meeting by Kate. Jonathan seconded. All in favor. Adjourn at 8:37