

**TOWN OF WARREN
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
JULY 18, 2006**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Edgcomb, Damon Reed, Tara Hamilton, Susan Hemmeter, Erin Russell Story, Margo Wade, Chair.

- AGENDA:**
- 1) 7:30 PM – Call to Order
 - 2) Review Task List
 - 3) VT Town Forest Project
 - 4) Executive Session
- Potential conservation projects
 - 5) Other Business:
 - a. Approve meeting minutes
 - b. Items for next meeting
 - 6) Adjourn – 10:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Margo called the meeting to order at 7:55 PM.

II. Review Task List

- a. Survey: Margo reviewed the Selectboard meeting at which the preliminary results of the survey were presented. Mac suggested the WCC keep in touch with them more often, given the number of potential action items that could evolve based on the survey results. Erin will write up a press release on the survey results, which we will submit once the results are finalized. Tara will follow up on accessing Brownfields assessment funds in September.
- b. MRWCP: Margo has spoke with Liza about following up on various project leads, though since Liza is about to go on maternity leave, it is not likely that much headway will be made.
- c. Grand List: Margo is still working on getting the updated grand list from the Listers.
- d. Dog letter: Susan will write a letter to Brian Leftkowicz in response to his letter about dogs at Riverside Park. This led to more discussion about dogs on town-owned lands, and will be addressed at the next WCC meeting when moving forward on developing the management plans will be the main focus of the agenda. It was noted that there may be an unwritten “policy” that dogs are in fact allowed unleashed at Riverside Park, as an alternative to Lareau, where dogs are not allowed at all. This will be looked into as the management plan is developed.
- e. WCC participation in permit review: Damon drafted a letter to the DRB asking them to keep us apprised of any potential permit activity on the Kingsbury parcel, currently on the market. Susan will add a few changes agreed to by the Committee and Margo will send both an electronic and paper copy to Peter Monte, cc’ing the SB, PC, ZA, and the rest of the DRB. It was noted the WCC would like to stay better apprised of permit applications and how potential development may be affecting conservation values. Susan offered to monitor the DRB warnings, and we will once again ask to be included in DRB emails of agenda and minutes.

III. VT TOWN FOREST PROJECT

Tara gave an update on the Warren town forest pilot project, noting that she is starting to organize a forest field day for September and that hosting two public forums or listening session in the fall are also part of the town forest project. The purpose of these forums is to seek additional community input on management and stewardship priorities for one or more town-owned forests; they will be led by a

professional facilitator. The grant will also cover costs associated with a stewardship or management project arrived at as part of the listening sessions. Tentative dates were chosen for the forest field day: Sunday afternoon, September 17th or 24th, for approximately four hours. Many ideas for workshops and possible presenters were discussed. Tara will continue to keep the WCC informed of progress on the project.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION – CONSERVATION PROJECTS

MOTION by Erin Russell Story, seconded by Damon Reed, to enter into executive session. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

MOTION by Erin Russell Story, seconded by Jim Edgcomb, to leave executive session. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Approval of meeting minutes: Margo wanted to make some key format changes to the minutes from June before having the board approve them.
- b) Items for next meeting: 1) Finalize survey and discuss action items based on results, and 2) discuss and arrive at an action plan for developing management plans for Eaton parcel, gravel pit parcel, and Riverside Park. These will include a time line, budget needs, and assignment of committee members to associated tasks.
- c) Erin will write a press release announcing the four new members of the committee.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Susan Hemmeter, seconded by Damon Reed, to adjourn the meeting. VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tara Hamilton

Conservation Committee
Susan Hemmeter 08/01/06
Susan Hemmeter (date)

Erin Russell Story (date)
Erin Russell Story (date)

Robin Bennett 8/1/06
Robin Bennett (date)
Jim Edgcomb (date)

Tara Hamilton 8/15/06
Tara Hamilton (date)

Margo Wade 8/1/06
Margo Wade (date)

Damon Reed 01 AUGUST 2006
Damon Reed (date)