

Town of Warren
Conservation Commission
Zoom Mtg & In person

September 21, 2021

Present: Jito Coleman, Amy Polaczyk, Damon Reed, Carolyn Schipa, Jim Edgcomb, Kate Wanner, Rocky Blier, Taylor Corrigan, Lexi Leahcock

Meeting called to order at 7:43 pm

- 1) Lexi - Warren Energy Coordinator
 - o April 2021 - March 2022 - Efficiency VT chose MRV as targeted community of focus and valley energy coordinators meeting to focus on 3 initiatives:
 - (1) incentives to towns - 4k to spend on each town for energy efficiency - Warren replaing old electrical in town office
 - (2) Windowdressers event with Montpelier - windowdressers are interior storm windows, done as community build, partnered with rotary and interfaith council @ berlin mall nov 11-15. with proper care these can last for 10-15 years and they can be refilmed. Cost is \$30-60 per window. This could be a good option for the EWCM building, which is Town-owned. Taylor would put together wood for frames if needed:[WindowDressers – Insulating Window Inserts](#)
 - (3) Energy survey in 4 valley towns - residential energy use. [You can preview the energy survey here](#)

- 2) Update from trails subcommittee -
 - o Taylor, Jim, & George. Larger effort in the Valley (trails collaborative) they are meeting tomorrow (September 22 @4pm-5:30 at flatbread pavilion). Any WCC member can attend. TriTown CC's and FMR have been involved to get a productive process moving forward to organize effort btw riders and conservation grps.
 - o Maps requested trails to understand proposed impacts.
 - o Blueberry to Warren falls to Stetson to SBush through abandoned logging roads
 - o Damon talked to Arrowwood (Jeff Parsons) this is happening all over VT. Advice is to get to the table with all stakeholders and use the science to drive the trail siting. The longer the interaction period, the more effect on wildlife. We have money to support this.
 - o Are rec. trails the biggest threat to biodiversity, climate change, & habitat loss?
 - o Use Arrowwood Valley-wide data - Jito has map that can be taken to the meeting.
 - o There is a minimum standard for trail development, with separate federal and state standards.

- 3) Knotweed - Interns finished Sept 1. Jito to debrief with them. Got a lot done and got to new spots on Lincoln Gap (13-14 sites). Of 28 on Roxbury Gap, most are totally dead. Map in iNaturalist needs to be updated.
- o Two changes - tackle 10 sites or so near Granville/Warren line to avoid additional downstream transport. Resurrect proposal for funding W/ Granville CC
 - o Herd of goats - this is a proven way to approach the issue. Joey Nagy offers goats, but we need funding and a herder to transport to and from site. This model could work on private lands
 - o Do we need to do native planting? Native plants fill-in in uplands, but on river it's different - willows also came in naturally at Quays.
 - o large amt of gravel removed from Volkstown rife with knotweed at town dump will be covered by tarp to smother as a test site.
- 4) Doug Tallamy - update from Kate - Keynote was individual opportunity to create a yard and home for biodiversity. Take out invasives and plant natives. A national park in every yard.
- 5) Zoning update - Planning commission finalizing a new draft that goes out to 2 public meetings, can amend, then selectboard votes, has 2 meetings, then votes on final draft.
- o WCC needs to show up at meetings and speak to our issues.
 - o no updates on changes, when new draft released Jito will send

6) New business - Moretown selectboard mtg to encourage them to start a conservation committee - Kate has a group of Moretownians that may need encouragement and guidance to create it - take the group to the selectboard. Duxbury?

6) Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 12th @ 7pm.

Meeting concluded at 9:08pm

cc: Selectboard, PC, DRB, MRVPD, Waitsfield CC, Fayston CCweb, post