

Agenda
Warren Selectboard
Tuesday, August 28, 2012
Warren Municipal Building
7:00 PM

✓ 7:00 PM – Green Mountain National Forest – Chris Mattrick – Project Updates in Warren

✓ 7:30 PM – John Atkinson – Blueberry Lake Sign

✓ 7:45 PM – Approval of Minutes from August 14, 2012

7:50 PM – Approval of Warrants

8:00 PM – Other Business

Payables 603,697.74 + 49,661.15 =
Payroll 17,072.81 113,358.89

Minutes of August 28, 2012
Warren Selectboard
Warren Municipal Building
7:00 PM

Members Present: Andrew Cunningham, Chair, Bob Ackland, Vice Chair, Anson Montgomery and Matt Groom.

Members Absent: Kirstin Reilly

Others Present: Rudy Elliot, Jim (TV 44/45), Chris Mattrick, Alan Hartshorn, Rachel (Valley Reporter), Barry Simpson, Marilyn Miller & Cindi Jones.

7:04 PM – Meeting called to order by Mr. Cunningham.

7:08 PM – Green Mountain National Forest – Chris Mattrick – Warren Project Updates - Mr. Mattrick started off the updates with presenting keys to Mr. Hartshorn for the Fire Dept. The keys open the Austin Hollow Gate, Warren Falls Gate, and the bollards at Blueberry Lake. Mr. Montgomery inquired if the Forest Service was going to fix the campsite washout at the rest area just before Austin Hollow. Mr. Mattrick made a note of it.

Blueberry Lake Update – The mountain bike trails that are being constructed have received great reviews. Mr. Mattrick pointed out that they were putting in an area on the western side of the road for parking beginning at the trail head. Mr. Simpson commented that the parking should be across the road on the grassy hill that is now present. Mr. Mattrick explained that they looked at that area but did not want to consider a parking lot there due to safety concerns and visual effects. People would park there and be crossing the road and traffic that comes from the south would see parking lot, they wanted to keep the scenic setting of the lake. They do have proposed plans for doing feature vegetation on that site. They have also installed bollards with a gate at the water's edge to keep cars from driving down to the lake. Also, Mr. Mattrick would address the management of the spillways that are required by the Town to maintain that was noted in the dam safety report. Ms. Jones would meet Mr. Mattrick at the lake and look at the principal spillways and would write up a letter after looking at the environmental concerns and would put a letter in the file stating that the Town has the right to maintain these spillways.

Warren Falls Parking - Mr. Mattrick explained that he had met with VTRANS on the proposed guardrails in the paving project closing off the current parking. They expressed a safety concern of cars parking along Route 100 on both sides causing a more of safety concern. The Forest Service has plans of installing off parking for about 20-30 cars behind the current guardrail and relocating the entrance for better site lines. With safety being a top consideration at this site, the forest service plans on construction money for 2013. Ms. Jones commented that she had talked with Mike Fowler at VTRANS about the safety consideration at this location. Mr. Fowler indicated that the guardrails will not be put up and only delineators at this time after they visited the site and visually saw the cars parking along Route 100. Mr. Mattrick also commented that they have reconstructed the trails and pathways leading down to the falls and have blocked off one path for safety concerns. They also have fixed any erosion issues from Irene. In the future they will be looking at resource protection in the area.

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Stetson Hollow – A few weeks ago Mr. Weston and Ms. Jones walked with Mr. Mattrick to the end of Stetson Hollow. It is a class 4 town road that accesses the Green Mountain National Forest. They looked at the suitable land base and currently there are no plans of harvesting any timber. Stetson Hollow is a very low priority of any money to fix the road in conjunction with the town. Mr. Mattrick did comment that there might be some money to remove the dam of debris at the middle bridge that the water currently runs around to further prevent erosion. The board thanked Mr. Mattrick for coming in and providing an update on projects currently in the Town of Warren.

7:45 PM – John Atkinson – Blueberry Lake Sign - Mr. Cunningham deferred on this item until at such time Mr. Atkinson could attend a Selectboard meeting.

7:48 PM – Dept of Public Works – Barry Simpson – Mr. Simpson updated the board on the Blueberry Dam Project. The road crew is almost done with putting the top soil on the downhill side and then they will hydro seed it. The contractor for the Town Garage Roof is about ½ done on the project and had enough primer to do the side room over the chipper. However, it will not be waterproof.

8:15PM – Approval of Minutes for July 24, 2012 – Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the Minutes of July 24, 2012, second by Mr. Montgomery. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

8:17 PM – Approval of Warrants – Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the payables as presented for \$113,358.39, second by Mr. Montgomery. All in Favor: Vote 4-0.

8:20 PM – Approval of Payroll – Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the payroll warrants as presented for \$17,072.81, second by Mr. Montgomery. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

Other Business:

East Warren Road – Gorman – Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Simpson to follow up with Gorman on the problem of the pavement problem as marked by Mr. Weston. Mr. Cunningham felt this could be a potential problem as he stopped and looked at it.

VLCT Trust Meeting Delegate: Mr. Montgomery volunteered.

8:25 PM – Mr. Ackland presented to the board a course that was offered in the Valley for incident command situations such as Irene. Mr. Ackland commented that all of the Waitsfield Selectboard had taken it. Mr. Ackland would follow up and see if they would come to Warren and present the course to the Warren Selectboard, Ken Blair, Emergency Management Coordinator, and Warren Fire.

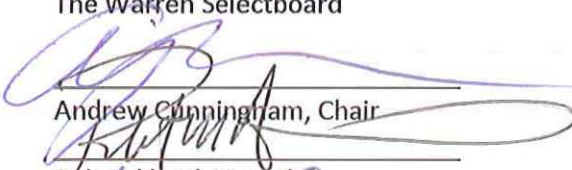
8:30 PM – Mr. Groom commented that he had a citizen complain that Green Mountain Power was removing the pole with the street light by the church and felt it would make the street dark without it. Ms. Jones commented that Raylar Builders had presented a plan for the relocation of power and Green Mountain Power had sent a petition request to the Town to remove it. The Warren Selectboard had signed off on its removal in July. Mr. Cunningham inquired if Ms. Jones could contact Green Power to see if the pole could stay with the street light.

8:40 PM – Marilyn Miller Water Line – Ms. Miller was back again to see if the board had made any decisions regarding her water line. Mr. Cunningham commented that the Town would grant her a permit for the placement for water line under the town road. Ms. Miller insists that the town cut her water line 2 years ago. Mr. Simpson defended the road crew in explaining that when they excavated the culvert they found a water line under the culvert that was not attached to anything with water pouring out of it. They continue to excavate the trench and did not find another line and proceed to excavate over the bank and found two pipes. Before they attached it, they did a pressure test from Ms. Miller's cistern to see if this was the line and air was coming out of it. The road crew connected the line and also put in a ½ culvert over the point in the town right of way so that Ms. Miller could access it. During the pressure test there were several leaks in the pipe that crossed over other properties. She claims she has had no water from the line for 2 years; question why she waited until now when the crew replaced the culvert and reconnected the line, there was water coming out of it as stated by Mr. Simpson. Currently she has a line attached to that runs over ground down the road and into the woods. Mr. Cunningham suggested that she meet with Mr. Simpson who has a map showing her where the water line goes all GPS and the area along Fuller Hill Road. Mr. Cunningham commented that he has read a few legal opinions regarding this and thinks the road crew fixed what they found. He also commented that he would like Mr. Simpson to verify all the facts from 2 years ago.

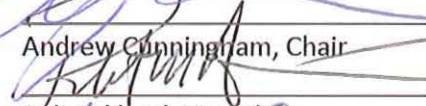
8:45 PM – Motion by Ackland to adjourn, second by Mr. Montgomery. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,
Cindi Jones, Warren Town Administrator

The Warren Selectboard



Andrew Cunningham, Chair



Bob Ackland, Vice Chair



Matt Groom

Anson Montgomery

Kirstin Reilly

PROJECT INFORMATION

Warren Falls Parking Lot Expansion Project

The USDA Forest Service (USFS) has initiated an environmental analysis process for the proposed Warren Falls Parking Lot Expansion Project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The project area is located on the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF), Rochester Ranger District in the Town of Warren, Washington County, Vermont. The proposed action consists of expanding the approximate 3100 square foot parking area currently located within the Vermont Route 100 State Right of Way. The parking lot expansion will create an approximate 12,000 square foot parking lot on National Forest System (NFS) land in addition to the existing parking lot. A detailed description of the proposal is included below.

BACKGROUND

Warren Falls is a heavily used observation site with cliffs approximately 40 feet high, fast water, deep swimming holes, and multiple trails. Acquired by the Forest Service in 1998, this area has a history of heavy use from locals and tourists, where one of the more popular activities is jumping off cliffs into swimming holes. The Warren Falls Observation Site is located along Vermont Route 100, a Scenic Byway recognized as a popular tourist destination for its wide range of resources – historic, cultural, scenic, natural, and recreational, including Warren Falls.

The existing Warren falls parking area accommodates approximately 13 vehicles. Due to limited parking and the associated safety concerns of over-crowding in the parking lot, the Forest Service has discouraged publicizing Warren Falls in tourist information and brochures. The Forest Service regularly patrols the Warren Falls area and has documented as many as 70 vehicles overflowing from the parking lot and parked along the highway shoulder and in pull-off areas within close proximity to the site. In 2010, the Forest Service worked with the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) to install pedestrian warning signs, alerting drivers of people crossing on foot in this area.

The existing parking area is located within the Vermont AOT Right of Way but is not managed for parking access. As such, the State issued a mandate in 2012 that the parking access would be closed to limit liability concerns. On July 31, 2012, representatives of the GMNF and Vermont AOT met at Warren Falls to discuss this decision. At this meeting, the safety hazards associated with insufficient parking were discussed as were the Forest Service plans to expand the existing parking area. Vermont AOT representatives shared their decision to eliminate the parking within the State ROW during a summer 2013 paving project. After discussing the Forest Service Warren Falls Parking Lot Expansion Project, however; the State agreed to provide a break in the guard rail that would enable USFS access to the site. This break will allow administrative access only until the Forest Service is able to expand and improve the parking at Warren Falls. The Warren Falls Parking Lot Expansion Project is within the Diverse Backcountry Management Area (MA) and the Eligible Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers MA as identified in the 2006 GMNF Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The USFS will consider public comments during the environmental analysis process. The proposed action appears to be in a category that can be excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) as identified at 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4): "Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries," and 36 CFR 220.6(d)(5): "Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities." The analysis and supporting documentation will be the basis for determining whether this action can be categorically excluded in a Decision Memo or whether additional analysis is needed.

The environmental analysis will identify any extraordinary circumstances that exist and could result in significant effects to the environment. In accordance with 36 CFR 220.6(b), the following specific resource conditions will be considered:

1. Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Regional Forester's sensitive species
2. Floodplains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds
3. Congressionally designated areas (Wilderness or National Recreation Areas)
4. Inventoried Roadless Areas
5. Research Natural Areas
6. American Indians and Alaska Native Religious or Cultural Sites
7. Archaeological Sites, or Historic Properties or Areas

DECISIONS TO BE MADE

After conducting and reviewing the environmental analysis, including public involvement and interdisciplinary resource specialists' input, the Responsible Official will make the following decisions based on the environmental analysis:

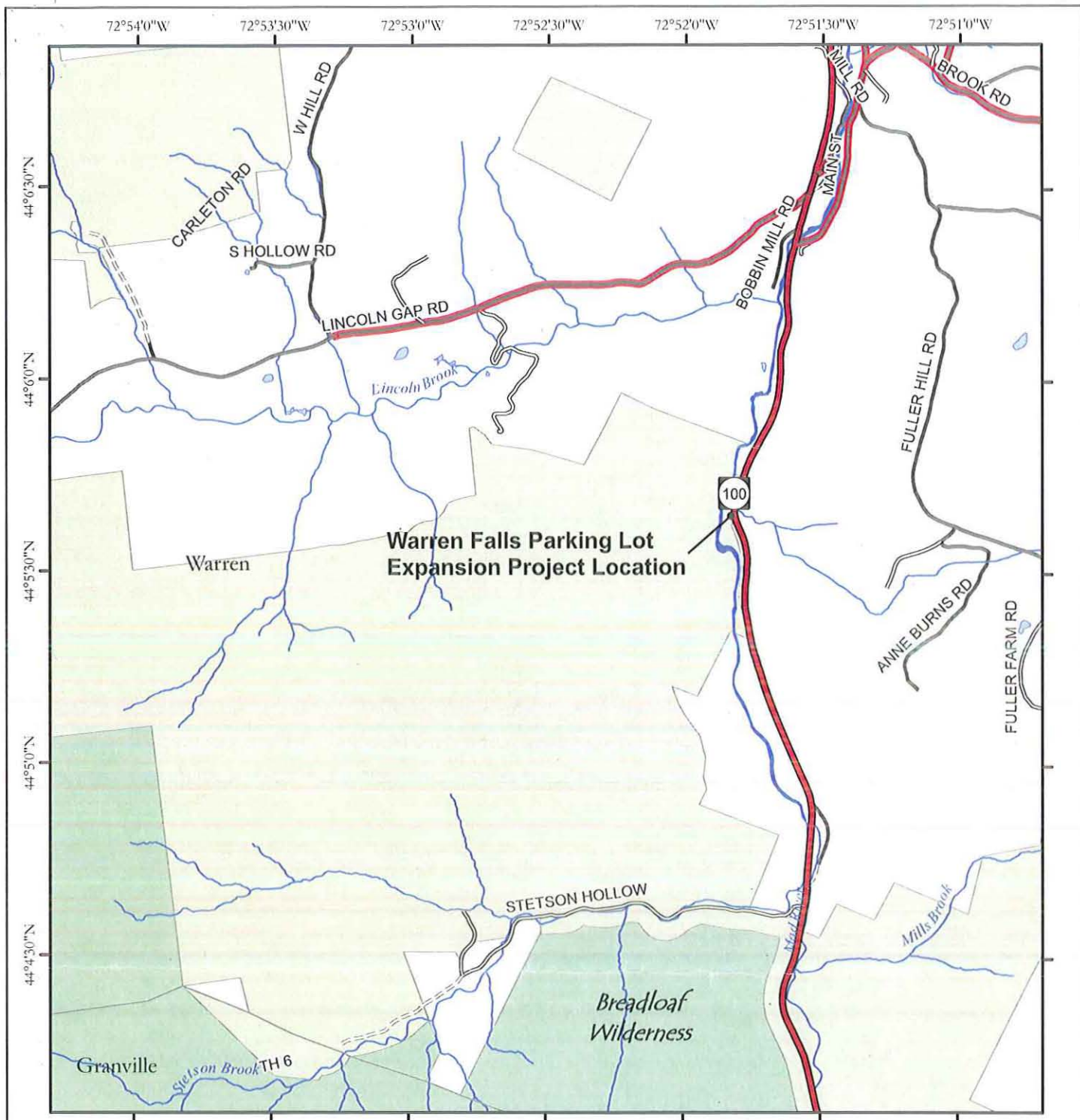
1. Whether the proposed project will proceed as proposed, as modified to address issues, or not at all
2. What specific resource protection or mitigation measures should be implemented as part of the project
3. Whether the project would have environmental impacts at levels that may require an EA or EIS
4. What monitoring requirements should be applied to the project

OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

This project was presented to the public for a 30-day comment period following the release of a legal notice placed in the Rutland Herald on June 5, 2012. In addition, this Scoping Letter provides an opportunity to review the Proposed Action. Please send any comments by **August 24, 2012** to Holly Knox at hknox@fs.fed.us or 99 Ranger Rd. Rochester, VT 05767 or (802) 767-4261 x 530.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL

Christopher Mattrick, the Acting District Ranger for the Middlebury and Rochester Ranger Districts, is the Responsible Official for the decision on this proposal.



Warren Falls Parking Lot Expansion Project



Green Mountain National Forest

hknx 8/8/2012

This map is for illustrative purposes only. The accuracy of the data layers shown on this map are limited by the accuracy of the source materials. No warranty as to the accuracy or the usefulness of the data is expressed or implied.

1:26,118

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

