

Town of Warren
Conservation Commission
Hybrid Zoom Mtg /Warren Public Library

Dec. 6, 2022

DRAFT

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm

In attendance in person: Carolyn Schipa, Jim Edgcomb, George Schenk, Jito Coleman
and guest Stan Walker.

Via Zoom: Johnathan Clough

Update from Trails Committee: Valley wide group had an initial focus meeting to set process, schedule and governance. Next meeting 12/14/22. Emily Freedman has been hired as part time Community Coordinator to facilitate meetings and process. Jim informed us that Warren had not yet contributed to this effort. He will get a formal request for funding that can be passed along to SelectBoard.

Update from Bear group: Activity are being planned for next year with focus on education and key human/bear interactions which are extensively (85%) related to bear feeding from compost and garbage to chickens and bee hives. This effort is fully endorsed by the Tri-Town CC

Knotweed update: Next year's effort will involve the Tri-Town CC with a coordinated use of money and human resources, building from '22 joint effort between Waitsfield and Warren. A description of the Program Manager position has been created and the search is beginning. Next year's budget is about the same and '22, plus we have \$5000 left over from this years fund raising campaign.

Wildlife Corridor Program: Stan presented details on the planned Preserving Wildlife Corridors presentation set for Feb. 16th at the Big Pic in Waitsfield. Arrangements have been made with presenters and the venue, but details still need attention. Communication about the event will be through local sources and word of mouth. This effort is fully endorsed by the Tri-Town CC Stan will forward meeting details and advance notice.

George reported on conversation with key VTrans representative who took part in a site visit to new beaver dam located just north of Warren, where VTrans in the past dismantled the dam. George was assured that the current dam is sufficiently distant from the culvert entrance that it does not endanger the road, so no effort will be taken to remove the beaver.

Getting a Zoom microphone and speaker is critical to these hybrid meeting and although the Town already owns one, it is in use on Tues nights by the SelectBoard, so the CC should buy another.

It was unanimously agreed that the CC should request an additional \$30,000 contribution into the Warren Conservation Fund at the Town Meeting. The Town budget already has a \$20,000 contribution in it, so if both pass at Town Meeting this year the total contribution will be \$50,000.

Potential use of ARPA funds for conservation outcomes could be proposed in writing by the WCC, if good ideas appear to meet the criteria. This is an open item that should be kept on the Agenda for next time.

Next hybrid meeting Jan. 10, 2023 at Warren Library

6:40 pm Meeting Adjourned.