

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

April 11, 2023

DRAFT

Present: Jito Coleman, Amy Polaczyk, Carolyn Schipa, Jim Edgecomb, Kate Wanner, Jonathan Clough, Rocky Bleier, and guests: Stan Walker, Clark Amadon, Richard Czaplinski, Brian Fitzgerald

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm

1. Warren Crib Dam
 - Mad Dog Chapter of Trout Unlimited: Clark Amadon
 - Brian (BT) Fitzgerald
 - Clark: Habitat connectivity concerns in aquatic systems. Noted FMR aquatic organisms passage efforts. Want to see dam removal discussed and supported, cost for removal would not need to be borne by the owner.
 - Dam history: dam preservation committee, Jito, Dave Sellers, Ellen Strauss,
 - i. 1972 rebuild by town USACE studied bedrock
 - ii. this year town budget includes bridge abutment study
 - iii. Concerns of infrastructure & collateral effects of removal
 - Brian Fitzgerald: Dam will be gone eventually, best action is to remove it in a controlled manner. Gradual removal cranks up the cost, access is a consideration.
 - Jito to ask Ellen for ACE study - Amy to ask River Program @ DEC.
 - Richard Czaplinski - sees the dam progressing every day, whats the harm in letting nature take its course, the low-cost option.
 - Questions of Fish passage should go to the fishery biologist - Brett Ladigo.
2. Bear initiative - Ben Killiam Saturday April 15, Sugarbush schoolhouse 3-5 pm; farmers market outreach, composting resources from Richard Czaplinski shared. Carolyn read an email from Casella regarding bear resistant totes.
3. Ecological integrity group - working on a definition of EI, RFP out for a consultant to do a deep-dive study in tritown, June 15 public presentation being planned for the whole Conservation and Recreation Visioning (CRV) at big picture. Jim will forward EI definition & RFP to group.
4. Tri-town meeting debrief - three efforts:
 - Jonathan to send to meeting minutes
 - i. CRV
 - ii. Knotweed - 3 day Warren, 1 day Waitsfield, Fayston ½ day
 - iii. full eval of habitat and corridors in the valley
 - Next meeting in 6 months

5. Knotweed

- 8 interns & project manager
- Side project is to make a gis map of invasives in the valley
 - i. Amy & Jito can work together to bridge FMR mad river watch and invasives mapping
- Jito gave a tour to Mary Deller, USFS invasive species specialist. Trying to send money to the town to address infestations of knotweed on USFS land and one person to support.
- Kate reminds lincoln gap parking lot will be refurbished this summer - we want to ensure knotweed-free fill.

6. Executive Session: 6:50-7:08pm

7. Next meeting: May 9th , 5:30pm at Library/Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm