

**Town of Warren Conservation Commission
Hybrid Zoom Meeting/Warren Public Library**

DRAFT minutes 5/9/2023

**Jito Coleman, George Schenk, Amy Polaczyk, Carolyn Schipa, Jim Edgecomb, Rocky Bleier
via Zoom: Jonathan Clough, and Kate Wanner
Public present: Stan Walker**

Trails

George and Jim reported: There is a meeting coming up this Friday for the Recreation and Conservation Visioning group after a few weeks break. On the agenda is to plan for a consultant. There is also a community get together for the Visioning group **Thursday June 15th 5-9pm**. This event will include report-outs to the community from the ecological integrity group and the recreation and trails group.

Regarding limits to trail development based on ecological integrity – the group is still working on that, the schedule is uncertain. Some of the work for the consultant will be to bring together data on the impact of trails and recreation on ecology. The group also examined data from the app Strava that shows how much main trails (and also unofficial trails) are used.

Bears

On April 15, Ben Kilham came to Sugarbush to talk on bears, filmed by MRVTV. "The Social Black Bear" is available on MRVTV <https://mrvtv.com/793941-2/>

Knotweed

The MRV coordinator for Knotweed starts June 1st, Ashley Cray, seven other interns come June 5. Warren has the group working on Mon-Tues, other towns splitting Weds-Fri.

Warren community work days will be on Tuesday nights, first one will be **June 6th**.

Jito is looking for volunteers to walk Warren Falls to the Covered Bridge in Warren and to log knotweed via GPS – size and location.

One intern will be assigned to social media – outreach is happening via @WarrenKnotweed.

The group will be collecting data about density of knotweed stalks to create a metric for project success.

Rocky asked a question about micro-management vs. macro-management of knotweed and some discussion ensued.

Executive Session was entered into at 6:17pm and was exited at 6:20pm.

Dam Removal

Jito asked around and there was not additional support for removing the dam from the group that

owns the dam and makes the decisions about its fate.

Some discussion of the benefits of letting the dam erode away without further intervention and the potential liabilities from any damage related to the dam removal also took place.

WCC decided not to take additional action regarding a recommendation for dam removal at this time.

Biodiversity Forum

Stan noted that Ecological Forest Management led by Ethan Tapper will be the topic of the next Biodiversity Forum held on **September 7th** at the Big Picture Theater in Waitsfield

Next Meeting Tuesday June 13th 5:30 pm at the Warren Library

Meeting Adjourned at 6:55pm