

Warren Conservation Commission Minutes

1/9/2024

Present: Carolynn Schipa, Jito Coleman, Stan Walker, Amy Polaczyk, Jonathan Clough, George Schenk, Jim Edgcomb

Call to Order: 5:34 PM

1. WCC Annual Report review: Annual report in good shape, send comments to Jito immediately. Stan and Kate made some recommendations that were accepted.
 2. WCC Budget for 2024: same as last year
 3. Update from the Trails subcommittee (Jim, George) CRV: George sent an email to Emily Friedman, to revisit the baseline ecological integrity of the Mad River Valley, to have that as a reference for limitations on development or on use. Meredith Naughton will be a guest speaker at an upcoming meeting.
 4. Update on Bear Awareness: (Carolyn and Amy) Carolynn has reached out to Sarah Crocket, about bear confrontations, who might be available to give a presentation
 5. Update on Knotweed project: Courtesy of Curt Lindberg, Town of Waitsfield received a 2-year \$100K grant from Lake Champlain Basin Project for riparian restoration in the Valley, including GIS mapping of locations of knotweed and potentially other invasives. Allow us to enhance existing knotweed programs, including gravel decontamination program. Maybe can flow into Friends of the Mad River, and they can run this. Meeting next week with Ira and Luke to see if they want to lead the knotweed program. Getting help from Walter Poleman from UVM. May need more funds to hire a full-time project person.
 6. Wildlife habitat and corridor program: Jito has been talking to a few landowners to encourage them to increase width of fencerows and riparian corridors. Would like to figure out how to do it more broadly. Presentation on Best Practices for landowner management for wildlife? Waitsfield will be paying for biodiversity presentations in 2024.
 7. Other Business: potential for wildlife corridor sign on Roxbury Rd and some other corridors such as Brook Road? Jito will ask for extra sign back from Fayston and install it there.

Blueberries at Blueberry Lake could use some active management. Would be good to mow it in the spring and/or prune bushes. Amy volunteers to lead the effort.

Update from Kate on Roxbury Mountain parcel. Secured a deal with partial interest holder in Germany for \$57K. Motion to support acquisition of this land by State and support \$57,000 from the Warren Conservation Fund towards this acquisition. Unanimously supported. Kate will take to selectboard once contract is executed.
 8. Executive Session, if required: N/A
- Next meeting on Feb 13th 5:30 pm
9. 7:00 P.M. Adjournment