

Warren Conservation Commission Minutes

Meeting July 18, 2011

Present: Helen Hawkinson, Butch Lombardi, Bob Rutkiewicz, and David Weed

Regrets: Jane Harrison, Kurt Jamiel, Diane Warren

Chair: Helen Hawkinson

Next Meeting: August 15, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Helen Hawkinson. A motion to accept the minutes of the June 20th meeting was moved by Bob, seconded by Butch, and approved unanimously.

There was no correspondence.

Guest - Larry Doyle, owner and general manager of the Swansea Country Club, request the opportunity to speak to the Commission regarding an easement for his property on Market Street. He presented a description of the property that includes a fresh water pond adjacent to the golf course, mostly on the Swansea side. He was granted a conservation easement around the pond, all within Swansea, from the Town of Swansea and would like to extend the conservation easement into Warren. Butch thought that this would extend to the FedEx property. Larry would like to limit the public access to educational groups on short notice, permitting walking or biking to the water, to the Swansea property. He would like to see the

same thing in Warren. Bob would like to see some kind of walking trails on the property behind FedEx on the west side of the power lines. Bob asked what Larry wanted, and he said he doesn't know the process in Warren. Bob said we would have to make a recommendation to the Town Council, and they would have to negotiate the specifics. Since we would be getting more conservation land in Warren, Bob moved that we write a letter in support of this proposal to the Town Council. Butch seconded it. This would have to take place by December 31, 2011. All voted in favor. The area involved is approximately 45 acres with the State line on the north, the golf course on the western edge of the Golf Course property, and the southern boundary along the Fed Ex property and the conservation land that extends to the River.

Final Budget report – Helen reported that we have about \$300 to return to the town that we did not spend. The last two invoices were for the bird bath. Since we got a reimbursement check, we will have to return some money to the town. We will probably get a smaller amount (e.g. \$1200) next year.

Old Business –

Comp Plan - Roger Williams completed the Comp Plan. Kurt and Butch attended the final meeting. The plan is in print on the town's web site. It dealt mostly with historic issues. They recommended that we all look at it.

Hugh Cole – Dave reported that the sign on the Hugh Cole Well monument was replaced after it was removed by unknown agents and left at the site.

Beautification – The entrance to town was stained by Kurt. Helen has done some weeding around it. She says that we need to think of getting perennials to put in the well.

Memorial tree at the Town Beach – Bob will go by to check on the tree and memorial marker.

Company Street overlook – Helen went to Baker Street. She said that the planting is beautiful but it needed weeding.

Warren Documentary – tabled

Storm water basins – Bob will continue to look

Deeds – tabled

New Business –

Adopt a spot – tabled until Jane and Kurt are here

Concerns – Bob discussed the illegal dock the upper Kickemuit. DEM

is going after the owner. He saw this as a good example of privatization of public land through docks.

Butch raised concern about the area watershed. There is a meeting on the 27th from 1-3 at Warren town hall. Butch will attend.

Bob recused himself for discussion of Fatima Drive.

Kurt took a soil sample from the area at the back of the property which appeared to have been doused with weed killer, and Helen has sent it in to the UMass Amherst Soil and Plant Tissue testing laboratory with a request for an analysis to determine if weed killer or other toxins are present. David took photographs of the area. One of the shrubs appears to be affected. Kurt, Helen and David cleared the grass and weeds around the plantings and placed the bird bath. Helen suggested developing a paved path because the plant growth is making access to the back of the property difficult.

Motion to adjourn was moved by Butch at 8:40 moved, and seconded by Helen. All voted in favor with the next meeting scheduled for August 15, 2011.

David Weed

Recording Secretary