

Warren Conservation Commission Minutes

Meeting April 18, 2011

Present: David Weed, Jane Harrison, Kurt Jamiel, Butch Lombardi, Helen Hawkinson, Diane Warren, Bob Rutkiewicz

Regrets: None

Chair: Kurt Jamiel

Next Meeting: May 9, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Kurt Jamiel. A motion to accept the minutes of the April 18th meeting was moved by Jane, seconded by Helen, and approved unanimously. Helen will give a semi-annual budget report in June at the end of the fiscal year, so we will leave this item on the agenda.

Correspondence: None

Guest Chuck Staton of the Warren Tree Commission was introduced. He reported that the Commission is trying to encourage cooperation among the different commissions on such concerns as the Fatima Drive project. Jane suggested that we can send him a copy of annual report each year. Kurt showed a sketch of Fatima Drive and plans to plant native species and construct bird house using money from the Warren Beautification Fund. We also plan to buy another bench and plant silverberry. John Massad will repair the stone fence and plant the bushes that have been "stored" in Gloria's yard. We have a

town-wide clean-up scheduled on the 30th. We've also had workshops, such as the Kickemuit waterways and Dr. Baldwin on retention/detention ponds.

Chuck stated that they are trying to be more meaningful and make the regulations and ordinances stronger. They would like the tree warden to be part of enforcement. Jane suggested that we should go to the town council and get something in the ordinance. She also asked for help with Fatima Drive with planting the Silverberry trees, which he agreed to. We plan to put 14 across the back and will start with whatever we can afford. (Bob was recused from the discussion.) Chuck also reported that he took a class on rain gardens which are similar to retention ponds in capturing sediments from run-off. Kurt suggested we look into requiring rain gardens before the water gets to a retention pond.

Chuck agreed to research the Silverberries and pick up the trees by May 15th and to plant them on the day before Arbor Day.

Old Business

Earth Day Clean up – Jane reported that we did get a grant for \$750 which we can put into the Warren Beautification Account. We have budgeted \$450 for Earth Day, \$200 for refreshments, \$150 for entertainment, and \$100 for work gloves. Butch will remind Al Galinelli to bring the grill and will asked him about the gloves. Bob is set with food and will purchase more gloves. John will get us 300

bags. Jane will wash the tables the day before, and Bob will get there at 7:30 for the coffee and donuts. The tee-shirts are in, and Dave Urban will bring them. He will also return the coffee urns at the end. Diane passed around a list of places that she dropped flyers. Butch will see if we can we get a notice on the Patch on Facebook, and Jane will send out the email version of the flyer.

Hats - Helen looked up the cost of new Conservation Commission hats at the Gob shop and found two hat designs at \$15-20 per hat, depending on the cost of the logo.

Comprehensive Plan - Butch attended most of the most recent meeting and compiled most of the data from the survey. With 149 responses well distributed among all ages, people appear to value historic preservation. They will present final plan at the last meeting sometime in May, and there will be a written report.

Hugh Cole Well Bench – Dave reported that there is nothing new

Beautification

Company Street Overlook - Jane will check to see if we have money for Company Street

Warren Documentary – Diane had nothing new to report

Storm water basins – Jane checked on the water authority rules and regulations which she passed out. In number 10, property owners are legally responsible for drainage system. Also in section (h) it states "avoid creation of a single large deep basin." She also checked on Ebby Drive and found that the town does own the retention basin. She suggested that we look at the one that belongs to the property owner on Strawberry Lane, too.

New Business –

Town zoning ordinances – Jane reported that we got an alert that allows plantings in buffer areas that can be used for settling ponds or wells. As this could be dangerous to Warren, so she suggested that we email our rep's, but the act has been pulled. She recommended that we respond if it comes up again.

Commissioners' concerns

Helen attended a FEMA meeting at which it was brought up that towns need to identify areas that are in failure areas for flooding. They are revising the 2006 regulations for just coastal water. Towns should start thinking and make plans as it is expected that the shoreline will rise three feet by 2100.

Bob noted that Warren is on three different topographical maps from 1970. He will research it and talk with Caroline Wells.

Bob moved and all approved to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Weed

Recording Secretary