

Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee
Contact: Jeff Schaaf at (413) 477-6646
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 13, 2011

Members: (members in BOLD were present)

Massachusetts Council of Sportsmen: Robert Carey, William Label
Alternate:

Worcester County League of Sportsmen: Dave Papale
Alternate: (Paul Thompson)

Trout Unlimited: **Jeffrey Schaaf, Co-chairman**
Alternate: (empty)

A Rod and Gun Club: Chris Duggan
Alternate: (Brian Waterman)

Barre Selectboard: **Martha Varnot**
Alternate: **Edward Yaglou**

Hubbardston Selectboard: **Thomas Bratko**
Alternate: (empty)

Oakham Selectmen: Thomas Hughes
Alternate: Henry Stone

Rutland Selectmen: **Charles R. Williams**
Alternate: (empty)

Barre Historical Society: **Burt Frost**
Alternate: **Peg Frost**

Hubbardston Historical Society: (empty)
Alternate: (empty)

Oakham Historical Society: Wes Dwelly
Alternate: **Bill Mucha**

Rutland Historical Society: Helen Viner
Alternate: Tim Nahrwold

Massachusetts Wildlife Federation: **Bill Westaway, Co-chairman**
Alternate: Thomas Berube

Massachusetts Audubon Society: Charles Delaney
Alternate: (empty)

Sierra Club: Matt Hopkinson
Alternate: (empty) Upper Ware River Watershed Association: Donald Rich
Alternate: **Edward Yaglou**

General Public: Mark DuBois
Alternate: (empty)

Visitors

Dean Zuppio

DCR DWSP Representative(s):

Dave Small; Assistant Regional Director
Lisa Gustavsen: Environmental Analyst
Herm Eck; scribe

Agenda

Public Access Plan Update

STAC Update

Members Issues

Public Access Plan Update

Lisa Gustavsen discussed the Ware River public access plan update procedure and the progress already made on the update. After handing out a draft evaluation report of the update, she then requested input from the WRWAC members. A discussion of AIS, particularly didymo, followed. Dick Williams made a motion that: The DCR develop signs and educational materials to help inform the public of AIS issues and what they can do to prevent introducing AIS to the watershed, and that these signs recommend that all waders, to be used on the watershed, be treated to prevent the spread of didymo. Bill Westaway seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The creation of unauthorized trail was also discussed. It was suggested that DCR block or make unusable all unauthorized trails. The process for access proposals schematic was discussed. The WRWAC would like to be informed of all access requests (even the ones that are denied due to conflicts) so they are better able to answer questions from their constituents and inform them of DCR policies. Lisa also informed the WRWAC that the 2 week public comment period for the access plan update, started January 13, 2011.

STAC Update

Dave Small informed the WRWAC that the STAC was still working on its report, evaluating watershed forest management practices but hoped to have it ready for a joint WRWAC - QWAC public meeting soon. Many WRWAC members are concerned that they will not have an opportunity to read and discuss the STAC report prior to the public meeting. They made a request to have the WRWAC members receive a copy of the STAC report at least 2 weeks prior to a public meeting. WRWAC meetings were then scheduled for February and March with the hope of reviewing the STAC report in February before a joint WRWAC – QWAC in March where the STAC report will be presented to the public.

Members Issues

Bill Mucha requested another jersey barrier and some snow fence be placed near the snowmobile bridge to help direct the snowmobilers away from the MWRA buildings. Ed Yaglou suggested that the DCR access maps have a symbol indicating exactly where the gates are located. The current maps indicate gates but it is sometimes difficult to determine which road is gated. Tom Bratko inquired about the DCR position on windmills on the property on Mt. Jefferson road that DCR holds the CR on. Dave Small informed Tom that if it is not allowed in the CR then it can't happen. Tom also informed the WRWAC that there are plans to put an asphalt batch plant in Pitcherville (off watershed) and that 4 deer carcasses were found in an old foundation on Mt. Jefferson road. Tom also inquired about doing an ice dive at Commet Pond from private property.

Tentative Future meeting dates: depending on progress of STAC report

Thursday February 17, 2011 at 7:00 location to be determined

Thursday March 17, 2011 at 7:00 location to be determined

Agenda

STAC Report

Approval of minutes

Member Issues