Natural Resources Committee  
January 18, 2012 meeting  
Approved Minutes

Attendance  
Commissioners: John Whitman, Maggie Bartenhagen, Jenna Pugliese (by phone), Nicholas Bartenhagen, Edie Mas and Dominique Haynes.  
Staff: Dinah Reed.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 P.M.

Minutes - Draft Minutes of November 16 meeting; on Motion by Whitman, Second by Mas, approved unanimously as presented.

Review of P&O Statement of the WRC Natural Resources Committee  
Below is list of Natural Resources Committee members who sit on other WRC committees:  
- Dominique Haynes – Transportation, Community Development  
- Edie Mas – Community Development  
- Lynette Hamilton – Community Development  
- Maggie Bartenhagen – Public Policy & Legislative, Executive Board  
- Jenna Pugliese – Project Review  
- Nick Bartenhagen – Energy, Brownfields, Public Policy & Legislative  
- John Whitman – Energy

Committee felt that a brief “report out” by committee members about issues other committees are working on (as they relate to Natural Resources) was important, as long as it was brief, avoided a lot of redundancy, and we were not creating too much overlap in our work/projects.

Discussion about committee member level of engagement – Committee stated in general that they are interested in working with projects that the committee proactively picks, rather than only responding to issues/projects that come forth and demand too much of the attention, never allowing the committee to choose its course. Committee agreed to provide volunteer efforts of particular research that appeals to the committee member as it relates to group project ideas.

NRC as convener of meetings with other town conservation commissions  
The following is a bulleted list of comments:
• Promote WRC Natural Resource committee to the towns by convening a meeting of region-wide conservation commissions and other land use groups – to have a Round Table Discussion – for the purpose of meeting folks with like-minded missions, learn about what is important to them, learn about their projects and to provide outreach of educational materials, and to introduce idea of a collaborative speaker series.
• To extend an invitation that we meet quarterly or twice yearly to have a Round Table Discussion to determine over arching focuses.
• Some conservation commissions feel isolated -- pooling of resources and ideas could be helpful.
• Point was made that we do not send a message that we are trying to dictate conservation projects so conservation commissions and land use groups don’t feel they are being controlled by WRC Natural Resources.
• Point was made the Energy Committee is working with other town/state energy committees to collaborate on work ideas.
• Dinah and Maggie will work on a letter of invite, possibly to have a 1st meeting either at the March regularly scheduled NRC time/date, or another time/date.
  o Ask Commissioners in towns for contacts, people interested in conservation issues who are not on conservation commissions
  o Extend invitation to ALL members of any conservation commission

Natural resources topics to start working on:
Legislative topics:
• Land Use (Working Landscape Partnership) and Act 250 -- Edie Mas and Dinah Reed agreed to do research on these topics to bring for discussion at the Feb. meeting
• Biomass – John Whitman agreed to provide information on this topic for discussion at Feb. meeting

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dinah Reed