

## Marlboro Conservation Commission Minutes for March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Those attending, ; Adam Gebb, Patti Smith, Kristina Weeks, Dante Corsano, Charlie Schneeweis, George Leoniak and Sally White.

Over the last three years we have created a detailed map of the whole town that shows core habitat and wildlife road crossings. The following are definitions of these areas . Our sources for these definitions are “Conserving Vermont’s Natural Heritage” and “The Town Of Williston, Habitat Protection Standards”.

Core habitat( also called contiguous forest) is an area of forested land with either no roads or low densities of class III or IV roads and little or no human development (buildings, parking areas, lawns, gravel pits.) These areas may have various age classes of forest cover and, in fact, may be composed of other habitat types such as wetlands or old meadows that are part of the overall contiguous habitat complex. Ideally, these areas are connected with other similar areas so that the animals that use them can move freely to other forested areas and habitats.

Contiguous forest habitat supports native plants and animals, including those species like bobcats and black bears that require large areas to survive. Such habitat, together with other important habitats such as wetlands, also supports natural ecological processes such as predator/prey interactions and natural disturbance.

Wildlife Road Crossings. Definition : Critical connections that allow wildlife to travel from one area of core habitat to another. The latest science recommends that they are a minimum of 1500 long (ie road frontage) Our maps show them as going 1000 feet back from the road. There are twenty WRC’s shown around town. In Marlboro WRC’s are a critically threatened resource, especially on Route 9. Without a healthy network of WRC’s, Bears, Moose and Bobcats will be the first species to go.

The following is from Williston’s Habitat Protection Standards.....

All development within an area identified as a WRC shall be designed to:

- Minimize disruption and fragmentation of the identified corridor, and ensure that the development will not prevent the continued use by wildlife species identified as being dependent on the corridor to travel between areas of core habitat.
- Avoid any placement of fences, walls or substantial changes in grade that would disrupt the movement of wildlife within the corridor.
- Cluster development to minimize impact on the corridor and avoid encroachment and associated fragmentation along the connectivity corridor travel ways.
- Incorporate management plans (e.g., tree cutting restrictions) to maintain, to the greatest extent practical, the ongoing use of the parcel for significant wildlife habitat on the parcel to ensure that the parcel continues to support wildlife travel between areas of core habitat after development.

In the event that the parcel includes no land that is practical for the development except identified connectivity corridor, the proposed development shall be designed to minimize the impact of the development on the continued viability of the wildlife corridor

Also discussed.....

We reviewed the latest round of Jeff Nugents maps and found a few more minor changes to make.

We reviewed VNRC's Conservation Zoning Tools list to help Brian Shupe zero in on what topics focus on when is here on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Our next meeting will be Monday April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

On the Agenda are.....To continue working on our proposed site review check list and to discuss the March 29 meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Gebb

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