

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

Winter 2009

Selectmen's Office
(603)456-2298 ext. 2
selectboard@warner.nh.us

Monday - Wednesday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
www.warner.nh.us

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Administrator's Page

Happy New Year! Hopefully everyone had a happy and healthy holiday season and the ice storm interruption didn't put a damper on too many plans. The residents of Warner did an outstanding job of dealing with the extended power outage even though at times, frustration set in. Our Emergency Management Team led by Ed Mical, Emergency Management Director, worked hard throughout the disaster in order to provide the residents with as much assistance as possible. Volunteers in Town also came together and held a pot luck dinner on December 18th for residents which they organized in less than 24 hours. The community certainly pulled together and demonstrated that when the going is tough, Warner knows how to deal with it!

In the November newsletter, I reported that the 2009 Proposed Operating Budget was less than a 2% increase compared to the 2008 Budget. After various meetings with Department Heads, Selectmen & the Budget Committee, the 2009 Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets combined are now a .60% decrease compared to the 2008 Operating & Capital Budgets. Once the Budget Committee has voted on its recommendations, the budget as it will appear in the Town Report will be posted on our website.

In 2008, the Selectmen dealt with several issues stemming from a small group of individuals. The Town was sued under the Right to Know Law by five residents known as the Citizens for Source Recycling (John Healy, Richard Senor, Ken Klinedinst, Ron Wirth and Wayne Eigabroadt). John Healy requested copies of all resumes and applications, including addresses and phone numbers, for individuals applying for two positions in the highway department that were filled while Mr. Eigabroadt was a Selectman. It was Mr. Eigabroadt's claim that one of the applicants was discriminated against based on age although no proof of the alleged discrimination was presented. Mr. Healy was informed that under the Right to Know Law the information requested was confidential; however, they still brought



suit against the Town stating they should be allowed to have the information. The Court ruled in favor of the Town. The Local Government Center (LGC) featured this case in its annual *Court Update* publication and entitled it ***How to Do It Right: Superior Court Upholds Town's Response to Right to Know Request***. If you're interested in reading the write up, you can view it on LGC's website at www.nhmunicipal.org under the "Legal Services" section.

There were also calls and letters of complaints against the Town filed with the Department of Labor, Department of Environmental Services, Attorney General's Office, Governor's Office, Local Government Center, etc. from individuals of this same group that had to and continue to be dealt with. However, in all instances, the Town has been cleared of any allegations and is not in violation of any laws (or rules). Unfortunately, these activities have not only used up employee time and Town resources, but also cost the taxpayers money through the legal line of the budget. The 2009 budget reflects an increase of \$4,000 in order to defend the Town against continued allegations.

With the encouragement of many residents, the Selectmen recently approved an Electioneering Policy under the authority granted in RSA 31:41-C (www.nh.gov). A copy of the Policy can be viewed on our website or can be picked up in the Selectmen's Office.

We're beginning a new year with a positive attitude; our sleeves rolled up and ready to deal with whatever comes our way. Thaddeus Golas said, "What happens is not as important as how you react to what happens". I speak not only for myself but also on behalf of the Board of Selectmen when I say that we will continue to deal with future issues in a professional manner and always holding the best interests of the Town of Warner in mind. I'd like to thank the residents of Warner for the continued support as well as comments, suggestions and concerns voiced throughout the year.

From the Assessing Clerk: 2010 REVALUATION STARTS NOW! It is time to start making a list and checking it twice. No, not your Christmas list for next year but a list of items that take away from the value of your home or property. The employees of Cross Country Appraisal will be starting the listing and measuring of all properties in the Town of Warner beginning in April or May of 2009. It is important that you let these people view the interior of your home. They all have ID tags and their vehicles have company signs on them. If you have any questions or do not feel comfortable letting them in you can call Martha Mical at 456-2298 ext. 3 or 456-3350 (home) and we will make arrangements to do the interior visit. Have your list of items ready for them, give them a copy to take with them. We can see what is right with a property, but we need you to point out the faults. Make your list now!

If you have made changes to your property in the last year or had things unfinished from previous years you may also be visited by an employee from Commerford, Neider and Perkins as that company will be doing the pick-ups for 2009; they also have ID tags.

For questions please call Martha Mical at 456-2298 ext 3. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to noon, Monday – Thursday.

From the Police Department: Drivers often are not prepared for winter driving and forget to take it slow. Leave plenty of time to reach your destination, driving well below the posted speed limit and leaving plenty of room between vehicles.

Before leaving home, find out about the driving conditions. Remove snow from your vehicle’s windows, roof, lights, brake lights and signals. Make sure you can see and be seen.

As a reminder, we ask if you park your vehicle on the street or road, please adhere to the town’s parking ordinance within the winter months. Vehicles parked on any street or road between 12:00 midnight and 6:00 a.m. between the dates of November 1 through April 30 are subject to removal at the owner’s expense.

*******VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED*******

Every year shortly after Town Meeting the Selectmen begin their search for appointing either current members or new volunteers who are interested in getting involved in various Boards and Committees. Terms for Boards/Committees are for three years except those who serve on Selectmen’s Committees which are always looking for new members. The following list of Boards and Committees carry three (3) year terms: Conservation Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning Board and Zoning Board. Selectmen’s Committees are: Energy Committee, Recycle Committee and Odd Fellows Building Committee. These Committees have

specific charges which are determined by the Board of Selectmen.

If you have any interest please fill out and return a Volunteer Interest Form which can be downloaded from www.warner.nh.us, click on *Volunteers needed for various Boards*. You may also communicate your interest by emailing selectboard@warner.nh.us

2009 Elected Positions

<u>Position</u>	<u># of Positions</u>	<u>Term/Years</u>
Almoners of the Foster & Currier Funds	1	3
Budget Committee	2	3
Chandler Reservation Committee	1	4
Selectman	1	3
Tax Collector	1	3
Town Clerk	1	3
Treasurer	1	3
Trustees of the Pillsbury Library	3	3
	1	2
	1	1
Trustees of Town Cemeteries	2	3
Trustees of the Trust Funds	1	2
	1	3

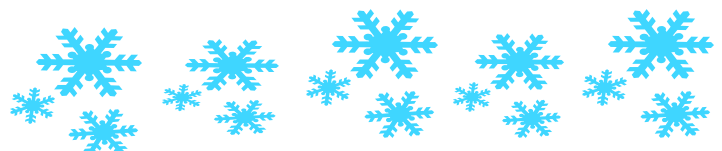
The first day to declare candidacy is Wednesday, January 21, 2009, and the last day is Friday, January 30, 2009. Filing can be completed at the Town Clerk’s office. Hours are Monday - Wednesday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Friday, January 30th 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

If you would like to learn more about the above vacancies you can go to www.warner.nh.us and click on *Volunteers needed for various Boards* which is located on the front page.

Kearsarge Regional School District
Municipal Budget Committee & School Board Seats

<u>Position</u>	<u># of Positions</u>	<u>Term/Years</u>
Municipal Budget	1	3
School Board	1	3

Forms are available at the following locations: SAU #65 office, 169 Main Street, New London, Kearsarge Regional High School, North Sutton, KRES at Bradford, Simonds Elementary or www.kearsarge.org. Filing period is Wednesday, January 21 through Friday, January 30, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.



Fire Department: The Warner Fire Department had its busiest year ever in 2008. The department responded to 410 calls for help. The Warner Fire Department's call volume has risen steadily over the years. The Department and the Town are fortunate to have such a dedicated group to support the residents of our Town.

During the recent "Ice Storm" the members manned the station from early morning till early evening to help out our townspeople with whatever their needs were. We pumped cellars, removed downed trees, supplied bottled water, as well as tap water, to those who needed it and responded to a number of carbon monoxide detector activations. We also checked in on the people at the warming station. In addition we handled the normal calls that come in for motor vehicle accidents as well as medical calls. As first responders we are there to help out our friends and neighbors while leaving our own families to fend for themselves until we return.

On a sad note, a former member of our Fire Department, Jimmy Gilman lost his home to fire in Weare on Jan 6th. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jimmy and his family.

The department has sworn in two new members, they are Ron and Jacob Palmer.

Please remember that the "Move Over" law is in place. When approaching emergency vehicles you must move over one lane to allow the people to work safely.

Also, please make sure you have visible house numbers on your mail box! (at least 2 inches high).

From the Planning Board: During our work sessions throughout 2008, the Planning Board's Sub-Committee on Zoning & Building Code review has been working on various items that will bring us into compliance with the State of NH Building Code Statutes. The Committee has also been reviewing an audit of our regulations, looking for discrepancies and potential corrections that may need to be made. The results of this work will show up on the Official Ballots for Town Meeting.

While there are numerous items to consider, we have tried to present them in the best and easiest manner for you to understand. Most of the items are either to bring our zoning & building codes into compliance with the State Code and/or to correct discrepancies in our existing code.

A copy of these Warrant Articles are posted for viewing in the usual locations (Town Hall, Post Office, Library & Website) and will also be listed in the 2008 Annual Town Report. If you have any questions before voting, please contact the Planning Board Office at 456-2298 ext. 7.

The Master Plan Sub-Committee held a "Visioning Session" on Monday, December 8, 2008 and received a lot of valuable comments and input from those in attendance. We are continuing with the update process and expect to conduct at least one more Visioning Session in early 2009.

The Planning Board also continues to investigate a feasible way to handle the traffic patterns along the NH Route 103 - I-89 Exit 9 Corridor. This is an ongoing study that includes the NH Department of Transportation and other State Agencies, as well as the Town of Warner and local area businesses.

Town Clerk's Office: In September 2008, the 'look' of vehicle registrations changed. The new form is white, 3 ½ by 8 ½ inches and replaces the previous 'square' form and include a breakdown of fees, motor vehicle RSA's and a bar code that can be scanned for owner and vehicle information.

On-line registration for vehicle renewals is available by going to the town website, click on "OFFICES AND HOURS", and then click on "E-REGISTRATION" and follow the step by step instructions. Allow ample time to receive your new registration. Our office can now process registrations for vehicles with a gross weight up to 26,000 lbs. We can also issue vanity plates, replacement decals and certified copies of lost registrations.

The 15-year title law states that 1995 and newer model year vehicles, motorcycles & trailers with a gross weight of 3001 lbs. require a title before they can be registered. Model years prior to 1995, require a previously issued NH registration (or copy), the out of state title, NH title (or copy) or Verification of Vehicle ID Number Form.

New Warner residents need to provide proof of residency the first time they register a vehicle. Mail (utility bill) delivered to the physical address (not a PO Box) a postmarked envelope, and photo ID are required. A drivers license, tax bill, lease agreement or a check are not acceptable.

RSA 466 requires all dogs 4 months and older be licensed by April 30th. License by mail with rabies and altering information and include a SASE with payment. Fees: \$2.00 - 1st dog for owners 65 yrs or older (additional dogs, regular fee), \$6.50 - 4-7 months old, \$6.50 - over 7 months & altered, \$9.00 - over 7 months & not altered, \$20.00 - group (5 dogs or more)

You can access detailed information about the services provided by the Town Clerk's Office on the Warner website, email townclerk@nh.us or by calling 456-2298 ext. 5.

Warner Conservation Commission: This past fall and early winter has been busy for the Warner Conservation Commission (WCC). The WCC have seen the completion of both the natural resource inventory, phase III of the Courser projects and begun a new project in the Minks.

Natural Resource Inventory: On February 5th at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall the WCC will be giving a public presentation on the newly completed natural resource inventory (NRI). Dan Sundquist, of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests will help present the NRI and explain how it was performed, interpret the maps and summarize the results. This NRI will help the WCC next prepare a town Conservation Plan, which will be offered to the Planning Board for consideration in the Master Plan update currently under way by that Board.

Courser Phase III: The third phase of the Courser conservation projects was completed this past December conserving two more parcels of land in Warner and one in Webster. The Courser family worked with Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust, The Nature Conservancy and NH Fish & Game and the Town. In Warner, the 146 acre remainder of the farm property was conserved. This parcel has frontage on Connor Mills Road and as the name implies abuts the Courser farm property protected in the summer of 2006. Adjacent to the Courser Farm is the 185 acre Poverty Plains parcel. This parcel has frontage on Poverty Plains Road, contains mostly woodland plus 2 agricultural fields, a small section of the Schoodac Brook and a steep slope draining into the brook. They are important to the habitat protection of several wildlife species of conservation concern. The two properties will remain open to the public for pedestrian access, hunting, and snowmobiling on designated trails.

Bound Tree Forest Easement: The WCC and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (Forest Society) have been working to conserve this 446 acre property for several years. This past year the land was acquired by a corporation that logged the property heavily and then placed it back on the market. The Forest Society worked with a conservation buyer (Jonathan and Sarah Stone) to help them purchase the land this past summer. The Stones are willing to sell a conservation easement as a way of recouping some of their investment in buying the land. They are willing to conserve most of the 446 acres, leaving out some land along East Joppa Road for a future home. WCC/ the Forest Society will purchase the conservation easement on for a bargain sale price of \$100,000. The Town of Warner will cover the purchase price and the Forest Society will cover all expenses (estimated expenses \$65,000) including a new survey. The easement will allow the property to be used for agriculture, forestry and noncommercial recreation, including snowmobiling. Pedestrian public access will be permitted.

News from Emergency Management: Now that the **December Ice Storm** is behind us, were you prepared? Do you have food and water for 3 to 5 days? Do you have flashlights and extra batteries on hand in the event of a power failure? Do you have an **Emergency Kit** in your home and vehicle(s)?

If you can answer **YES** to these questions, then you are prepared. If you can't answer yes, you should put together Emergency Kits for your home and vehicles. Flyers are available at the Town Hall and the Library to assist residents in identifying items to place in their kits so please stop by and pick one up. More information about emergency preparedness is also available at the following websites: www.ready.gov, www.fema.gov, www.redcross.org, and www.nhoem.state.nh.us. You can also check out the Capital Area Health Network's website at www.capitalareaprepares.com. Remember all states have disasters, even New Hampshire. When we have another event such as the ice storm, please check on your neighbors.

I would like to thank all who assisted during the December ice storm. You proved that by working together as a team, we can accomplish many things. If you would like to assist the Town during emergencies or disasters, please contact the Selectmen's office at 456-2298 or Ed Mical at 456-3350.

Emergency Assistance Form

Do you or someone you know need special assistance during an emergency or disaster? Please review and complete the attached questionnaire and mail it to Town of Warner – Emergency Management P.O. 124. **All information received will be confidential.**

Pillsbury Free Library: Having installed a generator just before the December ice storm, the Library was able to function as a Warming Center for the Town for 8 days. With the help of volunteers, the meeting room and kitchen were available on the next day and then 24 hours a day until the last neighborhoods regained power. Once the word spread, and as outages dragged on, people made use of the facilities not just to keep warm, but to visit or play games, get a warm snack or drink, get free water, freshen up, recharge cell phones or laptops, or catch up with business needs on the Internet.

Many thanks to those who donated time and food, lent towels, pillows and cots, and generally showed yet again what a great community we live in. A huge thank you is especially due to Jim Netto at Market Basket for repeatedly supplying donations of food, drink and paper goods to comfort and nourish Warming Center visitors, and Ed and Martha Mical for frequent visits to communicate and ask what was needed.

If you want to get involved in Town, please consider running for Trustee of the library by signing up before Jan. 30. Terms of 1, 2 or 3 yrs are available. In 2009 we will be working on energy efficiency, upgrading the meeting room, and updating job descriptions and policies.

The library recently added more shelf units to ease the crowding in the ever-expanding fiction and video collections. The wood sections were created by master woodworker Ted Blachly.

For fun, you can now find out how much your weekly or monthly use of library items and services would cost if you had to pay for them instead, using the "calculator" at: <http://www.nhlibrarians.org/calculator.html>

Energy Committee: Perhaps you saw the Warner Energy Committee information table at the Warner Fall Foliage Festival. The committee meets in the Pillsbury Free Library on the first Thursday of each month at 6 pm. We are looking for volunteers to help us identify and work on projects which save energy in Warner and reduce our carbon footprint. If you are interested, please join us at the next meeting on February 5th beginning at 7:00 p.m. located at the Pillsbury Free Library.

Changes at the Transfer Station: Due to current market conditions being such that brokers are no longer accepting bales of mixed plastic, we are now

segregating plastics as follows: #1 (soda/tonic bottles, sm. water bottles, salad/sprout containers, PB/Mayo jars); #2 Clear (milk & Lg. water bottles, clear cat litter containers); #2 Colored (laundry & some dish detergents, white milk containers); #3 (some auto & cleaning fluid containers); #4 (lids & sometimes bags); #5 (yogurt, butter, ricotta & cottage cheese containers); #6 (Styrofoam trays); #7 (contains some compostable plastics). Although the market conditions are discouraging, it would cost us more to dispose of these items in the trash.

Recently, we installed a row of portable collection bins in the main building hoping to achieve two goals. The first is to address our insurance carriers concern regarding the public coming into contact with operating machinery. The second is to increase the efficiency of our processing & baling operations. The old system of the public depositing recyclables directly into the storage bunkers lead to a high degree of contamination. Now, by sorting out misplaced material as we receive it, we hope to save money in our operating costs while producing a more marketable product. We know change can be challenging, confusing and at times frustrating but we encourage your patience & input and as always, please feel free to ask the attendants for assistance.

Emergency Assistance Survey

We are prepared to help you if you might need assistance during a public emergency. If you or someone in your household might need help being notified of an emergency, sheltering-in-place, evacuating from home, or staying in a mass care shelter, please let us know. Help is available, but is best planned before an emergency happens. Please fill out the information below and return this form.

ALL INFORMATION IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND ONLY FOR USE DURING AN ACTUAL EMERGENCY

I/This person will need help in the event of an emergency:

Name: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
City & Zip: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____ TTY: _____

Help Needed:

Translator Deaf/Hard of Hearing Blind/Low Vision
 Need a ride Developmentally Disabled Learning Disabled
 Need an Ambulance for Transportation Need Individualized Notification
 Need Help with Sheltering-in-place Service Animal (specify: _____)
 Wheelchair Use Need a Wheelchair Accessible Ride
 Confined to Bed Other (specify: _____)

Relative or contact person:

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Detach and mail to Emergency Management, PO Box 124, Warner NH 03278



**Valentines Day Dance
Town Hall
Saturday, February 14**

The Warner Business Association Retailer's Group (a non-profit sub group of the WBA) in partnership with representatives from Warner Parks & Recreation are sponsoring a dance at the Warner Town Hall on Valentine's Day, Sat. Feb. 14. There will be Ball Room dance instruction at 2:30pm and just prior to the dance at 6:30 pm. The dance will start at 7:30pm with instruction given by local dancers Theresa and Peter Mueller of Dancin' Apple Farm. This dance is for adults - light refreshments will be available. Dancing shoes and attire are suggested. No ball room dance experience necessary - Bring your honey to "Dance with the Stars!" Tickets available at Sugar River Bank in Warner \$15 single, \$25 a couple / price includes both instructional sessions.



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