

Town of Warner

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

July/August 2010

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

Laura Buono
Town Administrator
(603)456-2298 ext. 1
administrator@warner.nh.us

From the Town Administrator

I hope you are all enjoying your spring and looking forward to summer which is just around the corner!

The Main Street Drainage Project is nearing completion at the writing of this newsletter. Although the project didn't go off without its share of unexpected twists, the experience and flexibility of all involved made the challenges workable. Thinking on your feet is an important aspect of road work especially when there is more involved than simply the road ie: water and sewage systems. Thank you to all the residents and business owners for their patience and understanding throughout the project.

The roof of the town hall has been completed as was voted at Town Meeting. The slate looks beautiful and snow guards have been added in order to hopefully control the amount of snow that falls from the roof during the winter. There are days where the conditions are similar to an avalanche whereas you can hear the rumbling of the snow from the roof peak all the way down until it lands in a pile which needs to be plowed away. The guards should control the amount of snow that ends up coming down at any one time.

The 2011 budget season is already beginning with the Capital Improvements Plan Committee beginning to meet and gather information to be included in the plan for this coming year. The Budget Committee held their organizational meeting in June as well and is gearing up to begin their process.

As most of you are aware, the state legislature was dealing with eliminating a projected deficit of \$295 million and while doing so there was talk of cutting rooms and meals tax revenue to municipalities by 10%. During that time, we were holding our breath waiting to see what they would do with these revenues and had resigned ourselves to expect the worse. Once the dust settled and the final vote was taken, the rooms and meals tax revenue was safe. This of course is good news since last year they voted to no longer provide communities with shared revenue and that is still not being paid to municipalities. Of course we won't know the full impact of changes that were made in order to accomplish covering this shortfall since some of the

impact may be in the form of indirect downshifting with the reductions to the Department of Health and Human Services. I don't anticipate Warner will be affected very much but we'll wait and see.

The Selectmen continue to forge ahead on many projects and objectives and the public is encouraged to attend meetings or read the minutes online to stay in tuned with the activities of the Board. I look forward to seeing many of you around town at the various activities scheduled during the summer months.

From the Conservation Commission

As the year 2009 drew to a close, the Conservation Commission finished a year long effort culminating in completion of a Town Conservation Plan. The Plan is on the town's website at the following address: http://www.warner.nh.us/downloads/ConComm/Town_of_Warner_Conservation_Plan_1-28-10.pdf. It is also available at the Pillsbury Library or at Town Hall. What follows are excerpts from that Plan.

Section 1: Purpose

This *Conservation Plan* was conceived by the Conservation Commission to guide their land conservation work in identifying land conservation projects, advocating for regulatory protections, and working with the public in outreach and educational efforts. It relies largely on documents prepared for the Commission over the last decade, public input from two town-wide questionnaires (*Master Plan* survey 2008, Conservation Commission survey 2009), a meeting with recreational interests, and mapped information.

A 2008 regulatory audit prepared by the regional planning commission as part of the Town's *Master Plan Update* recommended that the Commission "Develop a town-wide conservation plan based on... source information which identifies acquisition priorities and other resource management actions." A summary version of the *Conservation Plan* is intended for incorporation into the updated *Master Plan* currently under development.

Section 2: Warner's Natural Resources

As an introduction, most of Warner is forested – about 87% or nearly 31,500 acres – with 75% of the forest

cover dominated by hardwood or mixed hardwood/ conifer and about 25% in pure conifer forest types. About 3% of the land base is in agriculture or open grasslands, largely north of the Warner River valley, 1% is in open surface waters (lakes, ponds, rivers), 3% in forested and non-forested wetlands, and about 7% in various types of developed land uses, including transportation, gravel pits, and other open lands. The State's *Wildlife Action Plan* ranks most of the town as highest quality habitat statewide or supporting landscape.

Over the past several years the Conservation Commission has commissioned studies of key potential conservation areas in town, including Willow Brook, the Mink Hills and the Schoodac Brook area. A natural resources inventory for the entire town was completed in January 2009. The discussion of Natural Resource Areas is based largely on these reports and on information in the 1999 *Master Plan*. The 1999 *Master Plan* identifies 26 watersheds either wholly or partially contained in Warner. The streams that drain them represent more than 45 stream miles, with the Warner River adding another 13.8 stream miles. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, these variously sized drainages provide the most effective framework for addressing water resource issues. Some of the smallest streams are ephemeral, drying up in the summer and flowing in the spring and fall. These "headwater streams" serve key roles in the system of water and wildlife, as do the larger streams they feed. Streams also factor as key components of wildlife habitat and habitat connectivity, as scenic resources, and in several forms of outdoor recreation. As a result, four of the Commission's six "natural resource areas" are based on watersheds. Note that land on the north side of Mt. Kearsarge drains northerly to the Blackwater River, and much of the land in the Mink Hills along the Henniker and Hopkinton town lines drains to the Contocook River. All other streams in Warner drain to the Warner River.

NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS

The Commission has identified the six Natural Resource Areas, each of which has distinctive conservation features and characteristics as highlighted below. These areas are:

- Schoodac Brook sub-watershed
- Willow Brook sub-watershed
- Stevens Brook sub-watershed
- The Warner River corridor
- The Mink Hills
- Blackwater River drainage

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION GOALS

Goal 1: Protect key natural resources identified for protection in this *Plan* (see below).

Goal 2: Enhance conservation outcomes in Warner by working with adjacent towns to maintain wildlife corridors and flood storage capacity and to expand conservation areas.

Goal 3: Maintain and expand recreation opportunities compatible with natural resources protection by working with other recreation interests in town and with the State Forests Division and NH Fish & Game.

Folks should feel free to contact any member of the Conservation Commission to learn more about conservation efforts in town. A list of the current members can be found on the Town's website www.warner.nh.us under Town Officials.

From the Planning Board

The first half of the year had been relatively quiet, with few applications filed in the Land Use Office. However, in June we had a small flurry of activity, mostly with applicants filing for conceptual consultations on plans they are thinking of doing and need more information and/or direction from the board.

The Planning Board continues its process of reviewing all of our ordinances and regulations to look at areas that need clarification; correction or possible proposed changes. We generally spend time each month at our "Work Session Meeting" on the 3rd Monday of the month to continue this process.

The board's other sub-committees; Master Plan Update and Transportation Sub-Committee are continuing their work in progress, with more information gathering and discussions with various groups including regional and state agencies.

We are pleased to have Aedan Sherman and J D Colcord join us as Alternates to the Board. Aedan is relatively new to our town, but has already shown a keen interest in our work and has a good understanding of land use activities. J D brings many years of experience with town; county and state government activities to our board.

From the Fire Department

On April 24th the Fire Department training was on Automobile fires. We would like to thank Tim Bologna for his kindness for loaning us a couple of cars that we could burn. It's business people like Tim that are always there to give us a hand. Thanks Tim!

The June training for the Fire Rescue will be on "Water Rescue" We will be practicing techniques for rescuing swimmers and boaters. This will take place at the town beach.

The Fire Department is now open every Sunday for open house. Please stop by and say hello. We would love to say hello and show you and your family around our apparatus.

The Fire Department participated in "Spring into Warner" on May 15th. We had many families visit our station and jump in our "Bounce House". Thank you for your donations and we hope you all had great time.

We are still pretty busy. Our call volume is now over 150 calls.

The department will be selling CO detectors for your home at the station during open house and at the festival. Everyone should protect you family by installing a Carbon Monoxide detector in your home. Carbon Monoxide is a killer! Protect your love ones. The cost of these detectors is \$30.00. Thanks as always for you support!

From Parks & Recreation

Public skating in Warner - It has been many years since there has been an outdoor rink available to the public in Warner. There is currently a serious effort underway to build an outdoor rink at Riverside Park that will be under the lights to allow for evening skating. We are hoping to build a rink that will be roughly 60 feet by 120 feet. The construction of the rink is only the beginning, in order for this to be successful we will need volunteers to help maintain the rink. We will need help with initial construction, clearing after storms, plowing the parking area, resurfacing the ice after heavy use and shut-down at the end of the season. If you have any questions/ideas or would like to contribute to the effort please contact: GriffinManning@gmail.com - 456-2121, George Smith (Parks and Rec) - 456-3851, or any member of Parks and Recreation, Warner Youth Sports Association. A list of the current Parks & Recreation members can be found on the Town's website www.warner.nh.us under Town Officials.

Energy Committee News

We have five new bike racks in the downtown area as part of an Energy Committee project to support bicycling in Warner. The effort was spearheaded by Sue Hemingway and was funded through an award by the Warner Fall Foliage Festival and donations from the Pillsbury Free Library, the New Hampshire Telephone Museum and S&W Sports. A special thank you goes to Peter Ladd, David Swords and their assistants - Lindsay Ladd and Alex Swords for installing the racks. They are located at Town Hall, the Post Office, the Pillsbury Free Library (2) and at the Warner Historical Society.

From the Pillsbury Free Library **Summer Programs for all ages:**

Our theme is water-based this year. "Make a Splash – Read!" for Grades K to 5 includes special activities on Tuesdays at 9:30 AM, and Wednesdays at 1:30 PM, starting July 6, or children can just sign up to read and contribute to the wall mural. Please preregister as space is limited. Story Time for preschoolers will continue on Thursdays at 10:30 AM.

Ages 11 to adult can "Make Waves" or "Water their Minds" by attending a variety of activities from a Loon nature program on Wednesday July 14 to fly fishing tips, comic book creation or a frozen T-shirt "meltdown" contest on Saturdays. Bored? Too hot? Rained out?

Meet friends and relax in our air-conditioned space, and play one of the many games in our collection.

All ages can attend a special show by Musician/storyteller John Porcino at Warner Town Hall on Tuesday, July 27 at 7 PM.. (Be prepared to laugh!) or do some sleuthing to find answers to our Trivia questions (all about water in the Warner area) and win prizes! Details are available at the library or on the Warner Community Calendar <http://warner.lib.nh.us>.

New Teen furnishings

Thanks to donations in memory of Edna "Shep" Bartlett, there are now two extra-comfy, large "bean" bags (perfect for an after school nap or just hanging out with friends) in the "teen" area.

New resources on the library web page:

Mango online language learning system

Now available online through the library's web page: learn a language at your own speed, absolutely free. Get your ID code from the library and then log on at <http://warner.lib.nh.us> to get started.

Internet Access to the Library Catalog and your library account! From a link on our web page you can search the library collection, see if items are in or out, and log in to see what you have out or to reserve an item. You can even send us feedback or ask questions. This is the first step in a plan to improve access to library services from your home.

Ebooks are now available. In addition to audio books, there are now eBooks in the Epub format (with WMA license restrictions) available at <http://nh.lib.overdrive.com>. These are free to download and are readable on any computer, some phones and other devices. Contact us for log-in information or questions not answered on the web site.

Simplified access to all downloads with a single media transfer software for all media formats is now available from Overdrive, for PC, Mac, and mobile devices.

A new "app" for mobile devices with Internet allows direct transfer from the audio book and ebook download site to your device without a computer.

Coming soon: new (Windows 7) public access computers.

Passes:

On a recent rainy day I visited the Fells in Newbury and was pleased to see that the new nonprofit owner has furnished and opened up the house for tours, in addition to the lovely gardens and special exhibits. Fells Passes are available at the Library on request.

Maintenance and Repairs:

If you are wondering about all the work being done around the library, it is long-overdue maintenance on roof flashing and mortar joints, in both front and rear of the original building. There will be scaffolding for a

few weeks, so please be cautious. When that is complete, windows are next.

Community Herb Garden

In the spirit of encouraging people to eat local food, and to help make it affordable, the Library is developing a Community Herb Garden behind the library near the Jim Mitchell Community Park. The idea is to provide free fresh herbs and edible perennials for anyone who would like to use them. We only ask that you be considerate and take only what you need, so that many can benefit, and to help maintain it by weeding as you pick. Thanks to the Warner Woman's club for donating the plants to get this started. If you have extra herbs you'd like to add, or have ideas for landscaping it, please contact Linda Hartman or Nancy Ladd. Volunteers are also needed to weed and continue planting, and we'd love to have some cooking classes!

Bike racks!

Wondering what those green M-shaped bars are? They are "bike stands" that will hold up to 5 bikes. Thanks to the Warner Energy Committee for installing them on both sides of the library (and other sites in Town)

25 years (seems like yesterday)?!

Last but not least, warm thanks to all who have expressed their congratulations in regard to my "25th anniversary" in May, as Library Director. It has been (and continues to be) a wonderful journey thanks to all the support from the community who contribute as volunteers, trustees, library users, voters and donors.

Summer Events at Pillsbury Free Library

Make a SPLASH ...READ: Activities for K-5th graders – Tuesdays at 9:30 AM and Wednesday at 1:30 PM Pre-registration required for each program.

Tue. July 6 at 9:30 AM Create a beach bag or pond bucket, ready for weekly reading prizes.

Wed. July 7 at 1:30 PM Making flip flop photo frames.

Tue. July 13 at 9:30 AM Make unique "fish prints" with Betty Lovejoy.

Wed. July 14 at 1:30 PM Children's program on Loons with Sue Rockwood.

Tue. July 20 at 9:30 AM Make flying/hanging fish decorations!

Wed. July 21 at 1:30 PM Make Origami critters. Summer Activity for K-5th graders

Tue. July 27 at 7:00 PM at Warner Town Hall Amazing show for the entire family featuring Musician/Storyteller John Porcino. *Sponsored by the Byrne Foundation, CHILIS, the Cogswell Benevolent Trust, the New Hampshire State Library, and the Pillsbury Free Library.*

Wed. July 28 at 1:30 PM Pond Ecology with Linda Meserve from NH Fish and Game

Tue. Aug 3 at 9:30 AM Decorate beach balls.

Wed. Aug. 4 at 1:30 PM Game day: water games fun. At Riverside Park.

Tue. Aug 10 at 9:30 AM Sea shell creations.

Wed. Aug. 11 at 1:30 PM Casey Milender will conduct a special activity.

Tue. Aug.17 at 9:30 AM Creative yoga with Faith Minton, and Snack fun!

Wed. Aug.18 at 5:30 PM End of summer "Waterful" Potluck picnic PARTY for the entire family!

Activities for age 11 to Adult:

WEDNESDAY, July 14 at 7 PM Life cycle of the Loon. (Note: children's version at 1:30 PM)

John Rockwood, a.k.a. "Loon Man NH" will share his outstanding photos and talk about Loons.

Saturday, July 17 at 9:30 AM Fly Casting Tips and Practice (Suggested age: 11 to adult). Alan Karg and Bill Ross will share their knowledge about how and where to fly fish, and then help you practice fly casting (equipment provided).

Saturday, July 31, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM Comics Workshop (ages 11 to adult). Learn how to create a comic book with "Johnny RayGun" comic creator Rich Woodall. Pre-registration with \$10 fee required, to save your space.

Saturday, August 14 at 11 AM Frozen T-Shirt "Meltdown" (age 11 to adult) (heavy rain date: August 21). Be the first to thaw a frozen T-shirt and put it on! Prizes! Registration is recommended, to ensure enough frozen shirts are available for this annual event. Free.

American Legion Annual Pancake Breakfast July 4



7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m
Located at the Town Hall