

Town of Warner, New Hampshire

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

Spring 2013

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Monday - Wednesday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
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From the Town Administrator

As I contemplated the task of writing my first entry in the News From the Town newsletter the very strong impression that kept coming up for me about the people I have met in Warner is ...Friendly....Very friendly and Welcoming! And for all the friendliness and well wishing that I have received from so many of you even before I started my first day on the job I am extremely grateful. It has made the transition so smooth and enjoyable. I really look forward to each work day. So many of you have been very generous in sharing the histories and information about the town. It has helped me gain an even deeper appreciation of the special pride that the residents have of Warner. When I informed friends and professional colleagues that I was going to work in Warner, without exception I heard "Oh, thats a great town...so friendly and the citizens are really involved.." I can attest that its all true!

Assuming the duties of a Town Administrator in a new town can be daunting. I was not sure what I could expect and find and what "emergencies" I would have to attend to. Well, I am pleased to state that my predecessor, Laura Buono, left the matters of the town in very good shape. And despite the extended interim period between Laura departing and my coming on, the Selectmen, with the tireless assistance from Mary Whalen, our selectmens secretary and others, have done an outstanding job of managing the town affairs during the busiest time of the year for town business. But this is a busy town and not everything could be fully attended to during this time. So, it was, I believe, with some relief that the employees that took on some extra responsibilities of this office were eager to return them to me. And I was happy to take them. It has been a busy few weeks and I want to give you all a brief progress report on some to the more significant projects and items that we have been working on.

Town Hall Steps: This project has high priority and after the winters delay, progress is moving rapidly forward. The service contract has been reviewed and the 'Invitation to Bid letters have been approved by the Board of Selectmen and will be

mailed to qualified general contractors this week. A Request for Bids notice will be printed in two newspapers as well. A site visit for interested bidders is scheduled for April 25th and the deadline for submission of bids is May 10th. The Engineering Firm of Provan & Lorber is managing the bid process for the town and will oversee the construction phase of the project. Once a bid has been accepted and contract details ironed out, work should begin by late May. The goal is to have the "Steps" project completed by June 30th.

The Old Graded School Furnace: As you may know the furnace at the OGS (Cap Building) died on March 25th and the damage to the boiler was determined un-repairable, which forced the Head-Start and Preschool programs to shut down for a week. Thanks to the quick response of Ed Mical, loans of space heaters from staff and citizens and the fact that it is the end of March and not the end of January, we have been able to heat the building on a temporary basis so that the programs could resume.

The town has applied to the NH Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) for an emergency Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to replace the old furnace. A very thorough site visit was conducted by staff of CDFA on Thursday, April 11 and I will be attending an emergency meeting of the CDFA Advisory Committee on April 18th to answer questions when our grant application will be reviewed. There is no guarantee that the town will receive the funding, however, we are optimistic.

Exit 9 Traffic Calming Project: The passage of warrant article # 4 at Town Meeting, appropriating funds for the town to proceed to Phase 2 of the project, will enable the development of the engineering study and detailed project specifications, permits and plans necessary for Requests for Bids (RFB) for project construction.

Following the wishes of the Warner citizens who attended the Town Meeting as well as feedback from other meetings, the Board of Selectmen voted to proceed with a Round-About (traffic circle) option for this project. A special Board of Selectmen meeting was held this past Friday, April 12 with the engineers from McFarland –Johnson, Inc. to review the results of the Phase 1 (Conceptual Design) and the plans for the scope of work and timetable for Phase 2 (Final Design) of the project. At the close of their meeting with McFarland-Johnson and satisfied that the details for the second phase were identified and agreed to, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to authorize McFarland-Johnson, Inc. to proceed with the work of Phase 2. Upon completion of Phase 2 of this project the Town of Warner will be eligible to receive reimbursement from the NH Department of Transportation for 66% of the cost for completing both Phase 1 and 2 of the Exit 9 project.

Odd Fellows Building: Scientists from the NH Department of Environmental Services have completed their task of taking samples for testing to identify potential hazardous materials at the site and will be providing a report of their findings to the Board of Selectmen as well as recommendations for any clean up and 'Haz Mat mitigation that is required.

Warner Fall Foliage Festival: In exploring the Town website during my candidacy for the town administrator position, I read in a letter on the website about the challenges facing the Warner Fall Foliage Festival (WFFF), not the least of which was the need to have new electric service installed at the festival site where the rides and food vendors set up. I had attended the Fall Festival several times a few years ago with friends who lived in Warner and I made it a point to do what I could for the Festival if I was hired. Soon after I was offered the position I contacted Laurel Brown, the PSNH Community Liaison for Warner, whom I knew, and agreed to meet to discuss the issue of electric service for WFFF.

On April 9th, Laurel Brown and PSNH Technician, John King met with Sean Bohman from the WFFF Committee and me to tour the school playground and parking lot to review the condition of the electric wiring and equipment and brainstorm solutions. At the end of the 90 minute meeting, we were confident and relieved that we had a viable plan to dismantle the old electric wiring, poles and equipment and replace it with service that would be up to code. John King was extremely helpful with his technical expertise and crew assistance offering to remove WFFF wires from the poles in a critical area. When told that WFFF committee plans to go underground with the electric wiring, PSNH offered to bury the first 125 feet of underground conduits from their feeder pole to each of the planned secured metered boxes without charge. PSNH would charge any additional distance at \$14.80 per linear foot.

Sean stated that he will obtain estimates for the cost of the new equipment and coordinate the removal of old wiring and installation with PSNH and the Kearsarge Regional School District. There is still much work to do, but this has turned out to be a good start.

I look forward in the coming months to report on the progress of these projects as well as other activities and positive goings-on in Warner. Please feel free to stop by my office to share your thoughts and ideas or just to say 'Hi. I look forward to meeting as many of the citizens of Warner as I can.

From the Pillsbury Free Library

Story Time:

For preschoolers is held every Thursday at 10:30 AM

Monthly after School Crafts:

3 to 4 PM. April 17 and May 15. Call to pre-register.

Library Trustees:

Meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM in the Meeting Room.

A warm welcome to new Board members Michelle Allen, Shandi Allen and Belle Harvey!

National Library Week 2013: *Community Matters @ your Library* was the theme for April 13-19. Libraries provide something for everyone, because everyone matters. Come visit! In addition to the activities you can find on the Warner events calendar on the library website, we have museum passes, computers and Wifi access, copier and printers, Tax forms, downloadable ebooks and audio books, eBook readers and audio book players to lend, research help, local information including an online calendar of Warner events, a meeting room for groups or tutoring, & of course Books, Magazines, DVDs, & Music.

Book Sale: Saturday May 18 inside the library from 9 am to 2 pm, during Spring Into Warner- Jump into the Arts. Please call 456-2289 to volunteer for set-up or sale.

Dig Into Reading children's summer program special activities for grades K-5 will be from July 9 to August 14, Tuesdays at 9:30 AM and Wednesdays at 1:30 PM except for a special 7 PM performance for all ages by Keith Munslow on Tuesday July 23, and the end-of-program family potluck on August 24 at 5:30 PM. Activities include Joan's composting worms, fossils, ants, and snakes.

If you want to buy a summer program theme T-shirt (Dig into Reading or Beneath the Surface), order ASAP. We are only

ordering prepaid T-Shirts this year. Costs are from \$4.25 to \$7.50 depending on size and style, 100% cotton.

The library's "Book Nook" group (open to Grades 4-7) is producing another play, based on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl. The performance will be at Town Hall on **Saturday, June 15** at 3 PM and the group is suggesting that people bring a **non-food** item for the Food Pantry as "admission". Food Pantry boxes will also be at some local businesses.

Library Catalog news: The Library will be transitioning to a new **KOHA** online catalog and circulation system with a "go-live" date of **Monday, July 15**. To prepare staff for the changes, the Library will be **closed June 10 and probably June 11** so we can attend training with the 5 other libraries who are switching to this system in July as part of a new NHAISlocal consortium. We are excited about this system, which will provide you with modern abilities to search the online catalog, reserve, track, and recommend items, request reminders, and access your library account. Library staff will be learning a whole new method of doing acquisitions, lending, and cataloging, so please bear with us during the initial phase! You can see an example of the KOHA catalog at Newport and Plaistow library websites (but not be able to log in as a borrower).

Downloadable Books-to-go:

The NH Downloadable Books site at <http://nh.lib.overdrive.com> has undergone some huge changes this year, making access easier from almost any type of computer or portable device. If you don't have your own eBook or audio book device to make use of the NH Downloadable Books, borrow our Kindle, Nook Color, or audio book player!

Museum passes available: N.H. telephone Museum (Warner), Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum (Warner), Museum of NH History (Concord), Currier Gallery of Art (Manchester), The Fells (Newbury), The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (Concord), or the Museum of Fine Arts (Boston). Links to their sites can be found at <http://warner.lib.nh.us/museum-passes>.

Online Language learning – worth renewing? Due to cost and low usage, we may be allowing the Mango Language Online Learning subscription to expire in May, or might try replacing it with a different service from Nashua NH called Transparent Language. Tell us what you think!

From the Highway Department

Posted Class V roads are restricted to wheeled vehicles to a maximum of 6 tons. Special permits may be obtained from the Public Works Director at 456-3366. Class VI roads are closed to all wheeled vehicles from April 1 to May 15.

Street sweeping will begin as weather permits.

From Parks & Recreation

A total of 17 trees at Silver Lake have been marked to be cut down as part of the restoration project. The rough cut lumber from these trees will be provided to Parks & Rec to help build a gazebo at Silver Lake. Parks & Rec will also be cleaning debris from the water and adding new sand.



***Don't forget to
license your
dogs by April 30th***