

Town of Warner, New Hampshire

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

Winter 2015

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

Jim Bingham
Town Administrator
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administrator@warner.nh.us

The Board of Selectmen have been hard at work performing the due diligence on a number of "Big Ticket" projects, some of which will come before the voters at town meeting on March 11. Here are a few projects the Board is working on and hope to present at town meeting:

1. Roundabout near Exit 9 - The engineering firm of McFarland/ Johnson has submitted a preliminary design plan to the NHDOT and construction could begin after July 2015. The Town will receive \$114,000 in state reimbursement once the Final Design Plan is approved for its investment for the Design Phases 1 & 2 design. Phase 3 is the Construction Phase, which is estimated to cost \$600,000 for construction. This project is a state reimbursement program where the NH Dept. of Transportation reimburses the town for 66% of the full project cost. Upon approval from the voters to proceed with construction and approval from NHDOT to start construction, the Town will receive \$200,000 from the NHDOT up front and up to another \$200,000 in reimbursements when the project is complete. The Roundabout project is estimated to cost \$772,000 and the Town's portion is estimated to be \$259,000. If the town votes not to construct the Roundabout, the \$400,000 of state construction funds will likely go to a project in another town.

2. The New Fire Station – The Board of Selectmen will present the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a new fire station building site and for the design and construction of a new fire station. Realizing that the present site is not suitable for the new fire station, the Board plans to sell that site and purchase a new site that will allow for a preferred building design, sufficient parking and room for expansion in the future. The Board is presently starting negotiations on two possible sites. Timing for this project is important because the Fire Department is planning to purchase a new Pumper truck in a couple of years to replace the old 1998 Freightliner Pumper. Due to the dimensions of the present fire station the Fire Department has had to order customized fire trucks with a shorter chassis, at a premium cost, so it could fit inside the building. The Fire Department hopes to delay purchase of this new pumper until a new fire

station is in the works so it can order a standard truck at a significant savings.

3. The Solar Panel Array Project: Recent legislation from Concord called 'Remote Net Metering' allows credits from generation of electricity from solar panels to be applied to any number of electric meters beyond the meter directly connected to the solar power generation station. This means that a municipality can build a solar panel array large enough to generate all the electrical power that is uses in all its buildings and facilities. The electric power is sold to the utility, which then credits (deducts) the electric usage for each town meter in the group.

The plummeting prices of solar panels along with the tax credits and grants that support construction of these solar arrays make this an attractive way to reduce energy costs. The Board of Selectmen is anticipating a proposal from the Solar Array Committee to construct two 100 kW Solar Panel Arrays, one near the Transfer Station and a second array at the Water District treatment plant on West Joppa Road. If the cost benefits are favorable this project could save the Town money in the coming years. A public information session is planned in February to present this Solar Array Project with the cost/benefit analysis and financial options available for the voters' consideration.

4. The Odd Fellows Building – At the recent deliberative session held on January 10th, the voters of the Kearsarge Regional School District approved the transfer of about 12,000 sq. feet from the Simonds Elementary School to the Town to develop parking spaces for the Warner Town Hall and the Odd Fellows Building. This exchange of land not only make the Odd Fellows Building much more viable to attract developers to improve the building but will be a first step in addressing the lack of public parking in the Village area.

TOWN WIDE REVALUATION UPDATE

The Assessors have finished listing and measuring all of the properties in Warner. In February they will be reviewing sale properties within the Town. They may ask to see the interior again, your cooperation is appreciated. During the month of April all property owners will receive a letter stating the new value of their property and giving you a time and phone number to call to set up a meeting with the Assessors. If you are a property owner that is far away this can be done by a phone call at your meeting time. Copies of the new assessment cards will not be available until the meetings are being held. If you have any questions please call Martha at 456-2298 ext 4 or email assess@warner.nh.us, office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 8am -1pm.

The new values will not be on the first tax bill, they will be on the second tax bill that comes out in Oct/Nov. The setting of tax rate in the fall will use the new assessment values.

FROM THE LAND USE OFFICE

The Planning Board welcomes Warner resident Lois Lord as the our Land Use Secretary. In addition to typical secretary duties, her position is the first point of contact on Land Use related matters. Contact her regarding the Planning Board's process on applications for Subdivisions, Lot-Line Adjustments, Voluntary Mergers, Home Occupation, and Site Plan Review. The Planning Board handles Site Plan Review for Non-Residential and Multi-Family projects. Non-Residential would include but is not limited to commercial, industrial, institutional, retail, services, wholesale, transportation, and other uses as listed in the Zoning Ordinance. There is also a procedure where she can assist applicants to determine if Site Plan Review is in fact required or if proposed changes planned do not meet requirements necessary to formally apply to the Planning Board. Site Plan Review is not required for single family and two family residential houses. All new and renovation projects must still contact the Selectman's Secretary to obtain a Building Permit through the Building Department. Lois will similarly be responsible for assisting the Board of Adjustment through the Land Use Office.

Also, the Board of Selectmen are looking for volunteers to fill alternate positions on the Planning Board. If you are interested please contact the Land Use Office at 456-2298 ext. 7

FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

I want to thank all of the Warner voters who attended the Kearsarge Regional School District Deliberative session on January 10th. Ken Bartholomew and I presented a meaningful case for the School District to grant the Town of Warner a portion of school district land that will make the Odd Fellows home in town more sale-able to a private developer. In return Warner has agreed to do some significant site work that will

be a value to the school district. The session approved a \$39,927,000 budget which is a 2.4% increase over last year budget. The good news is that the budget process started with a 4.59% increase. Your school board worked diligently with the Superintendent's office and the Municipal Budget Committee to get the increase down. After 5 iterations, we got the budget down to this number above.

This spring the school district will start a new form of testing required by the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium and the Common Core Standards. This will take place in all grades. If parents and or teachers have any questions related to this new testing program, feel free to call me with any questions or comments you might have. My home phone is 456-2233 and my mobile phone is 496-4512. Feel free to call me any time. If there are enough parents who have questions, I will be willing to hold an informal discussion at the Town Hall one weekday evening.

At the Deliberative session we learned that our Superintendent, Mr. Jerry Frew, has decided to retire at the end of this school year to spend more time with his family. Mr. Frew has been with us for 7 years and has given the school district 110% effort in managing our education system. We will miss him and I hope the School Board can find a good replacement for him.

We also learned that Mr. Dan Wolf, the school Board representative from Newbury, will not run for re-election this spring. Mr. Wolf has been the Board Chairman for a number of years and has served on the Board for 11 years. We will miss Mr. Wolf for his even handed approach to running our school board meeting.

Joe Mendola - School Board Representative

FROM THE TOWN CLERK

We would like to start off by saying "Happy New Year!" Our office now offers Hunting & OHRV Licenses, along with Snowmobile memberships. The 2015 boat decals are now available as well.

Dog Renewals can now be done for 2016, as long as rabies are updated. All dogs 4 months and older must be licensed by April 30th of every year

From this year forward, model year vehicles that are 2000 and newer must always have a title for a new registration. As a reminder, vehicle and dog renewals may be done on-line as well as vital records requests.

Town Election is Tuesday, March 10 at the Town Hall, polls are open from 8:00 am. – 7:00 pm. If you need to request an Absentee Ballot, they may be downloaded off the Town web site www.warner.nh.us or call us at 456-2298 ext. 5 or 6. If

you would like to be a volunteer, Please contact the Town Clerk's Office 456-2298, ext. 5 or 6.

FROM THE PILLSBURY FREE LIBRARY

The Pillsbury Free Library trustees are pleased to announce that in early December, we were awarded a \$50,000 matching grant from LCHIP (Land and Community Heritage Investment Program). These funds are earmarked for rehabilitation and repairs on the original 1891 building. In recent years, the roof and copper flashing were repaired, along with critical masonry leaks. This grant will be used for a permanent solution for handling water drainage off the roof followed by repairing accumulated damage that has occurred to the brick and masonry façade.

As part of the grant application process, and to fully understand the overall condition of the entire library building, original and new addition, interior and exterior, a Building Condition & Historic Assessment was undertaken, paid in part by other LCHIP funds as a grant from the NH Preservation Alliance. Prepared by the Sheerr McCrystal Palson Architecture firm of Concord, this very detailed study identified the roof drainage problem as a critical need requiring immediate attention.

At this year's Town Meeting, the library trustees will be asking the voters to approve a warrant article requesting \$42,000 toward meeting the matching funds required by the LCHIP grant. This money will be placed in a Capital Fund for maintenance and repairs of the library building. In addition, other vital repairs and maintenance of the 22-year old modern section identified by the study will be undertaken, funded mostly through donations and other sources.

We are hopeful that the residents of Warner recognize the importance of maintaining this architectural gem of a building which contains much more than just books! Please attend the Town Meeting on March 11 and vote to support your library's building needs so we can continue to concentrate on providing the best possible services and programs to our community.

New trustees and alternates: welcome and thanks go out to Michael Simon as new interim Trustee, and Kathy Carson and Linda Burdick, Alternates, who will be serving until March, or longer if they are elected / appointed again. Thanks also to outgoing Trustee Shandi Allen for her past participation.

Online language learning system: Thanks to the library's Richard and Mary Cogswell Fund, we are pleased to be offering Transparent Languages Online in 2015. This is similar to the Mango languages product we provided other years, but it includes more languages, more English as a second language options, and more importantly, practice with alphabets and written language. The lessons will be accessed on the Internet using your email and password after registering once with your library card number. It will keep track of your personal progress and tailor practice sessions based on your answers to lessons, so it is easy to start and stop without having to remember where you left off.

Be a friend! The library board and staff are pleased to announce the formation of **The Circle of Friends**, a group of individuals who have come together to support the quality services and activities of the Pillsbury Free Library and to enhance library support through activities such as fundraising, assisting with programs, providing publicity and volunteering for in-library tasks. There is no cost to join, and they hold meetings only as necessary! Want to join the Circle of Friends? Contact Carol McCausland, at 456-2393 or mea1012@aol.com, or Joan Warren, at 456-3664 or joanbcwarren@gmail.com. You can also pick up the flyer at the Library or the Town Hall for more information.

Wine, Cheese & Silent Auction: The Circle of Friends' first event will be a Wine & Cheese Party and Silent Auction on **Saturday, March 21, from 5 – 7 pm at the Library**. All funds raised will benefit the restoration of our Historic Library Building. Have something to donate? Contact Carol McCausland or Joan Warren. More details to come. Hope to see you there!

April 18 Flea Market:, the Library will be organizing a Flea Market day at Town Hall on Saturday, April 18, similar to the annual event that used to be held by the Warner Woman's Club. Call the library 456-2289 to book a table to sell items, or to volunteer to bake for the snack bar, donate for a raffle basket, or to assist with set up or cleanup. Profits will benefit library projects.

What to do when your power goes out

Are you aware that when you lose power, you must contact the power company to have it restored. This is the only way they are aware your power is out. For Warner, our power is provided by Public Service Company of New Hampshire. PSNH has a 24 HR number 1 800-662-7764 or you can contact them on the internet. Power Companies prioritize outages by times of calls received and number of households/ businesses out. So the sooner you contact PSNH, the sooner your power is restored.

Town of Warner, NH
Public Notice

~ TOWN ELECTION ~
Tuesday, March 10, 2015
Polls Open at 8:00 am.
Polls Close at 7:00 pm.

~ TOWN MEETING ~
Wednesday, March 11, 2015
Beginning at 7:00 pm.

Election and Town Meeting are held
at the Town Hall
(5 East Main Street)