

Town of Warner, New Hampshire

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

Spring 2015

Selectmen's Office
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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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~ From the Town Administrator ~

There were over 160 residents at the 2015 Warner Town Meeting voting on warrant articles totaling \$4.2 million in gross appropriations. After extensive discussion, and several efforts to amend some articles, all but one of the appropriation (money) articles as recommended by the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen were passed by the voters. Article 9 was amended by the Board of Selectmen at Town Meeting to reflect revised construction cost estimates for the round-about that came to them from the engineers that day.

I mention "gross" appropriations because the State of New Hampshire requires that towns list the total (gross) amount to be "raised and appropriated" even if there are funds coming from grants, or state and federal reimbursement programs to help pay for the project or equipment in the article. This should become clearer as we summarize key articles.

Article 8: This is the first appropriation article and it is for the 2015 operating budget for the Town. The amount raised was \$2,966,835, and is used to fund all the daily functions of all the Town Departments – Police, Public Works, Fire, Transfer Station, etc. The Warner Budget Committee, working with the Selectmen, the Town Administrator and Dept. Heads over the previous months, develops and presents this budget.

Articles 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, and 21: Asked the voters to set aside tax money in a Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) for some future purchases, such as a new police car or fire fighter equipment. The total amount raised for this group of articles was \$55,000. These Capital Reserve Funds are small savings accounts in anticipation of large purchases that would otherwise cause a spike in the tax rate if the whole purchase price had to be raised in one year.

Now come the articles that pertain to projects and purchases that are expected to occur in 2015 or 2016 at the latest. Some of these articles will use grant money, state aid, and funds

from CRFs or the general fund in addition to some amounts raised through current year taxes.

Article 9: Asked the voters to proceed with construction of the roundabout on Rte. 103 near Market Basket and McDonalds. At the 2014 Town Meeting, attendees voted to fund the design portion of this project and this year, residents voted to approve funding for construction of the roundabout. This article generated the most discussion before passing 89 to 68.

The total cost of construction is estimated at \$735,000. However, the NH Dept. of Transportation will be reimbursing the Town of Warner 2/3rds, approximately \$490,000 towards this amount, as well as reimbursing the Town for 67% of \$172,000 the Town spent in design costs. The amount needed from taxes this year is \$85,755. Construction will begin either in October of 2015 or spring of 2016. The roundabout will be the safety measure as auto traffic in that area increases. However, it could act as a catalyst for further commercial development because the increased traffic related to development, which the developer is often asked to resolve at his expense, will have been addressed with the roundabout.

Article 12: This article called residents to establish a new Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) for the purchase of a new site for Warner's new fire station including design costs for the building, and place \$165,000 into this fund and authorize the Board of Selectmen the power to expend these funds accordingly to achieve the goal of this article. After further review, the fire station site that was purchased in 2011 had shown to be inadequate and very expensive to build on. Selectman Allan N. Brown made a power point presentation about the parcel the Board would likely purchase as the new site, explaining that this was a very acceptable site based on the criteria used to evaluate over 30 possible building sites the previous summer. This article also caused extended debate. This article passed as did Article 24, later that evening, directing the Board of Selectmen to sell the current inadequate site.

Article 13: This article is to raise money to reconstruct a section of Waldron Hill Road, which has been number 1 on the road repair list and is long overdue. The estimated cost of construction and paving is about \$559,000. Most of the funds needed for construction are coming from the CRF for Highway Road Construction with \$149,000 being raised from taxes this year.

Article 14: This article requested \$53,000 to be placed into the CRF for Highway Equipment. Tim Allen, our Acting Director of Public Works, presented a plan with costs to purchase a new Ford F550 plow truck and replace an engine on the 1997 Mack Dump Truck later in the year. The Town has used capital reserve funds for more than 10 years to plan the purchase of large, expensive trucks and equipment. This method seems to stabilize the year to year changes in funding requests for such expensive equipment.

Article 18: This article calls for \$10,000 to spend preserving Town records, which is required by New Hampshire law. The Town is behind in getting Town records preserved and stored safely and the Town Clerk, who is responsible for the safe keeping of Town records is attempting to make some headway on this endeavor each year.

Article 19: This article is the result of state law passed recently that allows towns to create a contingency fund outside of the operating budget to deal with emergencies and unexpected expenses. This fund lapses at the end of each year and needs to be renewed at each Town Meeting. The \$10,000 to fund this account comes from the general fund.

Article 20: The library building has sustained significant water damage to the outer brick façade and from water leaking into the building. The Trustees of the Pillsbury Free Library applied for and received a grant from the NH Preservation Alliance for \$50,000 to make repairs to the library building. The \$42,000 to be raised here is to be used as the Town's matching funds required for accepting this grant.

There were three petition articles on the warrant this year. One passed and two did not. For details on the meeting including the discussions pertaining to some key articles you can go to the town website to read the minutes of the Town Meeting for 2015.

~ From the Conservation Commission ~

The topic of "alien" or "exotic" or – more accurately – "invasive" species of plants, animals, and microbes has been in the news lately; just do a quick search of the Concord Monitor's web site, for some examples. But just what are invasive species anyway, and why are they a concern? An alien or exotic species is simply one that is not native to an area. Some non-native species are beneficial, and we plant

them in our landscaping, as food crops and in ornamental gardens, and agricultural fields. Unfortunately, some of these purposely introduced plants, along with a great number that have arrived here by accident, have been able to establish reproducing populations. In their new environments, now freed from the pests and pathogens of their original habitats, they expand their range, out-compete native species and change ecosystems, invariably for the worse, and become significant agricultural weeds, or both. These are "invasive species", very broadly defined by the National Invasive Species Council as "plants, animals, or pathogens that are non-native and cause harm".

Anyone in Warner who has tried to move through thickets of multiflora rose or a forest floor covered with barberry, seen 40 foot trees downed by oriental bittersweet, tried to clear their yard of Japanese knotweed, or old fields of garlic mustard already has first-hand experience with invasives. And these are just some of the more apparent of these invaders. New Hampshire identifies 27 terrestrial invasive plants and the New England list, with aquatics, is 111. Lists of these species along with pictures and identification help are available on several web sites. Documents linked from the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture website provide an excellent starting point:<http://www.agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/plant-industry/invasive-plants.htm>

It is clear that in many different ways invasive species are already degrading the functioning of our natural ecosystems, causing significant economic harm, and lowering our use and enjoyment of the outdoors. What is the land-owner, farmer, forester, hunter, or fisherman to do in the face of this "alien onslaught"? There is no room here for detailed prescriptions. Two general admonitions from the National Invasive Species Council (NISC), though, serve as a starting point:

1. "Prevention is the first line of defense against invasive species and is a primary focus of NISC. Often the most cost-effective approach to combating invasive species is to keep them from establishing in the first place."

2. "While prevention is the first line of defense, even the best prevention efforts will not stop all invasive species. Early detection and rapid response (EDRR) efforts increase the likelihood that invasions will be halted and eradicated. Once a species becomes widely established, the only action possible is the partial mitigation of negative impacts."

So, learn to identify some of the more common and problematic alien species that may already be hiding in plain sight in your back yard, field, forest, fishing hole or hunting spot. Report them to DES or the Department of Agriculture (go to those web sites!), and if they are on your property, contact the UNH Cooperative Extension Service for help and advice about control.

~ From the Pillsbury Free Library ~

LCHIP Grant Matching Funds: The Library Trustees wish to thank voters at this year's Town Meeting, who approved warrant article #20 to create a Library Building Capital Reserve Fund, and to raise \$42,000 to be placed in it this year. This was an important step to guarantee meeting the matching funds required by the LCHIP grant approved in December. The Library Board of Trustees has formed a committee to move forward with the work covered by the LCHIP Grant. If you are interested in becoming involved in this process, please contact the Library or John Warner, LCHIP committee chair.

Fundraising Activities: A huge thank you goes to the Circle of Friends of the Pillsbury Free Library and the many people who attended their Wine & Cheese/ Silent Auction event held at the Library on March 21, with over 100 people enjoying a wonderful time with lots of conversation, and lots of bidding! Thanks to the generosity of many artists, businesses, and individuals, over \$4,500 was raised. A list of sponsors and donors is posted on the Library website. The Circle of Friends invites any library "friends" to join the group (pick up a flyer in the Library or contact Carol McCausland, at 456-2393 or mea1012@aol.com). There is no fee to join.

Online Language Learning System: Brush up your skills or learn a new language with Transparent Language Online. Please visit our website and follow the link to create your free account. If enough people try the 5-word "welcome" lessons, we will earn a free year of a children's language program next year. REGISTER and try it!

Thanks to 2014 funds from the Warner Fall Foliage Festival, the library now has a new DVD/Blu-Ray/3D/wifi movie player for programs and trainings, and two Chromebook laptops to expand our public Internet access at high demand times. They can also be borrowed.

A special music and history program will be held at Warner Town Hall on Friday May 8 at 7 pm to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the announcement of the end of WWII in Europe, "Victory in Europe" or V.E. Day. There will be "Music from the War Years" presented and played by "Ramblin' Richard", followed by refreshments and then a slide show with the recording of the nationwide WMUR radio broadcast live from Warner Town Hall on May 8, 1945. Cosponsored by the Library, Warner Historical Society, Mountain View Senior Center and American Legion Post 39.

Children's programs coming up include a musical play, Peter Pan by the Book Nook theater group on Saturday May 9 at 4 pm in Warner Town Hall. This play is being produced by Sue Matott with assistance from Kendra West-Senor and Elizabeth Dill. Admission cost will be a suggested donation of an item

for the Warner Food Pantry, and profits from snacks sold during the intermission will benefit the Library. Please contact Sue if you'd like to bake something. This year's Children's Summer program theme is "Every Hero has a Story". Registration begins in June. For details visit our website in May. **Free Museum Passes:** Use links at warner.lib.nh.us/museum-passes to find exhibits, hours etc

~ From the Planning Board ~

This March voters passed an amendment to the Warner Zoning Ordinance's Sign Regulations. Requirements for permanent signs did not materially change. Changes did include clarifications to the sign permitting process, listing of permanent signs exempt from a permit, listing of prohibited signs, and a new section for Temporary Signs. Some uses of Temporary Signs such as for special events, auctions, non-profit events, business "sandwich board", small banners, yard sales, seasonal directional signs for agriculture, hazard warning, and real estate signs, do not require a permit but all have specific size and duration of display limits. Some Temporary Signs do require a permit including reoccurring off-site directional, illuminated, oversized banners, and larger construction project identification signs. This is a brief recap so please view the complete requirements for Temporary Sign sizes and duration of use in the Warner Zoning Ordinance Article XII E which can be seen on the Town Website under the Regulations/Publications tab or can be viewed at the Selectman's Office or Land Use Office. Permits may be obtained from the Board of Selectmen. Signage can have a significant impact on the visual character of a community so your cooperation is much appreciated.

**TOWN OF WARNER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
~ PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ~**

During the Board of Selectmen's regularly scheduled meeting which begins at 6:00 pm, the Town of Warner will hold 2 Public Hearings on May 12, 2015 located at the Warner Town Hall (5 East Main St.) lower meeting room beginning at 7:00 pm. as follows:

1. Second Public Hearing per RSA 41:14-a to begin at 7:00 pm for public comment pertaining to the sale of Town property on East Main Street (Map 29, Lot 1).
2. Second Public Hearing per RSA 41:14-a to begin at 7:15 pm for public comment pertaining to the purchase of property on West Main Street (Map 34, Lot 1) for the proposed new fire station.

Dog Leash/Clean Up Requirements

A friendly reminder to all dog owners. The Town has an ordinance that has established that all dogs be leashed while inside Town recreation areas, and leashed or under voice command in Town common areas and that the handler be responsible for removing defecation as it occurs in all areas.

The mandatory dog leash areas are as follows:

Bagley Field, Riverside Park, Simonds School and the Old Grade School playground.

The mandatory dog leash or under voice command areas are as follows:

Town Hall lawn, Masonic lawn, Monument and all sidewalks.



Two Local Food Community Initiatives in Warner

The pilot project LOCAL CHOICE will kick off on May 16th with the opening of the 2015 Warner Area Farmers Market (WAFM) season. The market runs all summer on Saturdays from 9-11 AM and is located on the Warner Town Hall lawn. The WAFM will fund LOCAL CHOICE coupons redeemable at the Saturday market for locally grown food. The coupons will be distributed by the Warner Community Action Program (CAP) to selected families.



GROW A ROW Initiative.

Plant an extra row, or a few extra plants, in your own home garden. At harvest time, deliver the extra produce to the CAP Food Pantry on Main Street in Warner during regular business hours Monday to Friday from 8:30-4:30. Fresh vegetables, fruit, and eggs will be distributed to CAP eligible families. Your generosity fills a real need as the food pantry serves 140 individuals.

Please call Erin Reed or Lori Garrett at CAP for more info about GROW A ROW and LOCAL CHOICE Initiatives. CAP office phone number is 456-2207.

- Warner Historical Society Barn Sale

Barn Sale Opens

May - October

Tuesday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am - 12 noon

