

Town of Warner, New Hampshire

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

Fall 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.
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Will YOU decide yourself or let others make that decision for you?

Last week, the Selectmens office received a letter from the ISO, which stands for the International Organization for Standardization. The ISO is an independent non-governmental membership organization comprised of 162 countries that establishes world class standards for products, services and systems to ensure quality, safety and efficiency of many products and services that people can trust. The ISO has published more than 20,500 International Standards covering almost every industry from technology and food safety to health care and public safety.

The ISO also has professional evaluators who assess the quality and safety of systems in businesses and communities. The ISO recently conducted an assessment of Warners Fire Department under the Public Protection Classification Program (PPC). The PPC plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. Many insurance companies, including large ones, use PPC information as part of their decision-making process when deciding what premiums to charge for personal and commercial property insurance. This letter conveyed to the town and fire department the results of this assessment and the rating received by the Warner Fire Department.

This is important because the quality of a towns fire suppression system, which includes a fire stations location, impacts every business and homeowner in Warner. Warners fire station is presently in the village district and that is advantageous to its evaluation as well as enabling firefighters and EMTs to respond to the largest number of residents quickly.

The officers of the Warner Fire Department and the Board of Selectmen understand the safety and economic advantage of keeping the fire station in the village district and seeks to locate the new fire station within the village district in as compatible and non-obtrusive manner as possible. However,

their efforts to make a prudent, fiscally sound decision, despite authorization received from the voters at the last town meeting, has hit a road block due to a very vocal minority of residents, including a petition to hold a special town meeting to process this decision. The Board of Selectmen has reasoned that the location of the new fire station is too important a decision to be made by a few residents and is deciding to have all the attending residents of Warner participate in choosing a proper site for the new fire station at the 2016 town meeting. This site selection is a very important decision to all the taxpayers of Warner. The Board of Selectmen is strongly encouraging your attendance and participation at the 2016 town meeting held on March 9th. Make your voice heard, so that this decision is not made in your absence and is embraced by as many town residents as possible.

Ed Raymond
Fire Chief

News from the School District

There has been much activity in the district since my last letter. A new school year has begun with great success. The academic as well as the sports activities are underway. We just received the honor of first place in the State for the Sportsmanship Award.

Negotiations are underway for the extension of a new 3-year contract for our educators. The Board has just reached an agreement with the KREA representatives and the agreement is now being presented to the KREA membership and the school board for ratification. The school Board will entertain the results at a public meeting on November 12th.

The Board is also in the midst of negotiating and approving a budget for the 2016-17 coming year. Currently, we have a budget that has an increase in costs of 2.74% without taking into account the effect of the KREA contract negotiations. Please visit www.kearsarge.org to view the meeting schedule. All meetings are open to the public.

Municipal Solar Array

Warner's solar array committee has been busy working on municipal solar array recommendations for the town. The project would allow Warner to take advantage of the state's net metering arrangement. Under net metering, the electricity produced by one solar array can be used to offset the electric usage at several locations.

Two arrays are envisioned. One would be located at the Warner Transfer Station and would be used to offset the electric usage of the transfer station and other town owned buildings, such as Town Hall, the Pillsbury Library, the police and fire stations, etc. The second array would be located at the Warner Village Precinct waste treatment facility and be used to offset the electric usage of the waste treatment plant and other precinct locations, including the wells. Interactive educational kiosks and internet displays for the public are planned for each array.

The committee issued a request for proposals in July and three solar companies responded. The committee members – Jim Bingham, Darren Blood, Clyde Carson, Ray Martin, and Neil Nevins, selected two of those firms for follow up meetings this month and will be working to submit one of the proposals at the annual Warner town meeting and the annual Precinct meeting in March. Our expectation is that we will reduce what the Town and Precinct currently pay for electricity by using renewable energy.

The committee plans to hold two public information sessions prior to the annual meetings. The dates will be posted on the town website and the other locations around town.

Warner Parks and Recreation Happenings

Warner Parks and Recreation Department works hard year round to provide the community a safe place to play and exercise. We believe that enriching lives through quality parks and programs can increase community pride. We listen to the needs of the community we serve and provide the resources to obtain them.

This past year we did alot to improve Riverside Park for families and the community. We added a baby swing, a baby changing station in the restroom and other restroom improvements. Many families had mentioned traveling to other towns to use a baby swing, which we can now provide. Those same families have taken the time to thank us directly for that addition, as it makes going to the park more feasible with little children.

The girls softball field was also redone to provide a safe infield on which to play. After the Mother's Day flood, the infield was no more than gravel and rock. Now the field is safe for play (and looks amazing). We want to give a HUGE thank

you to Tim Allen and the Town Highway crew for doing this. We have been approached by other town softball directors who have seen the field and say what a great job Warner did. We will be tackling the middle baseball field next to get that up to playing regulations so we can have two Little League games going at once.

The beach at Silver Lake is looking better and better each year. We had trees removed in order to clear out some of the pine needle problem and to get more sun on the beach, and we brought in truckloads of beach sand. It is a nice place to spend the day with your family.

Bagley Field is busy with activity all year. In the spring through fall we have Frisbee and soccer. We added an ice rink there for winter skating and hockey. With the added bike trail, the activity at Bagley has increased dramatically.

All our parks in Warner are in constant use, which we love to see and take pride in. We greatly appreciate all the volunteers through the local adult recreation and youth sports community for all the time and help they provide.

Parks and Recreation has just become a proud member of the Adopt a Highway program. We will be in charge of a section on Route 103 in Warner, from Exit 7 to Farrell Loop. Just another way we give back to our great town of Warner.

From the Budget Committee

In recent years the Budget Committee, working together with town officials, have been successful in keeping Warner's operating budget increases at a very modest level. Many believe the 2016 operating budget may be particularly difficult to repeat our recent successes. **THE QUESTION BEFORE OUR COMMITTEE WILL BE: Will the town's people be willing to sacrifice some services in order to avoid a potentially substantial increase in property taxes?**

The Budget Committee has seven members with varying opinions on what Warner needs, what the taxpayers want, and the priority that each expenditure merits. Many times we are working in somewhat of a vacuum, not really knowing what the majority of residents prefer. Ultimately, the final analysis is our committee's best guess.

On Thursday November 5th we will initiate the development of Warner's 2016 operating budget. Our meetings begin at 7:00 PM in the lower meeting room of the town hall. The current schedule has us meeting every Thursday, thereafter, up to and including December 17th and will resume on January 4th 2016!

Even though all our meetings are open to the public they are attended primarily by town personnel who realize our decisions

will directly affect them. However, our decisions will also directly affect the taxpayers of the town. **We appeal to you, the taxpayer, to attend our meetings and help us put together a prudent budget.** We welcome, and encourage, public comment in all our discussions. You can help us achieve a budget that most likely reflects the wishes of the town. Please attend, participate, and/or listen to other opinions. After all; we are preparing to spend YOUR money.

At the first meeting the Planning Board is scheduled to introduce it's newly revised Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Subsequent meetings will review the requested budgets of the various departments of the town.

Our meetings are posted at the town hall and on the town website. Click on "Meetings", "Schedules" then Budget Committee". For the upcoming agenda go to "Meetings" - "Agendas" then "Budget Committee". Hope to see you there.

From Planning Board

You may have wondered where the Planning Board locates the information used to review applications and to administer projects. Regulations, Master Plan, Zoning District Maps, Ordinances, and Planning Board Application Forms and Procedures are available for viewing at the Land Use Office and on the Town's Website <http://www.warner.nh.us/>. Warner's documents are listed under the Departments-Planning Board and under Regulations/Publications heading tabs. Other Town, State, and Federal documents may also be pertinent to an application. From time to time these documents are updated. The Warner documents are approved at a public meeting, public hearing, or by Town voters depending on the type of document. The Land Use Secretary may be contacted to see if you are reviewing the latest versions of the documents or if a revision will take effect in the near future. Meeting schedules, agenda, and minutes are also available on the website and at the office. A Conceptual Consultation review with the Planning Board is recommended prior to filing an application for a Site Plan Review or Subdivision. When the Planning Board holds a Public Hearing, notices will be posted at the Town Hall, Post Office, Town website, and in certain situations the Concord Monitor.

From the Library

The library's annual Book and Bake Sale held during the Warner Fall Foliage Festival in October made \$1,550, of which 15% was donated to the WFFF funds. Many thanks to all who made this possible.

The Circle of Friends of Pillsbury Free Library invites any library "friends" to join the group. There is no fee to join. Pick up a flyer in the Library or contact Carol McCausland, at 456-2393 or mea1012@aol.com. There will be a meeting on January 6 at 2 pm to plan the March Silent Auction/ cheese

and wine party, and other spring activities such as a flea market table, an edible books activity, and other lively ideas.

This year's Children's Summer program "Every Hero has a Story" was a great success. A special "thank you" to local heroes Sergeant Ron Carter and Deputy Fire Chief Sean Toomey for their special presentations, and to helpers Lindsey Greenlaw, Georgia Flanders & Liz Dill.

A big thank you, and "goodbye" to two outstanding volunteers who have "retired" from assisting the library; Margaret Schirmer and Robert Aarons. We also, sadly, lost volunteer Edith Rumrill this fall. They will all be sorely missed, as will their help!. Anyone interested in volunteering to assist with the Newspaper clippings project, or other volunteer opportunities please contact Library staff. We also hope to add a VolunteerSpot link to the website soon.

Our online catalog will be getting some improvements in November, including the addition of lists of New items, and other lists on the catalog page (follow link from warner.lib.nh.us).

Budget Committee Meeting Schedule

Meetings begin at 7:00 pm
located at the Town Hall
(5 East Main St.)

Thursday ~ December 3

Thursday ~ December 10

Thursday ~ December 17

Thursday ~ January 7

Thursday ~ January 14

Thursday ~ January 21

Thursday ~ February 4
Public Hearing

Tuesday ~ February 9
Final Vote