

Town of Warner, New Hampshire

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

Spring 2016

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
(603)456-2298 ext. 1
administrator@warner.nh.us

From the Town Administrator

Over 200 residents attended the Warner Town meeting on March 9 to vote on over 23 warrant articles. Articles 3, to construct a solar array at the Transfer Station & Article 4, approve a 7 year lease to purchase agreement for a new road grader, required paper ballot vote as each article was asking the voters to approve long term financing, which means the article must pass by a 2/3 majority of the residents voting that evening. Article 3, which would enable the town to generate sufficient electric power to cover the costs of electric use in all the town government buildings for the next 25 to 40 years. However, some voters expressed their concern that margin of savings presented in the first years were not strong enough to commit the town to a 20 year bond to cover the costs of construction, among other objections. Article 3 failed to pass by 3 votes. The second proposed solar array to be constructed at the Village District treatment plant was approved by Village Water District residents at their annual meeting the following week. Construction of that solar array will begin this summer.

Article 4, the lease agreement, passed overwhelmingly. The Town will make annual lease payments of \$42,750 and after 7 years own the grader outright. The lease agreement includes a full 7 year warranty on the grader and the interest rate on the lease is 2.25%. The present town grader was purchased used in 1998 and has been in need of constant repair in the last 3 years. The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee see the lease to purchase agreement as a cost effective way to replace this vital piece of highway equipment without having to raise the full cost from taxes in one year.

Article 5, the 2016 town operating budget of \$3,026,049, as well as all the other warrant articles passed by simple majority (51% or more) voice or hand count votes. Most of the warrant articles were to place funds in capital reserve fund (CRF) accounts toward future purchases and projects. Article 9 was to place funds in the CRF for the new fire station site. The Selectmen presented the proposed site, which was under

a conditional Purchase & Sales agreement, at Town Meeting as well as in a public information session the week earlier. Voters expressed approval for the site and voted the additional funds needed for the purchase. Voters also approved funds for Town Hall improvements, which will result in a new handicap lift at the town Hall. The present lift is over 20 years old, difficult to operate and is not code compliant.

Town Meeting on a Saturday?

The Selectmen's Office has received input from some resident's that feel there would be a better turn out if Town Meeting was on a Saturday. The Selectmen would like to hear from you. If you are in favor of holding the Town Meeting on a Saturday please forward your input to: selectboard@warner.nh.us. The cut-off deadline for all inquiries will be June 1.

Note from the Selectboard

The Select Board plans to establish an Economic Development Advisory committee to work on ways to attract new businesses to Warner. As part of that effort the Board seeks citizen input as to what type of businesses folks would like to see in Warner. This would include identifying desired expansion of existing businesses, as well as the types of new business local folks expect they would patronize. Please send your ideas and suggestions to the Selectmen at selectboard@warner.nh.us or by mail to PO Box 265. We will attempt to seek additional input on this issue as the process unfolds.

Warner Historical Society **Barn Survey & Summer Exhibit**

The Warner Historical Society is excited to announce two new programs for 2016. In March and April, we hosted three programs about barns. Peter Ladd and Rebecca Courser presented a slide show of Warner barns and clues to look for in barn construction. John Porter, UNH Cooperative Extension Professor Emeritus, and author of *Preserving Old Barns*, talked about *Old Barn Features*. The N.H. Preservation Alliance joined us for a workshop and roundtable discussion about performing a barn survey in your community with representatives from Frankestown, Chichester and Deerfield. After the program, participants were able to tour two local barns.

Why do we want to conduct a barn survey? Barns are unique features in our community as each one is constructed similarly but different. They are a visual connection to our agricultural past and offer evidence of how barns evolved over time depending on changes in agricultural trends. Our town has lost many barns and outbuildings through the years due to fire, abandonment and the expense of maintaining them.

Warner has over 100 barns that we would like to survey with landowners' permission. A survey form would capture how the barn was constructed and evolved over time. Photographs of the exterior and interior would document these changes visually. We would also research the social history of families that farmed these properties. Barn owners would receive a copy of these reports.

This would enable us to create a usable database to understand the history and importance of agricultural structures in the community. A study of construction methods would help us better understand the structures and their builders. We would promote appreciation, education, and restoration/preservation of all viable structures.

Information would be shared about the N.H. Preservation Alliance's *Historic Barn Assessment Grant* program. The goal of these competitive grants is to offer support for professional consultations to help barn owners learn what needs to be done to stabilize, repair or re-use these structures. We would also share information about discretionary barn preservation easements which allow a barn owner to apply to the Warner Selectmen to grant property tax relief to owners who can demonstrate a public benefit of preserving their barns or other historic farm buildings and agree to maintain their structures throughout a minimum of a 10-year preservation easement.

Celebrating Warner's Agricultural History: 1760-2016 is the theme of our 2016 exhibit and 2017 calendar. The exhibit

opens May 14th for Spring Into Warner and will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We plan to offer hands-on experiences in felting wool, churning butter, and washing clothes with a set-tub and wringer.

From the Transfer Station

Spring clean up: Please divert your lawn and garden wastes out of the trash and in to the compost pile either your own or the town pile here at the facility. See the attendant if there are concerns about diseased or invasive plant materials. Also be sure that brush and brush only is placed in the brush pile. To dispose of lumber or other materials please see one of the attendants.

Stove Ash: Please dispose of stove ash in the metal barrels provided. If barrels are full notify one of the attendants and they will assist you. Safe and proper disposal of ash at your place and ours is an important fire prevention measure. Keep ash in a covered non combustible container away from combustible materials. When cool bring to the facility or consider using clean cold wood ash in lawn and garden applications as it can be an excellent soil amendment.

Hours: Please note the facility closes at 4pm on Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, and 7pm on Thursday. Planning your arrival at least fifteen minutes before those times insures a pleasant and productive experience for all.

Thank you for recycling.

From the Budget Committee

At the time of this publication the Budget Committee already had their first meeting April 7th. The agenda had electing a committee chairman, discussing goals and objectives for the coming year. Jonathan Lord, the newly elected member, joined the board. We thank Martha Bodnarik for her service to the board for the past seven years.

During the year the BC meets four times to review year to date expenditures and revenues. The April meeting is the first of such meetings. We look forward to working with the Administration, Department Heads, and the people of Warner. We will continue our work in maintaining a responsible budget that balances the needs of the town with the services provided while at the same time minimizing the impact on our tax rate.

The town has finally purchased a piece of land for the proposed new fire station. Subsequently the budget committee expects we will soon be considering the cost of a constructing a new fire station. This will be a large expense and the cost will have to be incorporated into the budget.

The town should see the completion of the roundabout at exit 9 this Summer. This may spur some interest for new businesses to move to Warner. In anticipation of this, the Selectmen are forming an Economic Development Committee. A member of the BC will sit on that committee. The proper and acceptable development of the exit nine area is critical to Warner's ability to minimize future impacts on our tax rate. There are many instances in the past few years where essential projects have been delayed due to costs. Preserving town records is many years behind and several Capital Reserve funds are currently underfunded. The most noticeable to the public may be road construction. A few of our roads are below acceptable standard. Increasing the tax base may enable the town to resolve some of these serious issues.

The coming year should prove to be both interesting and challenging. As always the BC seeks input from the town's people. Feel free to contact anyone on the committee and/or attend our meetings. After all, it is your money we are spending!

Respectfully;
Your Budget Committee:

Allan Brown - Selectmen's Representative, Mike Cutting, Kimberley Brown Edelmann, Alfred Hanson, John Leavitt, Jonathan Lord, Martha Mical, and Peter Newman - Water District Representative

From the Pillsbury Free Library

The Circle of Friends of Pillsbury Free Library: This year's Wine & Cheese/Silent Auction Fundraiser on March 19 raised over \$4500 to benefit the library's interior restoration project, including revealing the stained glass windows in the fiction area. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped!

During May you will see extensive masonry repointing work in full swing on the old section, followed by window restoration, drainage and gutter work before Summer vacation. The masonry work will resume in September for another month or until complete. This work will be funded in part by a \$50,000 grant from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program awarded in December 2014, partly from the Library Building Capital Reserve Fund, and partly from donations and fundraising activities. After the exterior work is completed, then the interior fun begins!

With funds from Warner Fall Foliage Festival we have now purchased a third Chromebook laptop for use in the library or at home, and an update to the Library's projector, which is available for meetings, movies, training, and slideshows at large gatherings. The new projector includes compatibility

with most Apple/iPad devices and allows audio output to speakers, which was put to good use at March Town Meeting for the report dedication video. Thank you to Damien for lending speakers and setting them up.



The Library will be coordinating the traditional Town Hall Spring Flea Market on Saturday, April 23. Contact Nancy ASAP at 456-2289 to book a table for \$15 or offer help with snack bar, setting up, cleanup, etc. Proceeds will benefit the Library's building renovation projects.

Book Nook Theater group will perform the Play "James and the Giant Peach" on May 7th at 4:00 PM at Warner Town Hall. "Entrance fee" will be a donation to the food pantry. There will also be a bake sale.

Spring Into Warner, our town's celebration of the Arts and Artists of all sorts (music, literature, poetry, painting, sculpture, multimedia, photography, cartooning), sponsored by the Kearsarge Area Chamber Of Commerce and member businesses will happen on Saturday, May 14, 2016. The Library is holding an "Edible Books" display/contest where people enter edible creations with a theme based on book titles, characters or settings, and everyone can vote for their favorites. There will also be a family "edible book" activity. Anyone interested in participating or helping with this, please contact Nancy Ladd at the Library.

May 19th Sue's annual Teddy Bear Picnic will be held at the regular Thursday 10:30 a.m. library story time. Preschoolers can bring a lovey for the parade, do a craft, and stay for a pot luck picnic with family.

Children's summer reading program on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from July 12 to August 17 will be "On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!" with a Wellness/Fitness/Sports theme. See Sue Matott for details.

Our online catalog now includes handy lists of New Items, and other lists – find them at the top of the catalog web page (follow link at top of warner.lib.nh.us). Contact us for your login to place holds or renew online. We have renewed the Transparent Languages Online service – brush up or start a new language! Just follow the link on our website and use your library card to create your free account.

News from the School Board

The school board has set 5 goals for itself to be completed this school year. They are: (1) We will provide learning environments which maximize the intellectual vigor of all our students, increase student interest in academic work, equip students to address the complex challenges of authentic problems, and provide regular feedback through various types of assessments. (2) Implement and assess the effectiveness of Supervision and Evaluation models regarding student achievement. (3) We will review, update and support the long range capital Improvement plan. (4) We will promote and support a healthy work environment for all employees. (5) We will support, encourage and facilitate two-way communication within the district among staff, parents, and community regarding shared involvement in a quality education. The KA policy of the district web site www.kearsarge.org states more clearly that educators need full parental partnerships to properly educate our student body.

EDUCATION NEEDS PARENTS AS FULL PARTNERS

I want to share with our community the results of 2 plus years of monthly meetings with employers in NH. meeting with 31 educators in the Manchester School District. The Manchester Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, of which I am a member, organized monthly meetings between NH employers in each of 9 different job classification areas from Advanced Manufacturing to Hospitality. These employers met with educators in the Manchester School System for the purpose of explaining to these educators what kind of students they need to fill the positions in their organizations. These employers addressed what they are looking for from students who are graduating from high school and college.

I took notes to find out what specific skills these employers were looking for that would qualify the students to receive meaningful good paying full time employment after high school and college. I was looking for a common thread that could be shared and taught to our students. I was expecting qualities like thinking outside the box, critical thinking skills and collaborative skill. Although these skills were mentioned at these meetings, the employers believed that these skills could be taught if they had students with the skills that the employers mentioned that they need from a job applicant. These skills, much to my surprise, were the common thread that most of the employers believed were crucial to a successful employment experience. The list of skills that the employers felt are most important for student to possess are these 16 skill sets listed here:

LIFE SKILLS NECESSARY TO BE COLLEGE AND CAREER READY FOR 21st CENTURY EMPLOYMENT

1. Have a strong work ethic- Show a willingness to learn new things.

2. Show up on time, not 10 minutes late.
3. Have a firm handshake.
4. Look people squarely in the eye.
5. Speak Clearly.
6. Smile
7. Be persistent.
8. Have NO visible tattoos.
9. Have a positive “can do” attitude.
10. Be enthusiastic.
11. Be team oriented.
12. Be a self-starter.
13. Be accountable for your actions.
14. Have good communications skills.
15. Have a command of good grammar and be able to write in cursive.
16. Do no drugs.

These skills are such an encouragement because they are skills that can be taught by all of the parents or guardians in any school district. Parents can now be empowered to be full partners in the education of their children. The skills in this list can best be instilled in our students by their parents or guardians. And the educators can then re-enforce these skills taught at home.

The Kearsarge School District recognizes the importance of having a strong partnership between the school system and the parents of our students. This commitment to our school district is embedded in the school board policy (KA), School Community and Home Relations. Together, parents and educators can prepare today’s students for a successful and fulfilling future.

Unfortunately, Kearsarge is losing its Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Pamela Stiles, to a job promotion as Superintendent of the Alton, NH. SAU. Although we will miss her excellent work, we offer our congratulations on her new assignment. The Board is pleased to announce that, Mr. Michael Bessette, the current Principal of the Maple Street Elementary school in Hopkinton, NH., has accepted the Board’s offer for him to be our new Assistant Superintendent. He begins work on July 1, 2016.

Joseph Mendola
Representative of the citizens of Warner,
Kearsarge Regional School Board