

## **Warner Conservation Commission**

Minutes of Meeting  
May 4, 2016 at 7:00 PM

**Attending:** Nancy Martin, Doug Allen, Mike Amaral, Rob Nute and Russ St.Pierre (recording)  
Also attending were George Embly and Chris Connors

### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes of April 6, 2016 were approved as written.

### **Land Protection – Kearsarge Mountain Road**

Nothing new to report.

### **Land Protection – Bartlett Loop**

Several Commission members and Selectmen walked the town-owned and adjacent parcels on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The town lot contains approximately 3 acres and about 600 feet of Willow Brook. It is unimproved but has a septic approval dating from the 1985 subdivision. Owners of the adjacent parcels, Scott and Joan Warren, have proposed to donate a conservation easement on their portion of the Willow Brook floodplain if the Town designates its lot as permanently protected conservation land. Together, the easements would protect approximately 2000 feet of Willow Brook, including a large section of the brook that has traditionally been reserved as a fishing area for children. The easement would also protect the brook's associated wetlands and floodplains. Chris Connors presented maps depicting environmental features and values of the parcels. Conservation Commission funds would be used to cover the costs of the survey and legal documentation.

### **Membership**

The Selectmen have appointed Alice Chamberlain to fill the vacancy created when John Dabuliewicz was elected selectman. The conservation commission has one unfilled alternate position.

### **Warner River Designation Update:**

The nominating committee held a public information session on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Approximately forty people attended. Presentation on various aspects of the river and its corridor were made. The committee answered questions from the public. Most of the people who spoke were against going forward with the designation process. Their specific concerns included the project's timeline and the seemingly rushed process to get the designation submitted by June 1<sup>st</sup>, and also the anticipated additional layer of governmental participation the designation would create. The nominating committee decided to delay submitting the application for one year. In the interim, they will submit the draft application to NHDES for review, post the revised application on the town webpages, and conduct outreach to build public confidence in the project. Their next meeting will be May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

### **Trout Unlimited**

George Embly talked about the work Trout Unlimited has been doing in the Warner River watershed over the last four years with NH Fish and Game, the conservation commission and volunteers. During the first two years trout surveys were conducted in many of the river's tributaries. Stream crossing (culvert) surveys were the main focus of the last two years. This coming year will see a continuation of the stream crossing surveys and more direct conversations with river and stream abutting property owners. Trout Unlimited will be contacting these property owners about an upcoming informational meeting. A tentative schedule of events includes:

May 14<sup>th</sup> booth at the "Spring into Warner" festival

May 23-37 land owner mailings for meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> stream crossing training for volunteers  
June 4<sup>th</sup> stream crossing and macro/water quality testing training for volunteers  
June 9<sup>th</sup> informational meetin  
June 15<sup>th</sup> presentation at Sutton Conservation Committee meeting  
Fall 2016 booth at the Warner Fall Foliage Festival

**Wetland Issues:** No wetland or shoreland permits were submitted or issued during the last month.

**Planning Board Report:**

Nothing to report

**Old Business-Updates:**

Solar Array – land has been cleared adjacent to the waste treatment facility, construction is expected to begin in June.

Firehouse Site – land has been purchased and a design committee is investigating options

Warner River Canoe Trip: the canoe trip discussed at last month's meeting will not take place. Mike canoed the proposed course and reported issues with numerous blockages and low water levels.

**New Business**

The Conservation Commission received monitoring reports for the Corser, Carter, Brown-Moretto, and Aranosian easements.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. **The next meeting will be on June 1, 2016, at 7:00 PM.**