

Warner Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting
June 1, 2016 at 7:00 PM

Attending: Nancy Martin, Doug Allen, Phil Stockwell and Russ St.Pierre (recording)
Also attending were Brian Hotz, Tim Blagdon and Chris Connors

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of May 4, 2016 were approved with one correction.

Land Protection

Bartlett Loop - Brian Hotz was present to discuss actions the Commission could take to move forward on a conservation easement for the Bartlett Loop parcels. The major expense will be for a survey of the properties and the easement areas. As the parcels are under separate ownership, it will require two easements. Also, as the town cannot convey an easement to itself, it will require bringing in an outside agency to hold the easement on the town-owned parcel. Five Rivers Conservation Trust was suggested as a possible agency. Brian will contact them to see if they are interested. Using an outside agency such as Five Rivers may also require funding a stewardship endowment for monitoring purposes. The Commission will also investigate alternative conservation methods.

Riverfront Parcels - Tim Blagdon was present to talk to the Commission about two State-owned riverfront parcels that have recently been declared surplus. The first is located to the northwest of Bagley Field (Tax Map 7, Lot 1) between Interstate 89 and the Warner River. It is a landlocked parcel but has value in aquifer protection and in providing potential corridor space for a trail from Bagley into the village.

The second parcel is located just west of West Roby District Road (Tax Map 16, Lot 24) between Route 103 and the Warner River. The lot contains a portion of the old highway that runs adjacent to the river. The State will sell the land but with covenants related to maintaining public access and protecting wood turtle habitat. Acquisition of the parcel would protect a river frontage along a picturesque section of the river, and could also support future trail efforts. Chris noted that there may be title issues related to the original road construction.

Tim also noted that a rail-to-trail through town is not include in Warner's Master Plan, and he intended to meet with the Planning Board to discuss the issue.

Old NHDOT Shed Parcel - Tim also reported that a brownfields assessment has recently been completed by Sanborn Head & Associated on the old DOT patrol shed parcel located at the easterly end of Waterloo Street.

Kearsarge Mountain Road - Nothing new to report.

Wetland Issues: Russ reported there were two road maintenance notifications submitted by NHDOT in May. The first was to replace 12" x 40' pipe with 15" x 40' pipe on Pumpkin Hill Road; the second was to replace a 15: x 40' pipe on Kearsarge Mountain Road. Both notifications were complete.

Warner River Designation Update:

The nomination has been postponed until next year. In the meantime, Trout Unlimited will continue stream surveys and culvert assessments. They have sent letters to stream side property owners inviting them to a June 9th informational meeting. They also intend to contact owners of dams within the Warner River

Old Business-Updates:

Solar Array – Construction is to begin on the solar array. It was reported that there may be an issue with the proximity of the clearing to the Warner River.

ATV Trails –Concern has again been expressed that individuals are using the ATV trails located in the southwest part of town to access and vandalize seasonal structures located in Henniker. This was first reported back in February.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be on July 6, 2016, at 7:00 PM.