

Warner Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting
September 7, 2016 at 7:00 PM

Attending: Nancy Martin, Doug Allen, Phil Stockwell, Rob Nute, Alice Chamberlin, and Russ St.Pierre (recording).

Also present: Tim Blagdon, George Embly, Chris Connors, and members of the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum Board

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of August 3, 2016 were approved with a minor correction.

Land Protection Updates:

Willow Brook/Bartlett Loop – The Commission discussed the parcel features in general and the Warren’s intention to place an easement on their property under the condition that the entire adjacent Town-owned parcel be placed under an easement that would prohibit development. A meeting between the Selectmen and the Warrens has been scheduled for September 22nd at 3:30PM.

State-owned Parcel (Map 7, Lot 1) – The NH Department of Transportation responded to the Town’s request for an appraisal with a price of \$12,000 plus a \$1,100 fee for administrative costs. There would also be two conditions attached to the sale: (1) no access to Interstate 89, and (2) the Town would need to conduct a Phase I archaeological study before breaking ground if it intended to develop the property. Several issues were raised including: the cost of the land seemed to be high as it is a landlocked parcel; the cost of an archaeological study; would the “no I-89 access” condition preclude using the parcel for a future trail through the I-89 corridor; and did the parcel include the bed of the railroad.

Collins Parcel – Nancy spoke with members of the Chandler Reservation Committee and they seem to be interested in the parcel. Discussions will continue in October.

Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum – Members of the Museum’s Board discussed the possibility of placing easements on the Medicine Woods parcel (Map 14, Lot 29-1-7) and on a portion of the main parcel (Map 14, Lot 29-1-17). The total area would be about 13 acres. The stated purpose of the easement would be to protect against future development. There was some discussion on special features of the land. Nancy will contact local land trusts to gauge interest in the proposed easement. The Board members will discuss easement issues at their next meeting and get back to the Commission.

Warner River Nomination:

The nominating committee met August 31st with 12-15 people in attendance. The current focus is outreach. At that meeting, Chris Connors made a presentation on the Warner River web site. The site contains information on the nomination process, what the nomination means, and meeting agendas and minutes. See: <https://warnerrivernomination.wordpress.com>. Chris presented the Commission with posters and maps developed to provide information on the river nomination process. This information will be taken on the road to increase awareness.

Wetland Issues:

The Commission discussed an application by Broadleaf Warner, LLC to Dredge and fill 6,475 square feet of a man-made farm pond for agricultural purposes on lot 24, tax map 19. There were some concerns with the proposal as the existing pond seems to have been abandoned and subsequently

developed into an emergent wetland. It was suggested there are ways to completed the proposed dredging while protecting some of the wetland's current functions and values. The issue of past illegal dumping on the property was also raised with a question on the status of that issue. Nancy will draft a letter to the NH Wetlands Bureau voicing these concerns.

Old Business

Warner River Watershed Conservation Project

George Embly presented an update on the ongoing watershed conservation project:

- surveyed 75 sites within the watershed, about 50 sites had wild brook trout,
- water quality throughout the watershed is good,
- evaluated every bridge and culvert within the watershed for fish passage,
- 12 landowners requested brook surveys,
- presented an outreach display in the NH Fish & Game building at the Hopkinton Fair, and
- have a list of 100 volunteers, 40 completed surveys.

George indicated the main focus is now on education.

New Business-Updates

Chuck Rose hosted a shoot with Ducks Unlimited on Waldron Hill Road that raised some concerns with abutting property owners.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

The next meeting will be on October 5, 2016, at 7:00 PM.