

Warner Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting
May 3, 2017 at 7:00 PM

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

Also Attending: Richard Cook and Ryan Duquette

Land Protection – Willow Brook Parcels

Richard Cook, representing the Five Rivers Conservation Trust, provided the Commission with an estimated budget of \$26, 000 for conserving portions of the three parcels. The estimate includes the costs of surveying the easement, legal and title issues, and continuing stewardship fees. Five Rivers will begin developing easement language once the Board of Selectmen approves the budget and a conservation agreement is signed with the partners. Nancy will arrange a meeting with the Selectmen.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of April 5, 2017 were approved with a minor correction.

OHRV in the Mink Hills

The next walk over Class VI roads will be out Cunningham Pond Road to the Sisko Cemetery on Thursday May 11th. Anyone interested should meet at the Town Hall and 3:30 PM. Rain date will be the following Saturday.

Response to Souder Letter

A response to the Souder's letter regarding the proposed solar array adjacent to the transfer station was reviewed and signed by the Commission members.

Town Easements

The Commission reviewed the language of two independent easements from private property owners to the Town. The first, between DRM Properties, LLC and the Town would allow the town to use the rear portion of the Foothills' property for parking, for Fall Foliage Festival activities, and for parking for school functions. There was a question on whether or not the easement would prohibit future building on the property.

The second easement, from Michael and Dawn Spann-Weitz to the Town, would provide additional access to the proposed Warner Fire Department station from Split Rock Road. The easement calls for a "suitable vegetative buffer zone ... for the purpose of mitigating visual and audible impact of fire department activities." The Commission recommends retaining as much existing vegetation as possible during construction, avoiding the introduction or spreading of invasive species, and agreeing beforehand on what constitutes a suitable vegetative buffer.

Land Protection – State-owned Parcel (Map 7, Lot1)

The proposed sale moves on to the State's Long Range Capital Planning Committee with no definite schedule for completion.

Warner River – Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP)

NHDES training will take place on Tuesday May 23rd, from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Warner Town Hall. Contact Bob Ball (715-5342) or northwoodfisherman@gmail.com if interested.

Warner Economic Development Advisory Committee

A final report (available on the Town's web page) was presented by the Committee to the Board of Selectmen on April 25th. The Committee will be retained as a permanent committee and Mike will continue to represent the Conservation Commission.

Concord – Lake Sunapee Rail Trail

A walk along the trail's anticipated path is under development.

Chandler Hiking Trails

Doug attended a Warner Parks & Recreation meeting to discuss increasing the awareness and use of the Chandler trails. Items discussed included improving the trails and the trail map and providing signage. A field trip to the trails to assess their condition was recommended. Any proposed improvements will be reviewed with the Chandler Reservation Committee.

Warner River Nomination Update:

Sam Durfee of the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission submitted the draft nomination document to NHDES on May 2nd. DES will review it and make recommendations. Nancy met with Senator Feltes to ask him to submit the legislation required for nominating the river. He agreed, but also asked about obstacles to the nomination. Nancy explained there was still opposition from some abutting land owners, and in particular, concern for future dam construction. The Commission briefly discussed how free flowing streams and rivers support biodiversity, habitat, and native fish species, and that the current trend seems to be for dam removal. A letter in support of the nomination will be forthcoming from the Planning Board.

Wetlands Protection:

One forestry notification was reported as complete in April for a parcel owned by the Earl L. Nichols Trust of 1994 on North Road. (See Map 14, Lot15.) This is a large parcel on the east side of the North Road adjacent to the North Ridge housing community. It was noted that this parcel contains a deer wintering area.

Planning Board Report:

With regard to the proposed indoor shooting range, there was a question if the subject parcel was ever offered to the Town by the State.

Easement Monitoring

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

The next meeting will be on, June 7, 2017, at 7:00 PM.