

## **Warner Conservation Commission**

Minutes of Meeting  
April 5, 2017 at 7:00 PM

**Attending:** Nancy Martin, Doug Allen, Mike Amaral, Phil Stockwell, and Russ St.Pierre (recording)  
**Also Attending:** Tim Blagden, Chris Connors, Bill Balsam, Ben Nugent, George Embly, and public hearing attendees

### **Public Hearing for the Purchase of Land from NHDOT (Tax Map 7, Lot 1)**

A public hearing was opened to discuss the purchase of a state surplus parcel of land from the NH Department of Transportation and to take public comment on the proposed purchase. The anticipated price for the lot is \$7,100 (including a \$1,100 administrative fee), though the final cost is subject to approval by the State's Long Range Capital Planning Committee. Tim Blagden described the parcel and how its acquisition supported the long range goals of the Concord – Lake Sunapee Rail Trail. He also submitted letters in support of the acquisition. The Commission answered questions from those attending regarding: the parcel's connectivity with other Town lands; an archaeological study that could be required if the Town proposed construction or other disruptive activities to the property; more immediate alternative use of the parcel; and repairs to existing fencing.

### **Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP)**

Bill Balsam described the NHDES Volunteer River Assessment Program and noted that the Warner River had not been tested since 2007. The river will be monitored beginning this year during the months of June to December. There are nine monitoring sites along the river from Bradford to Hopkinton. As the program's name denotes, monitoring is conducted by volunteers, and volunteers are needed. Anyone interested can contact George Embly at gembly@ gmail.com or 456-2315. Equipment is provided and training will take place on May 23, 2017 5:30 – 7:30 at the Warner Town Hall.

### **Warner River Watershed Stream Crossing Assessment**

Ben Nugent described the results of the stream crossing assessments and noted that a report is available on the NH Fish and Game and Trout Unlimited web pages. Culverts were evaluated and prioritized by their interference with fish passage and their detrimental impacts to the natural stream habitats. A next step involves coordinating with the towns in the watershed. Comparing the list of culverts that impede wildlife to culverts identified by the towns as most likely to fail will provide an opportunity to work together to address both concerns. Workshops are scheduled for June 14 & 28, 4-6:30pm at the Warner Town Hall.

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

The minutes of March 1, 2017 were approved.

### **OHRV in the Mink Hills Meeting**

Nancy described the meeting held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and noted that this issue falls under our responsibility to protect natural resources. Looking to form a committee representing the various interests to investigate the issues and develop benchmark conditions. The Commission will walk some of the Class VI roads available to ATVs on April 29<sup>th</sup>. The public is invited.

**Warner Economic Development Update:**

Mike reported that the committee is putting the finishing touches on a report to be presented to the Board of Selectmen on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Chandler Hiking Trails:**

Doug volunteered to take over the issue from Rob and will meet with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

**Warner River Nomination Update:**

The River Nominating Committee is contacting legislators to support the nomination. Nancy will meet with Senator Feltes to ask him to sponsor the legislation in the fall.

**Wetlands Protection:**

There were no new permits or notifications to report.

**Land Protection Updates:**

*Collins Parcel* – There was nothing new to report.

*Willow Brook/Bartlett Loop* – An estimated budget for the project is \$20,000 to \$30,000. A \$7,500 stewardship fees is anticipated for each of the three parcels, though this might be reduced.

*State-owned Parcel* (Map 7, Lot 1) – See above.

*Indian Museum Parcel* – Nothing new to report

**Planning Board Report:**

An indoor shooting range has been proposed in the Davisville section of town.

**Old Business:**

New members, Colin Nevins (alternate member) and Susan Van Ottengin (member) will be presented to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

The meeting was adjourned.

**The next meeting will be on, May 3, 2017, at 7:00 PM.**