

Warner Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting
June 7, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Attending: Nancy Martin, Mike Amaral, Susi von Oettinger, Colin Nevins, and Russ St.Pierre (recording)

Also Attending: Ken Cogswell, Chris Connors, and Andy Deegan

1a. Land Protection – Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust:

Andy Deegan described a Trust project to protect a 150-acre town parcel. The parcel possesses good characteristics for preservation, and the proposed easement would provide for continued commercial agriculture and forestry operations while protecting against future development. Low impact public access use would be available to non-agricultural areas. This is an ongoing project and Andy was looking to see if the Conservation Commission would be interested in contributing to the project.

1b. Land Protection – Society for the Protection of NH Forests:

Brian Hotz described a Society protect to protect approximately 2,500 acres adjacent to the Mount Kearsarge State Forest. While most of the land is in Salisbury, about 90 acres is located in Warner. The land possesses good characteristics for preservation including Tier 1 wildlife habitat, Mill Brook, Wilder Pond, and approximately 40-50 acres of old growth. Again, Brian was looking to see if the Conservation Commission would be interested in contributing to the project. Brian also asked the Commission if we would provide a letter of endorsement to the Forest Society. A motion was made and approved to provide a letter of endorsement for the project to the Forest Society.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of May 3, 2017 were approved as written.

4. Warner River Nomination Update:

The Warner River nomination application was submitted to NH Department of Environmental Services on June 1st. The nominating committee will meet on June 16th. The Committee received a letter in support of the project from the Nature Conservancy. A public hearing on the nomination will be held July 11th at the Town Hall.

4. Warner River – Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP):

Chris Connors described how a number of volunteers were successfully trained to participate in the river sampling program. She asked the Commission for a letter in support of the program in order to obtain funding for equipment when funding becomes available. The Commission agreed to provide a letter. Chris briefly described the completed culvert assessment survey results and noted that a flood resiliency workshop will be held on June 14th and 28th. The workshop is for area towns to compare their priority culvert replacement projects with culverts identified in the surveys as needing replacement to accommodate wildlife (mostly fish) passage.

5. Sale of Town-owned Lots:

The Selectmen have asked the Conservation Commission to review two town-owned lots on North Road prior to their sale. The lots are identified as lots 5 and 9 on tax map 18. Commission members are asked to meet at the Town Hall on Saturday (June 10th) at 8:30 AM.

6. Request for a Walk at the Davisville Bridge:

In anticipation of the NHDOT project to replace the existing bridge, John Warren has asked the Conservation Commission to look at the adjacent properties. A review is scheduled for June 15th at 4:30 PM.

7. OHRV in the Mink Hills:

The next walk over Class VI roads will be on June 14th to look at Bear Pond Road, Old Sanborn Road, Hoyt Lane, and Loud Lane. Anyone interested should meet at the Town Hall at 3:45 PM.

8. Progress on Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail:

The Bagley Bridge was re-decked.

11. Warner Economic Development Advisory Committee:

Committee membership will be expanded to include a broader cross section. The Committee will explore developing more definitive guidelines for the type of development desired.

12. Wetlands Protection:

There were no new wetland applications to report for the month of May.

13. Old Business:

The Commission needs to develop an easement monitoring schedule and recruit volunteers to carry out the monitoring.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

The next meeting will be on, July 5, 2017, at 7:00 PM.