

Warner Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting
February 19, 2018 (postponed from February 7th)

Attending: Nancy Martin, Mike Amaral, Alice Chamberlin, Susi von Oettingen, Scott Warren, and Russ St.Pierre (recording).

Also Attending: Debbie Stanley (Ausbon-Sargent Land Preservation Trust)

Public Hearing

Nancy opened a public hearing to discuss expending \$75,000 of conservation funds for conservation easements on 150 acres of the Brown Family's Farm, Tax Map 15, Lots 43, 53-1, 56-2, and 34-1. Deb Stanley described the proposed easement and how it would contribute to protecting valuable forestry and farm soils, Frazier Brook and associated tributaries, and how the property was in proximity to other conservation lands in the Town. She also noted how the project had been awarded an \$180,000 grant from the NH Land and community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). The \$75,000 will contribute to completing the project.

The Commission had questions regarding residences and immediate surroundings that would not be include in the easement, and the disposition of unoccupied or potentially unoccupied residences.

There were no members of the public present.

A motion was proposed and seconded: To expend \$75,000 from the conservation fund and recommend the Selectmen release said funds for the purpose of establishing a conservation easement on the Brown Family Farm, Tax Map 15, Lots 43, 53-1, 56-2, and 34-1.

The motion passed unanimously.

The public hearing was closed.

January Minutes Approval:

The minutes of January 3, 2018 were approved with one correction.

Land Protection – Willow Brook Easement

Easement boundaries have been surveyed. The easement will include about 6.1 acres of the Warren's property and the entire Town-owned property. The survey map will be recorded at the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds with the easement when the project is completed.

Warner River Nomination

A public hearing on SB 445 was held on January 16th at the state house. Almost all of the testimony was in support of the bill. The bill will go to the House in March.

Warner River Watershed – Culvert Replacement

The Town's project to replace the Silver Brook culvert on North Village Road was briefly discussed, noting that the project included proposed trout mitigation measures which might not be necessary as the project is adjacent to the Silver Lake dam.

The Commission also discussed a report from Ben Nugent (NHF&G) discussing 15 town culverts requiring improvements for fish passage.

Warner River Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP)

Sampling will continue on the Warner River again this year and volunteers are needed. Sampling is typically conducted once per month at seven locations along the river

Update on NHDOT Surplus Riverfront Lots:

Tax Map 7, Lot 1:

NHDOT is in the process of reviewing the request for additional land, and determining if those lands can be declared surplus.

Tax Map 16, Lot 24:

The land survey is complete and research into parcel history continues.

Update on CNHRPC Collaboration on OHRVs in the Mink Hills

The last meeting focused on the portion of the Mink Hills in Warner. Going forward, the group plans to survey the Class VI road property owners about the road's use. The group also intends to write a vision/mission statement, and look at OHRV policies. The next meeting is March 19th.

Easement Monitoring

Susi noted that the owner of land abutting the Katharine Brown easement would like to make the Wiggins Trace available for ATV use. There was a question on whether or not this would be in compliance with the terms of the easement.

Wetlands

There have been no wetland permit applications or notifications this year.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be March 7th at 7:00 PM.