

Central NH Regional Planning Commission

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Warner River Nomination Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Warner Town Hall, 5 East Main St, Warner NH 03278

7:00 P.M.

Minutes:

Attendees	
Chris Connors, Trout Unlimited	George Embley, Town of Webster, Trout Unlimited
Doug Giles, Town of Hopkinton	Peter Ladd, Town of Warner
Scott MacLean, Town of Bradford	Nancy Martin, Town of Warner
Jack Noon, Town of Sutton	Michael Simon, Town of Warner

Members of the Public: John Davis, Fred Arnold

Commission Staff: Sam Durfee

The meeting began at 7:02 P.M, convened by Nancy Martin.

Review of Minutes from Previous Meetings

Nancy Martin asked the members of the committee to review the minutes from the August 31st, June 15th, and May 18th meetings. Edits needed to be made to the 8/31 minutes included removing “all from the Town of Warner” from the Members of the Public section and removal of the sentence regarding an attached contact information sheet. The minutes were accepted with revision.

M/S/Passed Nancy Martin/George Embley

No edits were made to the June 15th Minutes

M/S/Passed George Embley/Chris Connors

A number of spelling corrections were made to the May 18st minutes, two sentences were changed and two words were replaced.

M/S/Passed Chris Connors/George Embley

Comments on Draft

Sam Durfee shared a summary of comments and corrections Tracie Sales of NHDES provided on the nomination draft. Ms. Connors suggested that it might be useful to add to the section on invasive species that a new one have been found within the river corridor. Ms. Sales had requested a summary of

findings from Ben Nugent's fish research. Mr. Embley said he would put something together to add to the draft. Regarding significant wildlife habitat identified by the NH Wildlife Action Plan, Ms. Martin asked members of the committee if the various towns had conservation plans that had identified any of these lands for future conservation easements. Various members said they will look into it for their respective towns. It was suggested to include the Naughton Recycling center in the nomination draft due to the fact it was identified for Superfund and is part of CNHRPC's Brownfields program.

Ms. Sales had provided a document outlining the creation of the Warner Village Water District and the associated flowage rights. After a brief discussion of the document, John Davis voiced his opinion that the committee has not done its due diligence to inform the general public of the project, identify dam sites and accused the committee of circumventing the community. Mr. Durfee explained that the committee has followed the legislation in terms of their requirement to alert landowners (mailers) and identify dams by all resources readily available. He cited state databases and local knowledge. Mr. Durfee asked Mr. Davis if he had additional information on a dam in Sutton Mr. Davis kept referencing, but Mr. Davis replied that it is not his responsibility to provide this information. Mr. Durfee explained that if Mr. Davis wants other dams included in the document that are not on state databases and if the information is not readily available, the committee must rely on local knowledge. Mr. Durfee concluded the issue by providing his email to Mr. Davis.

Ms. Connors elaborated on riparian interests by saying that under Common Law, waters are the responsibility of the state to protect for the usage and enjoyment of the general public. She cited beaches, swimming, fishing, boating and general water recreation as riparian interests held by the public. Ms. Connors also added that no citizen is allowed to infringe on the riparian interests of other citizens.

Nomination Website & Outreach Materials

Ms. Connors pulled up the website (<https://warnerrivernomination.wordpress.com/>) and gave a rundown of recently added material and recourses including links to all pertinent RSAs and various websites. Ms. Martin thought it would be important to add a highly visible statement explaining that designation does not supersede local ordinances. Mr. Davis argued it appears that designation would be more restrictive than local ordinances and a discussion ensued explaining the restrictions of certain river classifications, the citizen makeup of an LAC and the advisory capacity of the LAC. The conversation soon reverted to landowner notification and the issues with sending a postcard rather than first class mail.

Mr. Ladd made a statement saying that, while there may not be a direct link to the nomination efforts, over the summer, he has seen theft, an increase waste and general disrespect of his land that he allows the public to access the river from. Members of the committee expressed their condolences and Ms. Connors said she would take down videos from the website that show his property. Mr. Durfee added that one of the purposes of an LAC is to educate the public. If an LAC was in existence for the Warner River, it would be able to educate the public on respectful use of the river and the surrounding land. An LAC should maintain a healthy, working relationship with riparian landowners and would be a resource for landowners in a situation such as Mr. Ladd's.

Master Presentation & Roadshow

Ms. Connors displayed the PowerPoint Mr. Durfee had created on a projector screen. Mr. Durfee explained he had received some comments and will continue to make edits. Mr. MacLean said he plans

to go before Bradford’s Select Board and explain the progress of the nomination committee and its intent to hold public information sessions in each of the five towns along the Warner River. He added that he would greatly encourage the attendance of the Select Board. The committee agreed this would be the ideal way to go about setting up a public information session in each town. Town reps will go before their Select Boards, inform them of the public information session and propose a couple dates for the Select Board to weigh in on. Mr. Simon added that town reps should encourage their respective Conservation Commissions to spread the word of the public information sessions once dates are selected and attend.

Ms. Connors listed the meeting dates for the Select Boards as follows:

Town	Upcoming Meeting Dates			Time of Meeting
Warner	September 27 th	October 11 th	October 25 th	6:00 PM
Bradford	October 10 th	October 17 th	October 24 th	5:30 PM
Sutton	October 10 th	October 17 th	October 24 th	4:00 PM
Webster	October 10 th	October 24 th		6:30 PM
Hopkinton	October 3 rd	October 17 th		

Town reps will pick a time and date to approach the Select Board and will report back to the committee via email or at the next meeting on October 19th. Ms. Martin said she would contact the Select Boards to get on the agenda well ahead of time.

The question of advertising for the public information session followed. Mr. Simon thought it would be a good idea to advertise during election day and said it would be necessary to get approval from the Town Moderator to set up a table at polling locations. Ms. Martin suggested that reps should look at their respective towns’ calendars and identify potential dates to hold the public information sessions. Mr. Embley confirmed he will contact Webster. Mr. Giles confirmed he will contact Hopkinton. Mr. MacLean confirmed he would contact Bradford. Ms. Martin confirmed she would contact Warner and Sutton on Mr. Noon’s behalf.

The question of whom from the committee would attend these public information sessions. It was agreed that town reps should attend their own, but it may not be necessary to attend all of the other sessions. Mr. Durfee said he would attend all five and Ms. Connors and Ms. Martin said they would attend the ones they can when the time comes. It was agreed that it would be important to take minutes at all sessions. Mr. Durfee stated that he would record all the session and write minutes from the recordings.

Mr. Simon brought the conversation back to the issue of publicizing the sessions. Mr. MacLean said that each rep should be responsible for their own towns. Ms. Connors said she would draft a poster for each town to use for advertising. It was agreed that it would be worthwhile sending another round of mailers once session dates are decided. It was determined that it is \$0.47 for a first class postage stamp. Town reps said they would approach their Conservation Commission to see if they could spare money to pay for the postage for their own towns. Mr. Durfee said he would send out the list of riparian landowners to each town again. The idea of a ¼ page ad in the Shopper was considered. Mr. MacLean, with Ms. Martin’s assistance, plans to draft a letter for the mailers. Mr. Embley suggested writing articles for the local papers as well.

Next Meeting Date

The next Warner River Nomination Committee meeting was scheduled for October 19th, 2016 at 7:00 P.M., in the Warner Town Hall.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.