

Central NH Regional Planning Commission

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Warner River Nomination Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 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
Doug Giles, Town of Hopkinton	Sue Hemingway, Town of Warner
Scott MacLean, Town of Bradford	Nancy Martin, Town of Warner
Jack Noon, Town of Sutton	Michael Simon, Town of Warner

Commission Staff: Sam Durfee

The meeting began at 7:03 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 October 19th meeting. There was brief discussion regarding small spelling errors. The minutes were passed with revision.

M/S/Passed Chris Connors/Scott MacLean

Review of the minutes from the various public information sessions was put off until next meeting. In the meantime, Ms. Connors said she would send around the minutes she took at the Warner session in hopes that other committee members could fill in some of the gaps, mainly the names and comments of some of the audience members.

Review and Discussion of BOS meetings and Public Information Sessions

Ms. Martin asked the committee how they thought the meetings over the last two months went. Mr. Durfee spoke up and said that the Warner public information session was the most well-attended and that the audience had asked some of the most specific questions of all the sessions. Ms. Martin has followed up with the Warner Board of Selectmen for a letter of support, which they voted in favor to sign, and she said she will also get a letter from the Warner Conservation Commission at their meeting next month.

Mr. Noon reviewed the Sutton information session by stating, though it was not well attended, Betsy Forsham from the Conservation Commission was there and it was not until the information session that she understood the project and was willing to support it. Mr. Durfee will reach out again to Ms. Forsham in the coming weeks regarding a letter of support.

Mr. MacLean revisited the Bradford session and said the session did not garner a large turn out, but those who attended were riparian landowners and very interested in the project. They asked important questions and some signed letters of support on the spot. Mr. MacLean will follow up with Michele Halsted of the Rural Heritage Connection who offered to write a letter of support from the organization.

Mr. Giles spoke in regards to the Hopkinton session. In attendance were members of the Hopkinton Board of Selectmen, the Conservation Commission and two members of the public. Hopkinton is somewhat familiar with the nomination process as the Contoocook River, which flows through town is already designated. Mr. Giles will follow up with the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission for letters of support.

Mr. Embley provided a synopsis of the Webster session. The session was sparsely attended; however, those who attended participated in constructive discussion and were very supportive of the project. The Webster Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission have already submitted letters of support.

Overall, the public information sessions went very well. The various audiences were generally very supportive of the project and they seemed to leave with a better understanding of the project and several attendees from sessions have already written personal letters of support. The committee expects more letters will come in over the next few months because of the public information sessions.

Looking Forward

The conversation stayed on the topic of letters of support so the committee jumped down the agenda to discuss additional people and organization to reach out to for letters. The following names were brought up:

- Trout Unlimited
- American Whitewater
- The Warner Historical Society
- Tom Pond/Pleasant Lake Management
- Lake Winnipocket
- Hopkinton Meadows Management
- Main Street Bookends
- Schoodacs Coffee & Tea
- RC Brayshaw & Company
- Bill Balsam
- Warner Fish & Game Club
- NH Fish & Game

Draft Status

Mr. Durfee provided the committee with an update regarding recent changes made to the nomination document. He stated that he has been putting together appendices which include the map set, documentation of riparian landowner notification, public notice of information sessions, the press release, the Warner River Watershed Study, and the public information session presentation. Mr.

Embley said we could send Mr. Durfee an electronic copy of the watershed study for the appendix.

Mr. Durfee went on to discuss the changing of the Davisville classification back to rural from community. He explained that the location of the Davisville dam makes it difficult to justify a community classification given that upstream of the dam, there are over dug gravel pits and downstream, if the classification was to begin at the dam, Webster's entire section of the river would be community. Mr. Embley reiterated the sentiment of the attendees of the Webster information session that a rural classification is desired. Ms. Hemingway voiced concern over changing the classification citing the potential desire of a future landowner at that site to rebuild the dam. Ms. Martin stated that she has reached out to the landowner (Mr. Warren) twice and has not heard back, but at the Webster session, his neighbors were there and they said they would be very surprised to know that Mr. Warren had any desire to rebuild the dam. Mr. MacLean reiterated that the location makes a community classification difficult and given the committee had expanded the first community classification to the Bradford town line to incorporate additional dams, it seems fair to keep the Davisville section rural.

Mr. Durfee continued by addressing items that are still needed for the draft. These included the Warner River Watershed Study, any publicity the project received in local papers, and a list of local publications relative to the Warner River.

Website

Ms. Connors updated the committee on what is needed to be updated on the website. She said that a single copy the PowerPoint for the public information session would be ideal with five separate documents for the different comparative analyses of the SWQPA and local zoning ordinances. Once the minutes from the public information session are complete, reviewed and approved, they will need to be posted to the website as well.

Other Business

Ms. Martin thought it would be a good idea to put together a "lessons learned" document for people and organizations attempting river nominations in the future. Some of the points brought up included noticing the meetings early and often, keeping the various Select Boards in the loop, making sure people feel heard at the public information sessions, and understanding the hierarchy between the local zoning ordinances, the SWQPA and the RMPP.

Next Meeting Date

2/15/2017

Meeting adjourned at 8:17PM