



WARNER RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<https://www.wrlac.com/>

MINUTES

Wednesday, 25 October 2023

7:00 p.m.

Pillsbury Free Library, Warner, NH

Appointed WRLAC Representatives present in **bold** (term ends):

George Embley, Webster (07-08-2024)

Marlene Freyler, Bradford (08-16-2024)

Rebecca Herman, Bradford (10- -2026)

Mike Howley, Bradford (06-22-2024)

Ken Milender, Warner (11-26-2024)

Dan Morrissey, Hopkinton (02-09-2025)

Laura Russell, Warner (11-26-2024)

Peter Savickas, Sutton (08-19-2025)

Christopher Spannweitz, Warner (11-26-2024)

Meeting convened at 7:10.

New Business

1. Introduction: Rebecca Herman is our new Bradford Rep. Welcome, Rebecca! Rebecca serves on the Bradford Conservation Commission, and she has been a generous volunteer for the VRAP program.
2. Meeting minutes for July 26 approved unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report - No updates
4. New permit applications - No new applications!
5. Other New Business (Chair and full comm.)
 - a. Communications with Sutton (new/refurbished) home at Sutton Lot 590-128

(driveway on Morse Lane). Meeting with Sutton ConComm 09/13/2023. Chair has not heard back. Pete has contacted the town admin; he has not heard back, and he will keep the Committee updated.

b. Other New Business

- TU doings: Under the auspices of the Bradford and Warner Conservation Commissions, the surveys of culverts in Warner (1) and Bradford (3) have been completed. TU has supplied equipment to both teams. Ben Nugent is writing for a grant to continue the culvert work in Warner (culverts in Ballard Brook and Red Chimney Rd). The Committee also discussed whether there will be work on a culvert in need of updating on Stevens Brook Rd and North Road in Sutton.
- Marlene asked for advice about how to push forward with flooding and run-off issues in the Lumber Barn area in Bradford. It was suggested that if there is not satisfaction in revisiting the issues with local officials then the citizens who are concerned should contact their state representative and senator.

Continuing Business.

1. Continuing permit applications (Chair): Four are more-or-less current news:

a. Schoodac Road/Barclay Brook culvert (Warner). DES Wetlands issued Town of Warner their wetlands permit with our requests on 8 Sept. Permit is attached to close this one out. b. Warner Village District RIBs. Hydraulic and chemical testing began much later than originally intended, and is currently in progress. No updates.

b. Breezy Hill Road AoT Application (Bradford). We submitted a short letter requesting DES to require site-specific infiltration testing for their infiltration basins, and a couple of other odds and ends (letter attached). The application was revised and resubmitted to DES (10/12/2023) and sent to us and Town of Bradford for another looksee.

1. Discussion continued about the importance of this committee getting information about intent-to-cut permits within the ½ mile buffer of the river so that there continues to be awareness of the impact of cutting that does not use best management practices.

2. Ken will find out more details about the state's responsibilities regarding timber cutting.

d. 107 Toms Pond Lane - Request for Shoreland Permit to allow the homeowners to rebuild stairs, a patio, and repair an eroding slope. This one came in after our last meeting. DES is reviewing.

e. Davisville Bridge. We received a letter from DOT that officially recaps and answers our questions and concerns for their new bridge design from the 04/27/2023 public hearing.

2. Website - No update. For a future agenda item: Should this Committee solicit donations?

3. VRAP Monitoring Update (Rebecca) - The VRAP program asks volunteers to gather data from rivers at multiple strategic sites (14 for the Warner River) to produce trending information about the health of the river. This information is used at the local, state, and federal level. Rebecca reviewed data that was available from [2019](#) and [2022](#) to give the Committee an idea of trends in different areas of measurement, particularly dissolved oxygen, PH levels, and turbidity. She noted that there seemed to be four sites that had less than ideal results:

Andrew Brook, Breezy Hill, Thistle Brook (Sutton) (high salt levels), and Davisville. Her conclusion is that overall, the data meet state requirements, but the four areas of concern should be noted.

- Secretary's note: Here are the [2020 data](#) and [2021 data](#)

- 4. [Instream Flow](#) project (Chair): DES performed test pulsing at Blaisdell Lake 09/17. DES plans to do the same at Kezar Lake 10/02 and Lake Todd 10/13. Heavy rains 09/18 will make their work on Blaisdell difficult. (They are looking to see that the test pulses are reflected in the stream gauge data at Davisville, which will also show the heavy rains.) Lake residents continue to have concerns about lowering the lake levels.

- 5. Public Events (Chris): Warner Fall Foliage Festival was the weekend of 6 – 8 October. Thanks to Chris for being the main staffer with assistance from Mike. Thanks also to George and TU for welcoming WLAC in a next-door booth. Finally, thanks to Katharine and Neil Nevins and MainStreet Bookends for allowing WRLAC to set up in their parking lot.

- 6. Nominating Subcommittee (Chair/Laura): WRLAC needs a Nominating Subcommittee to gather together Reps. to serve on the Executive Committee (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary). Call for volunteers!
Discussion
 - a. Since 2018, this committee has been led by the incomparable Kenneth Milender since 2018. He has led the committee with good humor, dedication, and technical expertise. He has decided to depart from the committee, and while we are sad about that, we are grateful for his leadership over the last five years.
 - b. The role of the next Chair can and should be whatever the capacity of the new chair would like it to be. While the impact of this committee up to now has clearly been on commenting and suggesting improvements to permit applications, it may be that the role of the committee will change under leadership with different priorities and skill sets. It would be great if a permit subcommittee could continue its work with members who have interest and expertise, while other committee members would pursue the other [priorities that we identified](#) in the [Warner River Corridor Management Plan](#).
 - c. Officially, there needs to be a nominating subcommittee to present a slate of officers for an executive committee. The role of the nominating subcommittee would be to gather names of nominees to present to the larger committee for a vote. Laura and Rebecca offered to be on the subcommittee.
 - i. There need to be nominees for Chair and Vice Chair.
 - ii. Laura has offered to continue as Secretary.
 - iii. Pete offered to take on Treasurer.

Next Meeting: Weds, December 6 at 7:00 PM at Pillsbury Library

Meeting adjourned at 9:05

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Russell, Secretary