



Town of Warner, New Hampshire  
Conservation Commission  
Wednesday, September 2, 2020  
Meeting Notes

Topic: Warner Conservation Commission

Time: September 2, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

WCC members present: Nancy Martin, Susi von Oettingen, Alice Chamberlin, Doug Allen, Ken Cogswell, Michael Amaral, Phil Stockwell

Public present: Tim Blagden (Concord/Lake Sunapee Rail Trail) , Joe Schmidl (Instream flow specialist, DES), Ken Milander (Warner River Local Advisory Committee) , Tracie Sales (Rivers and Lakes Management Protection Program, DES), Wayne Ives (NH DES instream flow specialist), Steve Brown

Meeting began 7:04 pm. Nancy Martin read the preamble disclaimer allowing the meeting to be held virtually.

1. Joe Schmidl (DES) - In Stream Flow Specialist discussed recent survey effort on the Warner River. Background – Warner River was one of the first rivers to be selected for the Protected Instream Flow program. Gomez and Sullivan (consultants) contracted to conduct a protected instream flow study, first field work conducted this year. Reconnaissance length of the river (Bradford to Hopkinton), about 18 river miles. Microhabitats mapped and analyzed, identified riparian areas to document effects of flooding (natural part of the ecosystem). Deepest and hardest parts of the river to travel, were at the highest part of the river. Further downstream, was easier to walk. Documented silver maple flood plain forest and one small sycamore flood plain forest. Also documented the river substrate, changes in width of the river, noted cover over the river and woody debris in the river. Identify what to study in greater detail, later. Will be modeling the flows at 6 locations in the river. Hydraulic study will model how the water moves through the river, will also develop a baseline (by running transects) to detect changes over time. Modeling looks at habitat variability and fish use, looks at what happens to the habitat as flows change over time with respect to fish response. Can document amount of habitat available to different fish species. Could guide protection/management efforts in the future. Identified impairments on the river, observed bank erosion, ATV use in the river. Will have a draft Protected Instream Flow Report that goes through the public hearing process before being finalized. Will have a second report for flow criteria, water use plan. Time frame – work will continue through 2021, finish in 2022.
2. Approve August Minutes - approved
3. 8/31 Submission of ARM application to replace Ballard Brook culvert – application for approximately \$150,000 to replace the down rivermost culvert on Ballard Brook. Received letters of support from adjoining town committees and landowners submitted to the Aquatic Resource Mitigation fund. Hope to apply for additional funds to replace the remaining 2 culverts in the future.

4. Archeological study on I-89 DOT lot is complete – Tim Blagden. Study was conducted, the area where the rail trail would be built, the land was already disturbed and no further study would be required. Was sent to the DOT and forwarded to the Dept. of Historical Resources. The 2+ acres has been declared surplus, just need the bounds to be set. This lot is adjacent to the 9 acre parcel that is river front and will be conserved and not disturbed.
5. Budget- Expenditure for Protected River Signs of \$196 requested. Would like to place two on 103 going towards Bradford. Moved and voted in favor to purchase the set of signs.
6. Possible Wetlands Violation- no response to WCC letter. Nancy will send the BOS a copy of WCC letter.
7. Monitoring Reports-Changes to current form-Nancy. Nancy Martin will make copies to put in the files. The digital version will be available for WCC members to use. Reports will be scanned and saved digitally. Nancy will investigate where to store the photos and digital files. Tim Blagden requested a copy of the easement monitoring template to use as a base for the Rail Trail easement monitoring reports. Doug Allen will assist Nancy Martin in discussing about digital files with Dan Watts.
8. Bat discussion with SPNHF- postponed for a later time.
9. Mink Hills Oversight/Protection Committee- Clyde’s nominations. Signage has been placed on roads that are not open to ATVs. Violations have been observed, need additional signage on the Henniker/Warner borders to redirect ATVs that are accessing closed roads.
10. Forestry/Wetlands Permits- nothing to report.
11. Communications
  - a. Ordway Woods (Whitford LT-DR) – SPNHF is ready to monitor Ordway Woods where the “Great Tree” is located. Suggestion to postpone the educational walk for the general public.
  - b. LAC letter re Exit 9 development – sent a letter to the Warner Planning Board. Concerns are primarily related to storm water management, road salts and other chemicals draining into the wetlands. The Warner LAC sent a letter to DES, urging DES not to consider the application complete (WCC has a copy of the letter). Public Hearing on the proposed development will be held September 14 at the Planning Board’s zoom meeting.
  - c. Ingold/Duncan Non-Profit – Warner Area Community Land Trust a non-profit organization to provide a framework for affordable housing, sustainable agriculture and land conservation. Nancy Martin read a document summarizing the Warner Area Community Land Trust. Volunteers and interested public are encouraged to participate in development of the property. Land to be purchased in Warner to restore the buildings and make it into a working farm with affordable housing.
12. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.