



Town of Warner, New Hampshire  
Conservation Commission  
January 6, 2021  
Meeting Minutes

Preliminary preamble regarding the virtual meeting read by Nancy Martin.

Conservation Commission members present: Nancy Martin, Susi von Oettingen, Doug Allen, Ken Cogswell, Alice Chamberlin, Michael Amaral.

Members of the Public present: none

Meeting began at 7:09 pm.

### AGENDA

1. Approve December Minutes – Minutes approved with a minor correction.
2. Early Survey Results- As of January 6, 2021 111 completed surveys. One week left for survey submissions.
3. Workforce Housing Update – Alice Chamberlin and Nancy Martin sat in on the Planning Board meeting regarding changes to the zoning for workforce housing. Two proposals that try to address workforce housing. One is an update of Warner’s ordinance to bring into compliance with state regulation and make it easier to comprehend for the Town and developers. The core of the substantive change is that the overlay workforce housing district would be expanded to include the C1 and the Intervale area (would be by right instead of special exception where the development would have to be brought in front of the Planning Board). Would be closer to commercial areas and areas for potential commercial growth would occur. May intersect with concerns with groundwater protection. A second proposal would allow multi-family dwellings to be built in C1 and Intervale districts, specifically an accessory building that could be built within 75 feet of the home, but must be in compliance with other existing zoning regulations. Has a similar intent to the first proposal. Question for both proposals is how these proposals would protect the water supply (groundwater). Questions from the Conservation Commission should focus on the impacts to groundwater (should we consider to submit any). Suggest discussing groundwater protection and impacts from the proposals with the Warner River Local Advisory Committee (Warner River LAC) and coordinate questions and/or response to the proposals.
4. Update Groundwater and Storm Water regs for Warner - Alice will provide a preliminary email summarizing groundwater and storm water regs for consideration to the Warner Conservation Committee. Recommendation is to discuss how to develop the regulations with Ken Milender (who proposed regs a few years ago). Secondly, review state information on how to get organized to develop groundwater regs. Step 1 – threat assessment and case statement (the why to protect groundwater), then need to enlist other town organizations support in development of protective regulations. Will continue the conversation with the subcommittee (Alice Chamberlin, Doug Allen, Scott Warren). Preliminary review of Town survey – protecting water resources is one of the highest, if not the highest priority (to date). Subcommittee members could attend a Warner River LAC meeting in January for information and follow up discussions.

5. Mink Hills Recreation Study Committee – has not met since the previous Warner Conservation Commission meeting. Next meeting will be next week. Nancy Martin suggested reviewing the Revised Work Plan and provide comments.
  - a. Revised Work Plan
  - b. Maps- Drop Box-  
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qqek34gld1zzgv/AAAzupLcrjZx4baP3adzScC2a?dl=0>
6. Trails for People and Wildlife- <https://wildlife.state.nh.us/trails/>
7. Update on Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNF) timber management discussion – December 28, 2020 email from Gabe Roxby, SPNF to Susi von Oettingen, WCC – SPNF is offering to host a zoom meeting to discuss how SPNF plans and manages timber harvests. Recommended hosting a stand-alone meeting with the WCC and the Sutton Conservation Commission, who hold a secondary executory interest in the conservation easement on the property and may very well be interested in much of this information as well. Tentative date is February 17 (works for WCC members) 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm or 5:30 pm. SPNF would give a short overview of the planning that goes into harvests, and then facilitate a discussion and answer questions regarding their timber operations, including the Black Mountain harvest. Susi will confirm the date/time with Gabe.
8. Protecting the Sycamore Floodplain Forest- Tentative site visit Saturday, January 30, 11:00 am, meet at the sewage treatment plant. Michael Amaral offered to do a reconnaissance of access to the site prior to the meeting.
9. Monitoring Reports-Dan Watts – no new information.
10. Forestry/Wetlands Permits- Link to DES wetland and shorelands permit query on the WCC website. This link will help the WCC summarize permits authorized in Warner for 2020. See <https://www4.des.state.nh.us/lrmonestop/LRMQuery.aspx>. Will continue to search a way to summarize forestry permits, Ken Cogswell will confirm with Land Use Office for summary of 2020 forestry permits (intent to cut).
11. Communications – nothing new
12. Meeting adjourned 8:17 pm.