



Town of Warner, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission
February 3, 2021
Meeting Minutes – Approved

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, Phil Stockwell, Scott Warren.

Members of the Public present: Ken Milender (Chair of Warner River Local Advisory Committee), Craig Tufts,

Meeting began at 7:09 pm.

AGENDA

1. Results of 2020 Conservation Commission Survey- Craig Tufts (CNHRPC) – 131 people answered the survey. There were a number of individual comments, should be reviewed for additional information. Will parcel comments into categories. Results of survey will be sent to the Warner Conservation Commission (WCC) as a pdf. Will send a spreadsheet as well for additional analysis. Craig reviewed the survey. The most important resources identified by the respondents focused on water source/supply, river and stream conservation, and wildlife conservation.
2. Approve January Minutes – Approved with one minor edit.
3. Groundwater Subcommittee Update- A. Chamberlin, S. Warren & K. Milender
Reviewed first attempt to put forth a groundwater protection ordinance in 2014, discussed process at that time. The draft ordinance failed to gain support at the Planning Board level after the public hearing. Propose to engage stakeholders much earlier in the process, provide early outreach. Next steps – develop an outreach strategy and materials, engage municipal partners, review other ordinances, reach out to DES, partner with the Precinct to coordinate an approach, review whether a Town water resources plan could be developed (either as a separate document or within the Master Plan as an appendix).
4. Zoning Changes on Workforce Housing – A. Chamberlin
Amendments to zoning to be added as warrant articles for Town Meeting. A warrant that may be at the Town Meeting will be to establish a commission to study the different avenues of agritourism and assess impacts to surrounding neighborhood. Update of work force housing in the zoning ordinance proposed by the Planning Board will be on the ballot.
5. Mink Hills Recreation Study Committee Update- N. Martin
Next meeting is February 9 in the morning. Have been presenting background information at prior meetings, will open discussion at the next weekend to specific topics including identification of natural/cultural resources, existing uses, education/awareness of residents about natural resources, and resident issues concerning the Mink Hills.

6. SPNHF Forestry Practices on Black Mountain 2/17 @ 4:00 -5:30 – email from Gabe Roxby of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (January 26, 2021) has information and link to a Zoom meeting and a storymap. <https://forestsoociety.org/cutting-trees-conservation-storymap> that explains the timber harvest process.
7. Sycamore Floodplain Forest Update- M. Amaral.
Not really a forest, just a very few sycamore trees. Better to visit when walking conditions are good. Could look into whether there is natural regeneration.
8. Monitoring Reports-Dan Watts (not present)
N. Martin and D. Allen will coordinate with Dan to develop a plan to store WCC documents digitally.
9. Forestry/Wetlands Permits- K. Cogswell
Three intent to cuts filed on the Town Website (and posted) this year. One is an extension of an existing cut, and two new ones. Might be worth a site visit to the Windsor Peak Forest. Ken will try to connect with landowners.
10. Deed for 9 acre NHDOT parcel (Map7;Lot 1) and 2.9 acre I-89 ROW completed.
11. Communications
Several letters received about a landowner who may be out of compliance with a DES shorelands permit. A building was erected too close to the river in violation of state DES permitting. DES is looking into it.
12. DES Wetlands Signs –
N. Martin has wetland signs that provide information regarding what are wetland violations including crossing wetlands via vehicles. Will be identifying areas that are being damaged by illegal vehicles for signage.
13. Meeting adjourned 8:25 pm.