



# TOWN OF WARNER

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Board of Selectmen  
Clyde Carson, Chairman  
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Town Administrator  
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**June 22, 2021**

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, 7:00 pm**

### **1. Roll Call/Attendance**

**Roll Call:** Clyde Carson, Chairman, Sam Bower, Selectman  
Diane Ricciardelli, Town Administrator (Taking meeting minute notes, testing ZOOM with microphone as well as recording with micro cassette)

Audience members present: Several

### **2. Appointments:**

#### **A. David Bates – Town Center Signage for Municipal Parking Location**

David said he was at a recent Kearsarge Chamber of Commerce meeting a couple weeks ago. It was mentioned that better signage around the municipal parking lots would be useful. There is an agreement with the school district to allow public parking in the Simonds School parking lot during summer hours and non-school hours. The Chamber has offered to pay for the signs, so David wondered if the Selectmen would put signs up on the other lots as well.

Chair Carson said 1 lot at Warner Power is a municipal lot. He thinks it would be the Town's responsibility to put signs up. He knows that Tim Allen thinks the lot should be striped if they are allowing parking there. Chair Carson said they could add some signs to show that parking is available, but he wondered where the sign would go and what the appropriate language could be.

Chair Carson thought a good project for the Chamber was to update the post sign near where *The Local* restaurant was - it has signs with directional arrows on it; it could be updated to reflect the current businesses in town. The various right of ways for the Town were discussed. Chair Carson said in the short term, some signage could be added to help people know where to park. Tim Allen would be consulted.

### **3. Old/Continued Business**

#### **A. Opening to the Public**

##### **a. Transfer Station**

It was noted that the area at the Transfer Station taking construction has been opened - Barriers have been taken away. The next step will be return to charging residents fees for things dropped off with disposal costs to the Town. The Board would like to discuss this with Varick Proper, Foreman at the Transfer Station. Chair Carson said that when people deposit things they want to use a debit card to pay. Diane said that the Town has the capability to do this, although it may be challenging if there isn't any cell service at the transfer station. Sam said that some systems allow you to charge and then upload the information later. One of Varick's complaints for tipping fees is the time it takes to record it. The transfer station would still handle cash payments.

Chair Carson said that the next meeting at the transfer station would be a follow up to the last meeting with Varick. After some discussion, it was agreed next Thursday, July 1, 2021, at 4pm would work for the Selectmen. Diane said she would contact Varick.

### **b. In Person Meetings**

Diane said the Town was under the belief that equipment for upgraded Zoom capabilities (microphones, cameras) would be covered by a grant but they aren't sure now. For now, Diane said the Town is all in-person for every meeting.

It was asked about minutes being posted. Chair Carson said they need a procedure to notify people that minutes are available in draft form through the Selectman's office. It was noted that the Planning Board and the Zoning Board wait until minutes are approved before posting. Sam said that the draft minutes are always pretty good. The content is usually very good. Sam is in favor of posting draft minutes.

Chair Carson commented that the Town is using outside resources and they may not be available on time. Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) had a similar conversation and wondered if the Town could purchase software that will record and write out the minutes. Diane said a person is still needed to go through the minutes because the software isn't perfect, things still need to be checked.

Sam and Chair Carson said they would like to have the recording available for people. They won't post draft minutes until approved. There could either be a direct link to the Zoom, or if technically not possible, then an audio recording would suffice.

Judy said that when people know about the meeting then they may look for minutes. Statute requires minutes be available within 5 business days even if they are draft status. If the Town posted on its' website the RSA and where draft minutes, Zoom links or audios are available prior to approval, then it would meet the requirements.

## **B. Davisville Bridge Replacement Mitigation Ideas**

It was noted that the Conservation Commission and the Historical Society had provided feedback on mitigation ideas. Sam thought the ideas were good. Diane said that the Chamber of Commerce sent their support of the project and wanted the telephone pole at 103 intersection moved for safety reasons. It was noted that the moving of that pole was not included in the project by the State, but Diane said she would ask again if it could be done. Chair Clyde would combine the input and send it to The Department of Transportation (DOT).

## **C. Agricultural Commission**

### **1. Membership**

Sam said that they hoped to hold interviews for candidates on Thursday or Monday. There are eight seats available, which is the same number of applicants that have submitted applications so far. There are also *three* appointed members. Judy is scheduling the interviews. Town Board and Commission Representatives are:

- a. Planning Board Representative – James Gaffney
- b. Conservation Commission Representative – Michael Amaral

### **4. New Business**

#### **A. Zoning Board of Adjustment, Alternate Member Recommendations**

Jim Zablocki and Lucinda McQueen have indicated they would like to be alternates. Sam opined that both candidates seemed to be good as they were introduced at the last ZBA meeting. (Sam is a Member of the ZBA) The Selectmen would meet with both candidates, potentially the following Monday, July 5, 2021 at 6:30 pm, after

the candidates are contacted on their availability. It was noted that one candidate is also a candidate for the Agricultural Commission whose candidates will be interviewed by the Board at another time. ZBA Alternate follow up will be part of the regular select board meeting on July 6, 2021, a public meeting.

### **B. American Recovery Program (ARP) Funds**

Diane said this is the grant money coming to the Town that they don't have to apply for but have to document how it is spent. \$152,000 is the first installment which should arrive by July 1<sup>st</sup>. The second \$152,000 comes a year later. In that time, they will learn more about how the money can be spent. The guidelines are more narrow than what they had originally thought. There are informational sessions being held regularly that Diane and Chair Carson have and will attend.

Diane said that the funds must be obligated by 12/31/2024, and must be expended by 12/2026. Chair Carson said the Board will invite stake-holders to meet regarding the funds.

Chair Carson commented that the money is generally spent on people who suffered due to COVID 19. The first thing is to get the money. Then they need to understand guidelines of use, then solicit input from the community. Child care is a popular topic as is the food pantry and community support programs. Diane said that they are still learning how to receive the money and how it may be used.

### **C. Off Highway Road Vehicle (OHRV) Traffic – Henniker Side of Mink Hill**

Nancy Martin, Conservation Commission Chair, forwarded an email to the Selectmen about All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) traffic from Henniker side of Mink Hills Road to Warner, the traffic has not slowed down. Chair Carson asked if the Selectmen could write to the Henniker Selectmen and ATV Club to point out that the road is closed on the Warner side - closed to ATV traffic at the Warner town line. If they drive regardless of signs, then it becomes an enforcement issue. It was noted that Henniker allows the ATV traffic on their portion of the road.

Judy said she forwarded to the Board another email from December from a resident that stated that by Warner closing some trails, then the entrance to trails on State Route 114, Henniker, will increase and that is where ATVs are coming in even though this road was closed to the ATV traffic, it is still being heavily used.

Chair Carson said he thinks the Selectmen could send a letter to Henniker Selectmen and the ATV club asking if they can post a sign. A positive response was the hope.

It was noted that the ATVs are headed to the Mink Hills area in Warner. They have to go quite a distance on class VI roads in Warner to get to a legal road.

Nancy Martin said that when you come off of Rt114, you have to travel quite a while before getting to trails. After the Warner town line, they are on prohibited roads.

Sam asked if there is a way to put something in the way to impede passing of the road. Clyde reminded everyone that the road still has to be passable. Class VI roads have to remain open, per RSA. The Town has other options to deal with this at Town Meeting.

Judy was asked to draft a letter to the Henniker Selectmen and the ATV club. Judy added that the Mink Hills Recreational Study Committee has information on Town website about the trails and general area of the Mink Hills.

## 5. Selectman's Other Business

- Chair Carson said that the State is putting together a 10-year energy strategy. They are asking for input. The Energy Committee is working on a set of comments that will be reviewed at their Wednesday meeting and submitted to the State. Chair Carson said he would share the comments with everyone.

- Chair Carson said a subcommittee, created by the Select Board earlier this year, is working on the topic of "Community Power". Their task is to create a *Community Power Plan* for the Town for Town Meeting. They have looked at some other towns to learn how they went about setting up such a plan. Sam asked if this is a "build your own power" plan. Currently, if you want to contract with a company other than Eversource, you could go with another company, some are low cost, some are green companies. As an individual, you get their published rate. Community Power allows a town or a county to put aggregate power together, and shop the market like a big company. The rate we would get is more favorable than what you would get from the state as an individual.

Sam asked if he could get a better deal, does it just change by a switch? Chair Carson answered in the affirmative. Eversource would still bill for delivery, but who supplies the power would change.

The NH Community Power Coalition has been formed to help towns put together their plans, and be available to help with back office services. They make their money off the back office part. The Town could use help in putting together their plan. We have been asked to become a member of their coalition. Henry Herndon is the person helping towns and asks that we become part of the coalition. Tonight we are making people aware that we are looking into it.

## 6. Town Administrator Report

- Diane said that the audit is done, and was done much faster than in previous years. The auditors commented that our books are in great shape, and this is thanks to Kelly Henley who took last year to get everything organized and this year the audit ran very smoothly as a result.

- Senator Shaheen asked which of the five grant applications that we submitted would be the one that the Senator should move forward at the federal level, which is in committee now. The rail-trail at Exit 8 is the one she chose after talking to Tim Blagden. It is a \$2.1 million-dollar project. The grant would help by funding \$200k towards the engineering study. The Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail organization would raise the funds needed, and the grant would provide the rest. There would not be a cost to the Town.

## 7. Review of Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Clyde Carson and seconded by Sam Bower to approve the Selectman's minutes of 4/27/21, 5/4/21, 5/18/21 as circulated.

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

## 8. Non-Public Session

- A. Motion by Carson / Bower to go into Non-public Session under:  
91-A:3 II(b) - hiring a public employee
- B. Second: Carson / Bower
- C. Vote by roll call: Carson: YES / ~~NO~~ Bower: YES / ~~NO~~
- D. Motion: **PASSED** / ~~FAILED~~
- E. Enter Non-public Session: Time 8:11 pm

F. Return to Public Session: Time: 8:39 pm

G. Motion by Carson on Non-public minutes: ~~Available or~~ **Sealed  
Permanently – Personnel**

H. Second: ~~Carson~~ / **Bower**

I. Vote by roll call: Carson: **YES** / ~~NO~~ Bower: **YES** / ~~NO~~

J. Motion on Minutes: **PASSED** / ~~FAILED~~

Adjourn at 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary