



## WARNER RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

Wednesday, 24 February 2021

7:00 p.m.

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

Bruce Edwards, Bradford (10-8-2021)

**Linden Rayton**, Hopkinton (11-26-2021)

**Scott MacLean**, Bradford (10-8-2021)

**J. Michael Norris**, Hopkinton (11-26-2021)

Susan Roman, Webster (10-12-2021)

**David White**, Hopkinton (11-26-2021)

**Ken Milender**, Warner (11-26-2021)

**Robert Wright**, Sutton (05-10-2022)

**Laura Russell**, Warner (11-26-2021)

**Andy Jeffrey**, Sutton (07-29-2022)

**Christopher Spannweitz**, Warner (11-26-2021)

**Peter Savickas**, Sutton (08-19-2022)

Doug Giles, Hopkinton (11-26-2021)

**Dan Moran**, Webster (09-03-2022)

**Invited Guests:** none

Meeting came to order at 7:02 PM.

Chair read the state of emergency notice allowing the meeting to be conducted on zoom. Chair recorded the meeting.

#### *Continuing Business*

1. Meeting minutes of Jan 27 were approved by unanimous roll call vote.
2. Treasurer's report
  - a. No account activity
  - b. Report was approved by unanimous roll call vote.
3. Warner River Corridor Management Plan (Chair)
  - a. CNHRPC submitted our corridor management plan to DES on 8 Feb. We await DES's response. WRLAC considers the effort and the resulting Plan to be complete.
  - b. Chair will schedule meeting with Sutton CC during March to close out our visits with the riverfront towns' conservation commissions. Then we'll schedule meetings to introduce ourselves to the town planning boards.
  - c. Dan reminded us that some towns may have changed their town meeting dates due to the ongoing Covid emergency.

4. Permit Applications – In Progress. Warner (Intervale), Comet, LLC proposal for 9 Route 103 West (at Exit 9).
  - a. Warner PB continued the public hearing to 1 February. At that meeting, Applicant informed Warner PB that they might be reducing the proposed development to be only the standalone Dunkin’ Donuts shop at this time (retail market conditions have deteriorated the past year or so, reducing tenant interest) in the proposed 7,200 S.F. retail building.
  - b. Applicant submitted information requested by WRLAC and DES-AoT by their deadline, which was extended to 11 February. DES has reviewed and had additional comments.
  - c. Application review subcommittee is reviewing.
  - d. Warner PB will continue the Public Hearing at their 1 March meeting.
  - e. Discussion
    - i. Question: Stormwater plan looks unchanged; should it be updated if the applicant is not going to proceed with some of the proposed buildings?
    - ii. Ken: Typically, if an applicant decides to scale back a project from the original proposal, plans for the entire proposal would stay in the application so that if or when the applicant decides to proceed, the plan has already been approved. There is an “expiration date” for permits, however, so an applicant might have to re-apply if the original, full build-out is not largely completed by the permit expiration date.
  
5. [Website](#) Update – Discussion: How to leverage the power of the website?
  - a. Linden: Create and post a list of walks/hikes within the Corridor. The links would be linked to other websites so as to give those organizations credit for their work. Based on that list, WRLAC could plan and advertise a couple of guided walks in the spring to showcase and educate community members about the river and its natural and cultural resources and history. Afterwards, the event could then be summarized and posted on the website. When the list or guide is ready, the “donate” button can go live at the same time. Linden, Dave, and Chris will spearhead the effort to produce a guidebook for the website.
  - b. We could (and probably will!) expand this guide to the full Warner River Watershed.
  - c. Sponsor and post information about talks by community members (Abenaki Trail; Hopkinton’s LAC member Bonnie Christie, etc). These talks could be sponsored by WRLAC or cosponsored with other allies.
  - d. Compile a list of key words or tags to make it more likely that web searches would bring up WRLAC’s website.
  - e. Paid advertising: In his work drafting the proposal for NE Grass Roots, Pete has identified where to place ads and the approximate costs for ads
  - f. Free advertising: What are some sources that we could make use of?
  - g. Chair will distribute a spreadsheet for al Reps to fill in their memberships and contacts in our allied organizations (SPNHF, Ausbon-Sargent, 5 Rivers Trust, etc.). The spreadsheet will be used to create a master list that will help us in reaching out to these other organizations.
  
6. WRLAC Outreach
  - a. Bob has sent letters introducing WRLAC to all of the towns as well as to several local publications. He will contact Webster’s “Grapevine” and Judy Lowe of the InterTown Record.

- b. Dan agreed to be Communications Director.
7. Grants and things
- a. See items #5, 6
  - b. Pete submitted our application for grant funding to New England Grass Roots, and has been applying to Wal Mart. He expects to hear back from New England Grass Roots in the next week or so.

*New Business*

1. The terms of service for 10 Committee members expire during 2021.
  - a. Chair will distribute application forms to all Reps. Reps need to apply for reappointment by Labor Day. The process is the same as our original appointments (recommended by our Selectboards, who send our town-approved applications to DES). Reps seeking to retire should notify Chair by email prior to Labor Day.
2. Outreach with Towns
  - a. With 2021 now upon us, renewed urgency to insert ourselves into the towns' GIS mapping, websites, and land-use regulations and forms.
3. Other Action Items for 2021
  - a. Scott: Bradford may begin talking about adding the WRLAC to its master plan.
  - b. Scott: Tall Pines Natural Area – Perhaps WRLAC can participate in a one-time clean-up of the area. All agreed!!
  - c. Dave will invite Sherry Gould to join us in March or April to discuss the Abenaki Trails Project.

**HOMEWORK:** Prioritizing WRLAC's next steps – Reps should review Appendix B in the Corridor Management Plan and identify 3 actions that we can “easily” take, 2 actions that would require a bit more planning/effort, and 1 action that is long-range that we could start working on this year.

Meeting adjourned 8:58 PM

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 7 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Russell, Secretary