

Town of Warner, New Hampshire

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

December 2011

Selectmen's Office
(603)456-2298 ext. 2
selectboard@warner.nh.us

Monday - Wednesday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
www.warner.nh.us

Laura Buono
Town Administrator
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From the Town Administrator

I hope you all had a very happy holiday season in whatever manner you celebrated and that your new year is filled with happiness and good health!

With the holiday season comes our end of the year routine as well as putting the final touches on the budget for the upcoming year. The budget process is moving along and you will find the Budget Committee's meeting schedule within this newsletter. During the budget preparation, the Selectmen, Town Administrator and Department Heads were very cognizant of the economy and have put together and presented to the Budget Committee, a lean budget. There are still changes which may occur in the proposed budget as the process continues and discussions take place between the Selectmen and Budget Committee.

Insulation work is completed in the Town Hall and combined with a more efficient furnace that was put in earlier in the year; we're hoping we will realize a savings on heating fuel. There was also a change made to the employee health insurance plan for the 2012 year which will enable us to save money while still offering the employees good insurance coverage. Also in an effort to save money, the decision has been made to no longer mail town reports out. We have found that a large amount of town reports that are mailed get thrown out so this year, reports can be picked up either at the Library or the Town Hall and will be available in hard copy at the beginning of March and will also be viewable on our website.

On the State level, a new law was enacted (RSA 674:39-aa) and effective July 24, 2011 which enables anyone who owns real estate lots that were involuntarily merged by municipal action may be able to have those lots restored to their pre-merger status. If you are unsure whether your property falls into this category, please feel free to speak with our assessing office about it and to inquire as to what steps you should take to request the lots be restored.



For the upcoming town meeting season, petitioned warrant articles are accepted until the close of business on February 7, 2012. Petitioned articles must have a minimum of 25 signatures of registered voters in the Town of Warner. Once an article is submitted, the signatures are checked against the list of registered voters for verification. As long as the article has been properly submitted, it is posted to the Warrant. Any questions or problems with petitioned articles are brought to the attention of the submitter for clarification or corrections so the earlier an article is submitted the better in case corrections or additional signatures are needed.

Anyone wishing to file for candidacy for positions such as Selectman, Budget Committee, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Trustees of Trust Funds, etc. can do so from January 25th – February 3rd. These positions/offices consist of paid full-time positions with benefits, stipend positions and volunteer positions. There are also volunteer positions on non-elected committees which will be opening so watch for those on our website.

Please remember that if you are a Veteran, you may qualify for a Veterans' Exemption on your taxes. Warner also offers an elderly exemption which may be of interest to residents who fall within the age/asset ranges. Forms are available in the Assessing Office for these and other exemptions offered by the Town.

Remember if you would like to attend any meetings but are not sure when they are held, you can check our online calendar by visiting our website at www.warner.nh.us. Meeting minutes for various committees are posted on the website or copies can be obtained either from the Selectmen's Office, Land Use Office, or the Town Clerk's Office.

From the Fire Department

At the December department meeting the members of the Warner Fire Department choose Edward P. Raymond as their new chief. Chief Dick Brown has been the leader of the department for 24 years. We thank Dick for all that he has brought to the department. Dick has said that he would like to stay on the department and continue to serve the people of Warner. Dick's dedication to the Town of Warner for the last 30+ years should not go unnoticed.

Chief Raymond has been with the Warner Fire Department also for 30+ years and had been Deputy Chief until his election as Chief. We all wish him well in his new position!

Other business at the department includes the ongoing project of designing a new Fire Station. We now have a design and a lot to build it on. We are working with the Selectmen's office for permits and direction to move this project forward.

The members of the Warner Fire/Rescue would like to thank the citizens of our town for their support and to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

As always we are looking for residents to join the department. If you are interested in becoming a Firefighter or EMT please contact the department for info on what it means to be a member of the Warner Fire Department.

From the Conservation Commission

On December 8, the Board of Selectmen signed a conservation easement agreement for the permanent protection of a 21.8 acre parcel of land adjacent to Tory Meadow Pond. The property owners, Dennis and Jeanne Sturms, granted the easement to the Town as a NHDES ordered mitigation for unpermitted alteration of wetlands on land they own in Henniker. This property, along with two adjacent pieces under conservation easement, totaling about 100 acres, protect the immediate watershed of Tory Meadow Pond and related wetlands. Under terms of the Sturms easement, the property will remain undeveloped, with good forest management to be practiced. The agreement requires a 250 foot buffer from the pond's edge of undisturbed vegetation preserved to protect water quality. Public access for recreational uses is guaranteed as well.

The Conservation Commission wishes to thank the Sturms' for their interest in protecting this parcel, not only because of its important natural values, but also for its significance as a recreational resource for many town residents. It contains a major trail used by hikers, snowmobilers, skiers, and mountain bikers in both summer and winter. While the Sturms' could have simply paid a fine to the State as restitution, they sought to find a tract of land that they could purchase and permanently protect. The Commission was contacted in early 2011 and has worked since to bring about this desired result. All of the costs associated with securing the property, paying for its survey and necessary legal services have been borne by the Sturms, as well as a \$2,000 contribution to the Town's conservation fund. Thanks are also due to Brian Hotz of the Forest Society for crafting the agreement and for his efforts in making it happen.

From the Pillsbury Free Library

Downloadable books: To handle the increased demand for free downloadable ebooks due to the new Kindle compatibility with Overdrive, participating NH libraries are increasing their annual payments by 25% to ensure plenty of new titles are purchased. Any individual can also donate towards title purchases for this shared service. Ask us.

Classes on downloading our free ebooks and audio books will be held in January and February. Scheduled so far: Getting free Kindle ebooks, Tuesday January 24 at 7 pm, by Tom Joseph. Check for more on the online Warner Calendar at <http://warner.lib.nh.us/> or the events list at <http://facebook.com/pillsburyfreelibrary> .

Museum Passes: Many thanks to the [Kearsarge Indian Museum](#) (MKIM) and the [NH Telephone Museum](#) (NHTM) for providing Warner with free passes to their fine museums again this year. Please remember to thank them if you visit. NHTM is open Tues. and Saturday all winter. Call us to book a pass. [Museum of Fine Arts, Boston:](#) After letting this lapse for a few months due to increased cost, this pass has now been renewed. MFA coupons reduce the entrance fee to \$7 per person (Usual cost is \$22). Youth 17 and under are free. Entry to special exhibitions is included (Current exhibition: Degas). We also have passes to [The Currier Gallery](#) in Manchester, [The Museum of N.H. History](#) in Concord, and [The Fells](#) in Newbury.

Online resources: the State Library has had to make cutbacks in online resources they purchase for NH residents, and so it is now up to local towns to pay if they want their libraries to provide access to some of them. Last year we started paying for Ancestry Library (genealogy), and in 2012 we will lose HeritageQuest unless we pay for it. HeritageQuest can be accessed from home, Ancestry only from the library. We have been buying Mango online language system for 2 years, but usage of this expensive resource has dropped off lately. If you value these resources, please let us know, asap.

Trustees' news: The library wishes to thank Larry Sullivan for his considerable contributions to the Board and to library activities during his time as Trustee. There are currently two openings on the Board. Anyone who is interested in being appointed until March, and/or in being elected to the Board of Trustees in March, should submit their names at the Town Clerk's office.

Upcoming events: Movies: (7 PM) Fridays Jan. 20 (Gasland), Feb. 17 (Broken Limbs)

After School Crafts: (3 PM) Wed. January 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 21

Tech talks: Tuesdays (7 PM) Jan. 24 (Kindle ebooks), Jan. 31, Feb. 6. Topics TBA

Tuesdays (9:30 AM): Jan. 17 (Audio Books), Jan. 24 (ebooks), Jan. 31, Feb. 6

Residential Customers of the Warner Village Water District

The Warner Village Water District is applying for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA). The purpose of the application is to help pay for the construction of a second clarifier at the wastewater treatment plant. The lack of a backup clarifier has been identified by the State as a deficiency that should be corrected. Utilizing grant funds to address this problem will minimize the cost to residents who use the system.

A survey of the residential users of the system must be conducted to determine if the District is eligible for the grant. Since the grants are given out based partly on income, we are asking households in the precinct to complete a survey that asks for information on their household, including income.

The District has enlisted the help of RCAP Solutions, Inc., the Northeast Rural Community Assistance Partnership, which is a non-profit organization that helps small communities throughout New Hampshire

and other states. Completed surveys will be delivered to them, and no one, in town, or elsewhere, other than RCAP, will see the surveys. THE SURVEY IS COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL. Data specific to users will not be conveyed to anyone.

If you are in a household in the precinct receiving sewer services, you should already have received the income survey in the mail. The District Commissioners ask for your assistance in filling out the form and returning it in the self-addressed stamped envelope. Follow-up canvassing may be necessary, and if so, volunteers wearing identification tags will likely visit to conduct the survey in person.

The District Commissioners thank respondents for their cooperation. Inquiries can be directed to Peg McLaughlin, Administrative Assistant at 456-1890.

From the Budget Committee

2012 Budget

Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.
located at the Town Hall

Thursday, January 5

Thursday, January 12

Thursday, January 19

Thursday, January 26 (Snow Date)

Thursday, February 9 Public Hearing

Thursday, February 16 Final Vote

Public Notices

Presidential Primary Election

The polls will be open on Tuesday January 10, 2012 beginning at 8:00 A.M. and closing not earlier than 7:00 P.M.

Parking Ban

The Town of Warner's parking ban is in effect and states that no vehicle may be left on any street, road, or highway in the Town of Warner between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 a.m., from November 1st until May 1st of each year. Any vehicle found to be in violation of this ban will be towed away at the owner's expense.

Merged Lots

If you own real estate lots that were involuntarily merged by municipal action, you may be able to have those lots restored to their pre-merger status. Please read this document for further information.

Ref: RSA 674:39-aa