

Town of Warner, New Hampshire

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

Fall 2014

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.
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Great Opportunities, Due Diligence and Hard Choices!

Towns, like families, often find that their needs and desires are sometimes greater than their resources for meeting these needs and desires. Warner is no exception and the Board of Selectmen is confronted with some hard choices as to what projects or acquisitions to support and what opportunities a town must forego. The Board of Selectmen have been hard at work performing the due diligence on a number of "Big Ticket" projects that the Town is obligated to address or is a potentially great opportunity for Warner. Here are a few projects the Board is working on and hope to present at Town Meeting:

1. Roundabout near Exit 9 - The engineering firm of McFarland/Johnson is completing the final design phase for the Roundabout and construction could begin after July 2015. This project is a State reimbursement program where the NH Dept. of Transportation reimburses the Town for 66% of the project cost. However, the Town has to raise about \$600,000 first and then receive \$400,000 from the NHDOT after the project is complete. The reimbursements from the State will go directly to the Town's general fund balance. The Selectmen's office is investigating financing options as well as potential tax impacts of securing and spending these funds within one year.

2. The New Fire Station - This spring, the Alternate Sites Committee met for six weeks reviewing suitable alternative sites for a new fire station. Using a set of criteria and qualifications for evaluating the suitability of a parcel as a potential site. The Committee reviewed and ranked over 30 parcels of land in town and presented the Board of Selectmen their four top ranked parcels. The Selectmen will hold a Public Information Session on Tuesday, October 21 at 7 pm at the Town Hall to share the results of their work and to seek public input on the two most favored parcels.

3. The Odd Fellows Building - Purchased by Town vote in 2000, this building contains hazardous waste that the Town is responsible for removing without any funding assistance from

the EPA. The Board is excited to now have a developer interested in making a major rehabilitation of the building. One of the greatest obstacles to converting this building into a viable piece of commercial real estate is the lack of parking spaces. The Board of Selectmen, spearheaded by Selectman Allan N. Brown's efforts, has received favorable interest from the Kearsarge Regional School District School Board to transfer some unused marginal land from school property abutting the Odd Fellows parcel to create 6 to 8 parking spaces. The Selectmen will present a plan to develop parking spaces for voter approval at the School District Deliberative Session in January. This plan will not only make the Odd Fellows Building much more viable to improve but will be a first step in addressing the lack of public parking in the Village area.

4. The Solar Panel Array Project: Selectman Clyde Carson, working with the Warner Energy Committee, has been investigating the feasibility of harnessing solar power to meet the Town's electric power needs. Recent legislation from Concord called 'Remote Net Metering' allows credits from generation of electricity from solar panels to be applied to any number of electric meters beyond the meter directly connected to the solar power generation station. This means that a municipality can build a solar panel array large enough to generate all the electrical power that it uses in all its buildings and facilities. The electric power is sold to the utility, which then credits (deducts) the electric usage costs for each Town meter.

Plummeting prices of solar panels along with the tax credits and grants that support construction of these solar arrays make this an attractive way to reduce energy costs. Barrington, Bedford and Peterborough are actively working on Solar Array Projects for their town facilities and other towns are now investigating into how to generate their own electric power. However, this is becoming a bit of a race because the NH Power Utilities Commission has placed a cap in the amount of kilowatt hours of power that can be generated and credited under this program and, given the intense interest, that cap may be reached quite soon.

From the Conservation Commission

Recycling is Mandatory in Warner

Everyone knows that recycling our waste, such as steel cans, scrap metal, aluminum, paper, plastic and glass, is smart because it reduces the waste that goes into landfills (or is incinerated). Recycled materials can also be re-used (or repurposed), at a fraction of the energy required to mine or drill, refine and develop those materials from scratch. For example, aluminum made from recycled cans, uses 96% less energy, than if it were processed from bauxite ore (Hutchinson, 2008; Popular Mechanics). Similarly, plastic bottles can be made with 76 % less energy through use of recycled materials and newsprint, with 45 % less energy (Hutchinson 2008). Also, some products contain dangerous materials, like mercury in thermostats, batteries and fluorescent bulbs. By correct disposal and handling of these, we can ensure that harmful chemicals do not contaminate soil, ground water or become air pollutants through incineration and atmospheric deposition.

Recycling also makes economic sense for the residents of Warner because valuable materials, such as aluminum and steel cans that are thrown away in the large hopper, cost taxpayers twice. Once in the fees we pay each time we have the hopper hauled away (\$66.80/ton tipping fees plus \$12.50 transportation), but also in the lost revenue had we sold the aluminum to scrap metal dealers. Recycled aluminum cans recently fetched \$00.66 per pound (\$1320.00/ton) and light iron netted us \$205.00 per ton (V. Proper, pers. comm).



Backyard composting is another way to reduce the amount of waste we dispose of in the hopper. Why pay nearly \$80 per ton to have leaves, food scraps and tissue paper hauled away to a landfill, when you can turn those items into fertile, moist soil that plants thrive in? By some estimates, 90% of the material going to landfills has market value. Since we taxpayers, pay for each hopper that is hauled out of the transfer station destined for the incinerator (in Penacook, with ash going to a Franklin landfill), why not recycle more and throw away only what is necessary. If neighbors are NOT recycling, the rest of us are subsidizing their lack of effort.

Currently, our Transfer Station staff estimate that Warner is recycling about 26% of its waste material. Recycling makes sense environmentally and economically and per our town's Solid Waste Ordinance, is Mandatory. Come on Warner, we can do better than that and when we do, we will all save money, as well as energy, wildlife habitat and raw materials.

Wood Bank Volunteer Day!

The Warner Community Wood Bank is having a volunteer day on Saturday morning, October 18th at 9:00 am at the Warner Transfer Station. Volunteers are needed to help stack wood as it is cut and split. Bring gloves and a wheelbarrow if you have one. The rain date is October 19th. For more information, please contact the Selectmen's office - 603-456-2298 x2.

Food Pantry Needs Donations!

The Kearsarge Area Food Pantry is asking for the help of the community to donate and help meet the increased need for assistance. Donations can be dropped off at the Warner Area Center at 49 W Main Street, Warner or in the donation box located in the entrance of Market Basket. For more information please contact Erin Reed or Lori Garret at 603-456-2207 or ereed@bm-cap.org. Checks can be made out to Warner Community Action Program with a note of "Food Pantry" and sent to PO Box 116, Warner NH 03278. Thank you.

News from the School Board

School has had a successful opening. Simonds Elementary School held an open house in September. It was well attended and parents and teachers had good communication about the current year events. Mr. Shepherd, the fifth grade teacher, put his annual math word problem on the white board. We all can try to solve the problem here to see if we are as smart as a 5th grader. "If Julio is 36 years old and James is 11 years old, in how many years will Julio be twice as old as James"? The Middle School and High School is also off to a great start.

We are now in approve the budget season. I invite all taxpayers to get involved in the process to see that our tax dollars are being spent efficiently for a quality education for our students. The next public meeting for the MBC is October 21st at the High School in the Resource Center. The meeting starts at 7 pm. Please come and express your thoughts on this very important subject. You can get all of the information you need to know at the MBC website. The web address is <http://www.kearsarge.org/mbc>.

I hope to see you all there. If you cannot make the next meeting, you can view the minutes of the MBC meetings at this web address.

Joe Mendola
School Board member

Pillsbury Free Library News

Library Trustees meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM in the Frank Maria Meeting Room. All meetings are open to the public.

The Library will be closed for holidays Nov. 11 and Nov. 27, Dec. 24-25, and January 1.

Story time for preschoolers is held every Thursday at 10:30 am., no registration required.

Monthly after school crafts: grades K – 5, will be Wednesday October 15, November 19, and December 17th at 3:00 pm. Call 456-2289 to pre-register.

LOTS of great summer reading was done this year by all ages. The Children's Summer Program Fizz, Boom, Read!" activities were a huge success: special thanks to volunteer helpers Ed Mical (Fire Station Tour), Eric Swanson (Model rocket demonstration), Kendra West-Senor and Lindsey Greenlaw for weekly assistance.

"Peter Pan" will be the next Book Nook Theatre Group's production, in May 2015. Contact Sue at 456-2289 if your child in grades 4-8 wants to participate, or to offer your assistance.

Preserving the Historic Library Building: Design options for roof drains are being considered, while we wait to see if the Town/Library will be approved for an Land Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) matching grant to preserve and protect the original Library building's masonry walls. Fundraising ideas are being developed to assist with the costly but much needed repair of the old mortar and masonry, adding gutters, diverters, and drains. We welcome your ideas and help for fundraising, and/or donations towards this work. The Selectmen and Budget Committee will also be asked to consider a warrant article and/or capital reserve fund to raise the remaining funds needed for this project. The amount needed will depend on what is approved by the LCHIP Board. Please contact Library Director, Nancy Ladd, at 456-2289 or Sara McNeil, Chair of the Library Trustees if you can help. Some work (window repair and storm window replacement) may begin this Fall.

Fall Foliage Festival Book and Bake Sale will be Saturday and Sunday, October 11 and 12, from 9 am to 4 pm. We still need a few volunteers to help sort books in advance, set up tables and/or move boxes on Thursday and Friday 9 & 10 Oct, or sell or pack up on Sunday Oct 12. Please call 456-2289 or stop in to sign up. Book, CD and DVD donations

accepted until Thursday 9th Oct. (IN SMALL BOXES please).

The Library Board and staff are deeply saddened at the loss of our beloved Trustee, Tina Schirmer in August. She exemplified the best attributes of our community's volunteers, and will be sorely missed. Tina was a trustee and the Board's treasurer in 1991- 1997 and 2010 – 2014. We thank all who have donated to the library in her memory, and based on the amount received so far, anticipate being able to put the funds to a significant designated use.

Thank you to former board member John Warner for agreeing to be appointed to fill the empty slot on the Library Board until March elections, and to the three people who have offered to be appointed as alternates.

Love the library and want to have fun with others who love to volunteer? Join the Pillsbury Free Library Circle of Friends! This informal group will be forming in October (watch for news or ask when you come in. Activities may include baking for or helping with events, volunteering for special projects, organizing events, fundraising activities (such as book sales, crafts, or flea markets) and other ways to promote or assist the library. It's up to you to decide how much or how little to participate, and there is no membership fee. Contact Carol McCausland 456-2393 or come in the library to learn more or sign up.

Online Magazines (and MORE) available: Use your tablet, computer, or smart device to read articles via the Library's EBSCOhost log-in. You can search by topic, or by magazine title and issue. You can even choose to listen to a narrated version or download it as an mp3 file to listen to while you drive or work. Or, browse the newest issues (for a selected set of titles) via Online Newsstand on our website (same login). Novelist PLUS is also available on EBSCO, providing information about books, authors, read-a-likes, discussion questions, and more. Coming in 2015 (maybe): FLIPSTER magazine interface, which is the exciting new way to read magazines on your computer or iPad. The State library is looking into a cooperative arrangement to keep costs affordable.

Museum passes available: of special interest at the Currier Gallery in Manchester is an M.C. Escher exhibit, open until January 5, 2015. Passes you can choose from all year: the Museum of N.H. History, the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, the Currier museum, and the Museum of Fine Arts. for more information on hours and exhibits, find links to the museums' sites at <http://warner.lib.nh.us/museum-passes> and directions.

Warner Rail Trail Opening

Saturday September 27th saw a great turnout to formally celebrate the opening of the Warner Rail Trail at Bagley Field and thank those who helped with improvements on this section of the railroad grade. We hope trail becomes a treasure for the residents of Warner. If you have not yet taken a walk on this section of trail please do so. Its flat and offers beautiful views of the Warner River and wildlife habitat. The trail begins at the Bagley Field driveway and proceeds for ½ mile. At the end there is a 600' path to the left which will bring you back to the main trail.

A year ago the town applied for, and was awarded, a \$5000 biking and walking grant from HEAL-NH. Thank you, HEAL-NH for administering the grant process and selecting the Town of Warner as a recipient. Thanks also to the NH Charitable Foundation Anonymous Fund for providing the funds.

The grant required a similar amount of matching funds. The trustees of the Nancy Sibley Wilkins Trust generously contributed \$2000 to the project. Thank you trustees for your willingness to support a grand vision at its earliest stage. Donations from residents provided another \$2000 towards the match. Thank you supporters!

Warner Parks & Recreation provided \$1000 to complete the match amount. Thank you, Parks & Recreation for your support. Your Parks & Recreation Department builds and maintains the park and recreation infrastructure in Warner for the enjoyment of all residents. Frequently the users of these facilities are youth programs run by WYSA and others, but it's important to realize these are your facilities as residents. Parks & Recreation's adopting the Rail Trail as a project to build and maintain is another example of how these facilities serve all of us.

Warner Parks & Recreation staff and volunteers did an incredible job cutting brush, trimming branches, removing dead wood, chipping and re-discovering the rail grade in the forest. Thank you again Warner Parks & Recreation: Alan Piroso, Griffin Manning, Joe Herr, Corey Heiligmann, Mark Allen, Kristen Riley, Alan Brown, Tim Blagden, and many others.

We needed to re-grade the surface before putting down stone dust and were having difficulty getting a contractor in when needed. The selectmen authorized DPW to come in and provide assistance. A huge thank you to the DPW crew for squeezing the work in and doing a great job. Matt, Nate, Tim the whole team thank you.

Thanks also to the Selectmen for their support. From their approval to apply for the initial grant to their help behind the scenes at many points along the way they deserve our sincere thanks. As town leaders the Selectmen have to balance many interests. Their support of a long term vision of a multi-use

trail usable by all citizens shows leadership. Where the town owns sections of the rail grade they are allowing the surface to be improved. Their actions set the example we hope others will follow when they consider if a trail being developed across their property is a benefit.

Much of the former rail grade is owned privately. Establishing a multi-use rail trail through town in many places is dependent on land owners choosing to participate. We hope that any residents who own part of the rail grade will like what they see at Bagley Field and want the trail to become passable across their property. Some have already decided to take that step. Thank you!

This trail will be developed in sections over time as landowners say yes and as we are able to raise the funds. We are working to open up another section at Bagley that will take residents over the river and offer a nice picnic spot on an old bridge abutment with a view up the Warner River.

The town has also applied for Transportation Alternative Program funds that would ultimately pay for 80% of the cost of a section connecting downtown Warner to the businesses Exit 9. While there is no guarantee Warner will prevail in that very competitive TAP application, fundraising is beginning now to raise the 20% match.

For more information about the rail trail please visit the Warner Parks & Recreation Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WarnerParksAndRecreation> or visit the www.concordlakesunapeerailtrail.com website.



Town Clerk News

The Town Clerk's Office will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, October 15 and 16 so that we may attend the New Hampshire City & Town Clerk's annual conference. Please plan accordingly, the office will be open regular hours Tuesday, October 12, 8 AM – 6PM.

On-line services are available on the Warner website (warner.nh.us) under the "Department" then "Town Clerk" tab. Scroll down to additional services to renew a registration, find out how much a renewal will cost or look up the cost of registering a new vehicle. Dog licenses are renewable on line and copies of a Birth, Marriage, Death or Divorce are available on line to those who are allowed by law to request them. Payments can be made by credit card or bank ACH.

Town Clerk's Office is now able to issue Hunting and Fishing licenses and OHRV registrations. This service is open to residents as well as non-residents.

November 4, 2014 is the date of the general election. Town Hall will be open for voting from 8 AM to 7 PM. If you are unable to come in person to vote, absentee ballot request forms are available from the Town Clerk's Office, the Secretary of State site and the Warner website. Please remember to bring a photo ID with you when you vote in person but if you do not have one with you, you can still vote if you complete an affidavit or are identified by an Election Official.

If you are a Veteran and want to have it stated on your driver's license then you can make that request on the application when you renew your driver's license and submit a DD214 (or other acceptable documentation from the list in RSA21:50). If it is not time to renew your license but you would like to add this information, you can go to a NH DMV Licensing Office with your document proof, complete the "Replacement License" form, mark the Veteran's indicator and pay \$3.00 for a new license.

Trick or Treat
Friday, October 31
5:00 pm. - 8:00 pm.



From the Budget Committee

The Warner Budget Committee has begun their meetings. As a Committee we encourage residents to attend our meetings and ask questions. It is your money that we are talking about. Starting on Oct 16 we will be going over proposed 2015 department budgets. Following is a schedule of when particular budgets will be discussed. **AGAIN, WE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE ALL TO ATTEND OUR MEETINGS.**

Budget Committee Meetings begin at 7:00 pm.
located at the Town Hall (5 East Main St.)

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| Oct 16 th | Presentation of 2015 Budgets for Town Hall Offices, Old Graded School & Town Hall (Bldgs), Building Inspector, Parks & Rec, Health & Welfare and Conservation Commission |
| Oct 23 rd | Presentation of 2015 Budget for Police, Fire, Emergency Management |
| Oct 30 th | Presentation of 2015 Budget for Transfer Station & Highway |
| Nov 6 th | Capital Improvements Program Presentation |
| Nov 13 th | Presentation of 2015 Budget for Library & Precinct |
| Nov 20 th | Presentation of Capital Budget Review presented budgets
Review year to date expenses & revenue |
| Dec 4 th | Meet with representatives from: KRSD- School Board & MBC and County |
| Dec 11 th | Work session - Operating Budget- wages |
| Dec 18 th | Work session
Capital Budget
Review proposed revenue |

911 UPDATE

The State of New Hampshire is discontinuing the Emergency Stand-Alone functionality for isolated phone service for the entire state effective 10/15/14. What this means to you is, if you dial 911 and get a fast busy signal, that means the telephone system is down and you would need to call 911 from a cell phone. You are usually able to call within town when the system goes down, so you can call someone in town that has a cell phone to call in your emergency to 911 if necessary.

Town of Warner, NH
Public Notice

~ SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL SESSION ~

The Board of Selectmen will hold an informational session regarding the recommendations brought forward by the Fire Station Alternate Sites Committee and the Selectmen will discuss their intended action plan.

The session will be held at the Town Hall
(5 East Main Street)
7:00 pm. on Tuesday, October 21, 2014.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend