

# Town of Warner, New Hampshire

## *NEWS FROM THE TOWN*

Summer 2017

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

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### **From the Town Administrator**

For several months, town department heads, volunteers, selectmen and other staff members from Simonds School, and the utility companies have been meeting regularly and working with the NH Department of Homeland Security to update and strengthen the Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) for the Town of Warner.

Recently, the Emergency Management (EM) Committee ran an exercise to assess how well we activate Warners Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located on the second floor of the Warner Fire Station, and manage the operations, logistics and communications during a significant emergency occurring in the region.

Field representatives from the NH Homeland Security Office assisted the Ed Mical, Warners Emergency Management Director (EMD), in designing and conducting an exercise that provided the local EM team with an ongoing and changing emergency situation which involved a severe weather "Micro -Burst", that resulted in down power lines, a gas leak and the need to evacuate a neighborhood near the leak.

Without prior warning, the EM team was summoned by the EMD via phone text and email to report to the EOC immediately. When assembled, the attendees were presented with the present emergency in Warner and its effects in neighboring towns, what the first responders (Police and Fire) are currently doing and directed to address the situation.

While the team was activating the EOC, communicating with first responders in the field and strategizing to deal with this scenario, the folks at Homeland Security threw us a curveball by announcing that a multi-car accident on I-89 between exits 8 & 9 just occurred. The NH Homeland Security people then quietly monitored our operation and management of this evolving emergency situation.

The exercise was, to say the least, interesting and revealing as to what were our strengths and weaknesses with respect to responding to this multi-phase emergency. We discovered how well or not both our EOC organization, operations and internal communications functioned during the exercise. Homeland Security reps were impressed with the planning and cooperation of the EOC team and the effectiveness of Warners first responders. While there is

still more improvement to be made, we have developed a strong organizational base from which to respond.

HOWEVER, one weakness that showed up in activating our plan in this exercise is that we were seriously understaffed at the EOC and in the field. Volunteers are badly needed; to assist with key logistic and communication functions in the EOC, to help in directing traffic, providing support at the warming shelter, and in other areas. There just aren't enough people to step up and fill all the roles and duties required at the EOC for Warner in dealing with a significant emergency event.

So, here is our call for help. As a citizen of Warner, your first priority is to prepare yourself and your family for an emergency. Please read Ed Mical's article in this newsletter and check the ReadyNH.gov website for details.

AND, if you have the inspiration and motivation to get involved in a more dynamic manner for your community, consider stepping forward to be a volunteer with the Warner Emergency Management Team. We are in need of reliable individuals who want to be trained to step into important roles, utilize special skills that you may have, and receive the satisfaction of working with your townspeople in getting things back to normal, quickly. If you wish to talk to us about the possibility of being a volunteer, please contact Ed Mical, our Emergency Management Director or call the Selectmen's Office at the Town Hall, 456-2298. Any interest will be greatly appreciated! And occasionally, refreshments are served.

### **Economic Development Committee (EDC)**

In 2016, the Select Board established the Warner Economic Development Advisory Committee. The purpose of this committee is: "To support the existing business community and to encourage economic growth that serves local needs, is environmentally responsible, fits aesthetically with the town's historic architecture, and provides a net increase in municipal revenue" (Warner Master Plan).

The committee emanated from Master Plan recommendations and further states "that an economic development committee is to advise and implement economic development activities and provide

an official liaison between the town and the business community”.

The EDAC conducted approximately 12 meetings during the course of the year and are now an official committee of the Select-Board - dropping the advisory name tag. We have started the initial internal educational process of defining community economic development and what it can mean for a small community like ours. We have read and reviewed numerous documents, invited and spoke with representative from the State Department of Resources and Economic Development, the State Office of Tourism, and the Central Regional Planning Commission to gain a better understanding of economic opportunities. We have created within our committee working groups that are helping to define goals and objectives that will help guide our work

In the coming months we will discuss and report on a variety of opportunities including but not limited to: Business Recruitment; Business Retention and Expansion; and Tourism. Community education regarding economic development will be at the core of our effort. We are planning to have a public presentation to share with the community our work to date and take input from residents. In addition, we would like to conduct a community survey to gain knowledge of what economic development issues are important to you.

We plan to have an open process to inform and educate the community about economic opportunities, listen to suggestions and eventually launch a plan to improve our economic base. Economic development is a process that will take time and energy - but has the potential to help our community address current and future economic challenges.

It is safe to say, Warner has numerous opportunities to promote what we have come to appreciate living here, and in turn increase money flow into our community.

Sincerely,  
Charles S. Albano - EDAC Chair

### **From the Library**

The historic section ceiling repairs and renovations are almost complete. The fireplace room ceiling has been patched and painted, the old Main Street door refinished on the outside, and the fiction area ceiling removed to reveal its original high ceiling and three beautiful stained glass windows. This project has involved moving sprinkler pipes, heat duct, wiring, emergency lights, and installing new LED lighting.

By early fall, the meeting room floor will be redone to remove a hazardous uneven step, and the painted masonry walls scraped, repaired and repainted. The Library staff and Trustees thank you for your continued patience about limited access to some areas and collections during the renovations. We are confident that when you see the results you will feel it was well worth the wait! A grand celebration will be planned for some time in the fall.

Too hot to read? Make use of our new NH State Parks passes for free admission for two adults and dependents. You can even use

them to “park-hop” several in one day! Other passes are available for Warner’s Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum and NH Telephone Museum, the NH History Museum and McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Museum in Concord, the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester and the Museum of Fine Art in Boston.

The Children’s Summer Program for children kindergarten and up, “Build a Better World”, has been well attended this year. The end of summer pot luck party is August 16th. Sign up with Sue at the library.

CactusHead Puppets performs The Pied Piper of Hamelin Monday, August 14 at 7:00 PM at the Warner Town Hall, admission is free. Puppeteers John and Megan Regan present this comedic, updated adaptation of the traditional folktale with multiple puppetry styles, and plenty of dancing rats!

The Circle of Friends book group meets monthly on second Tuesdays at 1:30 pm monthly, and all Friends are welcome to attend. The August 9 title is “Ordinary Grace”. There is no membership fee to join this fun-loving group of library supporters. The first fall Circle of Friends meeting will be Wednesday September 27 at 1:30 pm at the Library to plan fundraising and program events for 2017-18. We will be having our annual large book and bake sale Saturday and Sunday October 7 and 8 from 9 to 4 during Warner Fall Foliage Festival. Volunteer are needed to help set up, sell or bake goodies! Book and DVD donations accepted starting Sept. 23, in SMALL boxes, please.

Remember to check the on-line Warner Events calendar at [warner.lib.nh.us](http://warner.lib.nh.us), sign up for local news from WarnerBlog.com to be emailed to you, and LIKE our Facebook page.

### **From Emergency Management**

Do you or someone you know need special assistance during an emergency or disaster? Available on the Town’s web site is a Functional Needs Assessment form for you to complete. Once the form is completed you can mail it to the Town at P.O. Box 265. Mark for Emergency Management or drop it by the Selectmen’s office. All information received will be confidential. Additionally, the Library has offered to assist anyone in completing this form.

Are you aware of what to do when a disaster strikes? Do you have a family emergency plan? Do you have 72 hours of food, water, and medicine available in the event of a disaster? For more information, please go to [ReadyNH.gov](http://ReadyNH.gov); or contact me, Ed Mical at [emd@warner.nh.us](mailto:emd@warner.nh.us) for information. The ReadyNH.gov site continues to be updated with information on emergency planning for families as well as businesses.

Back in the spring, the Town received a NH Emergency Management grant in the amount of \$2,565.00 for equipment to be used at Warner’s Emergency Operations Center. I am happy to report that two computers and a portable projector was purchased and have been received. We will be conducting a Functional Exercise this fall to put this equipment to the test.

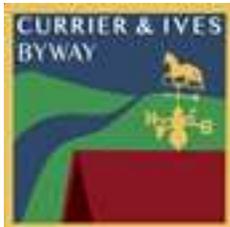
## **Solar Array Update**

The solar array at the Warner Village Water District waste treatment plant has just finished its first year in production. The District reports that the array has met all expectations in terms of solar output and savings. Statistics on the array can be found on the town website by clicking on the “sun”, located in the upper right-hand corner of the home page. That link will also contain a live video feed from the solar array under construction at the transfer station.

If you’ve been to the Transfer Station recently, you know that the solar site located to the left of the drive is now cleared. A special thanks goes out to Warner Public Works Director Tim Allen and his crew for their great effort at getting the site ready after Chuck Rose completed the logging. The solar site has a significant amount of ledge, so the decision was made to use above ground ballasts to anchor the panels instead of drilling anchors into the ground. The ballasts are in three rows, with each row containing 30 ballasts and are ready for the solar panels. The project schedule has been impacted by the high demand for solar panels and our panels are expected to arrive in the first part of September. Plans are under way for landscaping as well. We expect to be generating solar power by the end of September.

## **From the Rail Trail**

The Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail group is raising funds now to improve the surface of the trail from Joppa Rd to Depot St. The goal is to have this done before the Warner Fall Foliage Festival this year. A grant has been applied for that would make a connection from the Exit 7 area in Davisville to Contoocook. This would create about a half mile of trail in Warner connecting directly to 1.4 miles of trail in Hopkinton. If we get the grant that section would be improved in 2018. Stay informed with rail trail progress by visiting the website at [www.concordlakesunapeerailtrail.com](http://www.concordlakesunapeerailtrail.com) or visiting the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CLSRT](http://www.facebook.com/CLSRT). The Board of CLSRT thanks landowners for their support. Without their granting permission the trail would not be possible. They also thank the town of Warner for their support of the rail trail. Efforts are underway to add the rail trail to the town's master plan as this is a long term project. And thanks also to all the citizens of Warner (and elsewhere) whose donations and volunteer labor make it possible to build and maintain the trail. Please head down to Bagley Field and enjoy a nice walk on the trail.



There are 16 scenic byways designated by the NH State Legislature, aimed at promoting the state’s beauty, culture and history. One of these, the Currier & Ives Scenic Byway starts in Henniker and then travels through Hopkinton, Warner and Webster before ending in Salisbury, passing through some of

New Hampshire’s most beautiful farm country and wonderful town centers. All five towns are represented on the Currier & Ives Council, which helps promote the towns along the byway.

The state Scenic Byway Council recently approved an extension to the byway. The new spur runs from Davisville in Warner along Route 103 into Warner Village and up to the Mt Kearsarge auto

road at Rollins State Park. The proposal had great local support, with letters of support from over a dozen local organizations. There are several attractions along this spur and the hope is that designation will help bring travelers into town.

## **Future Fire Station Update**

While the site of Warner's future fire station at 148 W. Main Street looks quiet, work on the project continues to move forward. In June, the Selectmen accepted a bid from Bob Irving to purchase the house located on the property. The 6 room wooden structure was built in the late 1930's and is 1,772 square feet in size. In the coming months, Mr. Irving will be arranging to have the house relocated to another location within town. No doubt, the actual move will be interesting to watch!

The sale relieves the town of the unpleasant task of tearing down a perfectly good house. It also saves the town the associated costs of demolition. Situated in a new location, the house will once again become someone's home sweet home and it will return to the tax rolls.

Meanwhile, Emergency Management Director Ed Mical has been pursuing FEMA grant dollars to help fund some aspects of the Emergency Operations Center which will be located in the fire station. In compliance with Federal Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation regulations, laws and Executive Orders as applicable, part of the process included submitting an Environmental Historic Preservation Application to the State. A site visit by Historic Preservation Consultant Paula Sagerman resulted in the completion of the required New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources Individual Inventory Form. This rather involved process has to be completed and approved prior to any major work on the site.

On August 2, Ken Milender of Ransom Environmental Engineering was on site with a drill rig to gather test borings. The borings are used to determine what the soils in the area are, what the strength of the soil is and its load bearing capacity. The drilling also helped identify how far down the water table is on the property. Ken's first impressions of the soil were quite positive.

## **Odd Fellows Building**

The Odd Fellows Building is no longer owned by the Town of Warner! On August 1, it was sold to Nate Burrington for \$10 with the agreement that upon future transfer of the building, the town will receive \$80,000. While an uncommon sales agreement, it allows Nate to immediately focus his budget dollars on renovations instead of a hefty purchase price.

Years of dedication and intense effort was put into finding a good solution for the iconic building. Thanks go to everyone who donated their time towards saving the building.

## WELCOME USS KEARSARGE



We are fortunate to be able to welcome some of the Chiefs and Chief Selectees from the USS Kearsarge to Warner again this year. They are arriving August 31<sup>st</sup> at 9am, at the Town Hall, following a short welcome by Selectmen Dabuliewicz the sailors will be going up to the Mt. and then hiking to the top of Kearsarge . The PUBLIC IS INVITED TO JOIN IN THE HIKE. They will enjoy a lunch provided by Northeast Catholic College and the Board of Selectmen. Public is welcome to visit with our guests, please bring your own lunch. After lunch the crew will be doing community service on the mountain, then returning to the hotel to get ready for a dinner cruise sponsored by American Legion Post 39 on MV Kearsarge at Lake Sunapee. On Friday September 1<sup>st</sup> the Sailors will return to Warner at 9 am to visit the museums and shops of Warner. Lunch will be provided to our guests at Jim Mitchell Park sponsored by Kearsarge Chamber of Commerce and The Local. On Friday evening the Public is invited to a Community Dinner at 6pm to celebrate Warner's connection to the USS Kearsarge.

### **THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND THE COMMUNITY DINNER TO**

**MEET, GREET, AND EAT  
WITH CREW MEMBERS OF USS KEARSARGE  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2017  
6:00 PM  
WARNER TOWN HALL  
SEATING FOR 100  
DONATIONS APPRECIATED**