



Town of Warner, New Hampshire  
Conservation Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Attending: Phil Stockwell, Alice Chamberlin, Doug Allen, Stephanie Monette, Susi von Ottengen, Ken Cogswell, Mike Amaral and Nancy Martin

1. Approve March Minutes-Approved

2. Varrick Proper- Transfer Station Recycling

Presentation: Summarized how China's recycling decisions are affecting the U.S. recycling efforts. Recycling market has been "upended" (2 years since China stopped importation into their country of recycling/waste especially mixed paper and plastic.) Left a vacuum for recycled materials. Many communities, mostly larger communities, have discontinued their recycling programs as a result. Since Warner residents do a great job of "source separation" of recycled materials, we are able to continue selling some recycled materials. Warner's recycled material recently went to a mill in Fitchburg, MA. Warner's plastics is sold to US companies. Warner sells some material – makes money on cardboard and aluminum, but has to pay to haul off some materials (mixed paper). Plastic recyclables – 1, 2 and 5 are accepted and sold to companies. Still using some glass locally, viability of its use is uneven and somewhat questionable. WCC can assist in outreach to keep the recycling efforts going and improving in Warner.

3. Chandler Reservation trails restoration – Summary regarding the logging activities that resulted from the impacts of the May 5, 2018 tornado. The trees that were blown down in the vicinity of the interpretive nature trail have been removed. The removal of downed trees brought in \$17,000 in revenue for the Reservation, no more obstructions on the trail. Logging is completed. The trail is still in place, contractor did not drive on the trail. Americorps has a crew that specializes in trail reconstruction, potential for their use. Self guided woods walk and ski tow area had most of the blow downs. Some clean up still need on a few trails. Brushing and maintenance issues that could be addressed by Americorps volunteers. WCC will question the Chandler Board if they are interested in pursuing Americorps volunteers. Nancy will see if Americorps representative can discuss whether this could be a viable opportunity. End of April would be a good time for an assessment.

4. Groundwater Discharge System-Warner Water & Sewage Department – Ray Martin and Dan Lavoy. Currently, water is fully treated and released to the Warner River. The federal government has reduced allowable standards of discharge levels for Copper and Phosphorus (more conservative). At this time Warner is not be able to meet the new Copper standard. Warner's municipal water and sewer treatment facility is looking into a new discharge system that will filter out the copper and phosphorus. Suggestion from WCC member to test for PFAS prior to developing a system that later may be required to test and maintain certain PFAS and PFOAS levels. Much of the copper getting into the system is from copper pipes in homes. Have until 2021 to correct the situation. Proposing to put the system of permeable substrate (sand) depressions to receive treated water off of Main Street (Rt 103). They will drain quickly into the ground water table. Have been meeting with NHDOT regarding discharge onto DOT ROW. Questions/concerns raised by WCC mmbers:

Equipment access (down proposed rail trail)

Visual impact (hidden from view from 103)

Groundwater contamination (should not be a concern; no there is no data yet.)

Establish baseline well testing adjacent to proposed project area.

5. DOT I-89 Project

- Request to WCC that discussions be limited to technical aspects of the project-WCC members agree
- WCC concerns are rock scaling and tree removal
- Warener River Advisory Committee has also submitted questions to NH DOT
- Both have received replies from DOT; WCC on 3/11/19 and WRLAC on 2/25/19. WCC Chair has these on file. Tree removal will be to base of cliff to protect the base. It will be **selective**
- Rock scaling is necessary to minimize rock fall from road cut cliff faces.
- No tree clearing planned within riparian border of Warner River

WCC discussion raised the issue of notification timing. WCC is included only at the end of project planning; much better to be involved earlier in the process. How has this be included into DOT practice is the question. Unresolved.

WCC discussed ARM mitigation funds how might they be used as a result of this project?

Fish passage improvements with culvert repairs/replacement should be one goal. A list of high priority culverts has been prepared and sent to DES. If this list is not accepted by DOT this year at least the WCC will have a draft list of prioritized projects ready for submission the next time ARM Funds become available in the Contoocook River Valley watershed.

6. Update on DOT surplus riverfront lots; These are also on the ARM list and are a top WCC priority

- Map 7; Lot 1;
- Map 16; Lot 24

7. Friends of the Mink Hills-

- Trial legislation is progressing through the NH House before going to the Senate;
- Friends and ATV clubs are collaborating to post signs for appropriate behavior
- Memorial Day Weekend will mark Opening Day for ATV access to Mink Hills Class V & VI roads. Volunteer monitors are needed to pass out brochures on appropriate behavior.

8. Town Meeting Results

- Eliza Sanborn Trace has been abandoned as a Class VI road by a vote of the Town.

9. Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)

- Warner Brochure- not supported at Town Meeting
- GIS On-Line System- not supported at Town Meeting
- Alice Chamberlin and Nancy Martin attended a productive meeting with Exit 9 Owners (Boyleston Realty) to proactively develop Exit 9 parcel. Discussion are still at an early stage.

10. Wetlands/Forestry Permits- Stephanie Monette

- No wetlands/forestry permits to report

11. Old/New Business

- WCC member Chamberlin reported on NHCC Association meeting focused on dirt road maintenance. Concerns were raised about road widening "by default." It is suggested that WCC develop a relationship with Warner's Road Agent directly. He might be invited to a future meeting.
- WCC Appointments- All members have not been sworn in.

- Monitoring Easements in 2019- Some easement reports have not yet been submitted to chair for filing and record keeping.

Carter/Karrick- Nancy, Stephanie, Ken  
McCausland- Scott, Susi  
MKIM- recently completed  
Sturms- Nancy, Ken

RAW-Susi  
Nemec- Nancy, Stephanie  
Bartlett- Stockwell- Scott  
Reis- Russ St. Pierre, Mike

12. Communications-Storm water and Drinking Water workshops were announced. WCC member Ken Cogswell volunteered to attend.
13. Adjourn- Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.