



Town of Warner, New Hampshire  
Conservation Commission

Meeting Notes  
Wednesday, September 4, 2019

Members present: Nancy Martin, Alice Chamberlin, Stephanie Monette, Phil Stockwell, Susi von Oettingen

Meeting began 7:03 pm.

1. Approve August Minutes - Approved

2. Letter from DOT-M. Dube, I-89 Rehabilitation (NHDOT 15747) Warner—Sutton  
WCC received a letter and an email regarding the process for reviewing the proposed project and the process for obtaining the ARM funds (on file). Question to the WCC – do we have concerns with Phase 2 of the I-89 Rehabilitation project in Warner and Sutton.

Responses to some of the questions outlined in the NHDOT June 26, 2019 letter (provided by Doug Allen via 9/4/19):

Question 3 regarding natural resources of significance in the vicinity of the project: Farmland of local and statewide importance is mapped along Stevens Brook and North Road, which are in the vicinity of the project area (source: NH Granit online mapping). WCC will investigate Stevens Brook and native trout populations. Ken Milander (present at meeting) recommended we seek information from Ben Nugent (Nancy Martin will reach out to Ben). WCC will identify farmland of local/statewide importance via NH Granite online mapping to provide more information to the NHDOT (follow up with Doug Allen). We note that the NH Wildlife Action Plan identifies highest ranked habitat in New Hampshire associated with two tributaries to Stevens Brook.

Question 5 regarding parks, recreation areas, etc.: Within the Town of Warner, the project area is adjacent to the Warner Town Forest. Along with the Kearsarge State Forest and Kearsarge Gore Farm conservation land, the Warner Town Forest creates a contiguous wooded parcel between the peak of Mount Kearsarge and the Warner River. The Warner Town Forest is recreational land open to public use. The Warner Town Forest is managed by the Chandler Reservation, Land and Water Conservation Funds have been used to conserve the Kearsarge Gore Farm.

Question 6 regarding water resources: Portions of the project area are immediately adjacent to the stratified drift groundwater aquifer, which is a regionally important water supply and the source of Town of Warner drinking water. The stratified drift aquifer underlies Stevens Brook which flows immediately east of the project area and is interconnected with the stratified drift aquifer underlying the

Warner River valley. The Town of Warner wellhead protection area/radius begins immediately south of the project area, near the confluence of the Warner River and Stevens Brook.

The WCC will draft a letter of response, needed by October 31, using information provided in Doug Allen's September 4, 2019 email, the Warner River Local Advisory Committee letter of November 28, 2018, information from online NH websites (NHFG Wildlife Action Plan), and the town's Natural Resources Inventory.

3. Update on DOT surplus riverfront lot- Map 16; Lot 24

Old Rte. 103, Laing Bridge area;

WCC received a letter from NHDOT, conditions are final, acknowledged that the lot is 4.6 acres, purchase price is \$13,500 (includes an administrative fee). A deed restriction must be placed on the lot to require that the lot remains as open space and may not be able to be developed. The WCC will negotiate a lower price and recommends a price of \$7,500 based on terrain and deed restriction.

BOS meeting 9-10 @ 6:30 or 7:00 – The WCC will present the price to be negotiated with the NHDOT.

4. Update-Davisville Bridge Replacement (NHDOT 15907)

A letter was sent to the WCC in September, 2016 with respect to project review. The project is still undergoing the NEPA review process, so there is opportunity to respond with mitigation recommendations. If there is a full replacement of the bridge, there will be wetland impacts and mitigation opportunities may be available. The WCC needs to locate the letter and respond with the aquatic resource mitigation list (ARM list). Response is project-specific.

5. NH DOT I-89 Project - ARM Funds (NHDOT 40512)

Culvert Replacement priorities – August 24 meeting, NHFG met with the Town Hazard Mitigation staff and Highway staff to reach consensus on prioritizing culverts for replacement. Have identified 3 culverts on Ballard Brook. The WCC will work with NHFG to apply for funds to replace the culverts. The LAC expects to be actively engaged in the application process as well.

6. Friends of the Mink Hills-Update

Legislators Visit- 8-25

August 25, 4 state legislatures visited the Mink Hills to observe the impact of OHRVs traversing the area. WCC members, DOT, OHRV users, residents, and others attended the meeting and site visit as well. The meeting and site visit was informative and a good opportunity for information exchange.

7. Wetlands/Forestry Permits- Stephanie Monette

Suggestion that the WCC work with the Town Tax Assessor to post Forestry Permits/Notifications since they are currently not posted on NH One-Stop.

Downloaded one shoreland permit for the construction of a new house from One-Stop. Need information re: acreage, mitigation. Details provided in One-Stop are minimal for this project.

8. Old/New Business

Outstanding Easement Monitoring Reports

McCausland- Allen, Susi (not completed)

Nemec- Nancy, Stephanie (not completed, soon to be walked)

RAW-Susi (not completed)

9. Communications

WCC chair Nancy Martin invited to the next Planning Board meeting to discuss the Capital Improvement funds.

10. Adjourn – 8:35 pm.