



Town of Warner, New Hampshire

Conservation Commission Meeting Notes
Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Meeting began at 7:00 pm

Present: Nancy Martin, Scott Warren, Doug Allen, Phil Stockwell, Alice Chamberlin, Susi von Oettingen, Ken Cogswell, and 2 members of the public

1. Ausbon Sargent Land Protection Trust- Daniel's Survey- Andy Deegan
Easement documentation for auditors – Discussion about a donation of about 143 acres to the Ausbon Sargent Land Protection Trust (ASLPT). Has a substantial beaver pond on the property, internal trail network, would be open to the public for recreation. Survey work, appraisal, attorney's fees being paid by the landowner. Request by ASLPT for funds for the stewardship and enforcement fund to help maintain the property. Requesting about \$5000 from the Town of Warner. No other funds required. Would not be invoiced until after the acquisition is completed. Property will have road frontage. Project should be completed in the first quarter of the year. Could receive the stewardship funds from WCC over time, not necessarily in a lump sum.
2. Approve December Minutes – Minutes accepted.
3. Friends of the Mink Hills-
Jan 14, Tuesday, 7:00 BOS Meeting- Renewal of Bound Tree ATV Agreement (cont.)
Likely that a decision may be made at this meeting. Interested parties are encouraged to attend.
4. DOT approval-Phillip Miles
5. Map 16; Lot 24 NH Housing Finance Authority not interested in the parcel (parcel near Laing Bridge). Next step for approval to purchase property, will be going before Governor and Council on January 22. Then DOT completes paperwork. Expect that by the middle of the year, the property should belong to Warner.
6. WCC Presentations
 - a. Addressing Invasive Species- Knotweed, proposed presentation. Encourage the DPW to attend because of the potential for spreading invasive plants during regular road maintenance. Doug Cygan (UNH Coop Extension) will present at noon, April 14 in the Town Hall.
 - b. Wildlife- Coyotes- Scheduled for Feb 27th, 7 pm at BookEnds - Chris Schadler (Member of the Selectboard in Webster), will present on Coyote life history.

7. Planning for Warner Town Meeting – Wednesday, March 11.
 - a. Operating budget is approx. \$1000 to pay for mailings, postage, advertisement for special events. Conservation fund monies from transfer taxes. This coming year will spend \$14,600 for Laing Bridge 4 acre parcel. Committed funds-\$7100 +/- will be expended on DOT surplus lot, (near Bagley soccer fields; Map 1; Lot 7.) WCC has been asked for funds (\$5,000) to pay for the ASLPT stewardship funds for Daniel's donated land, and to pay for a \$5000 survey for a potential Five Rivers Land Trust farm easement to enhance application for a LCHIP grant. The total of these requests will exceed what is in the budget. Decision to table seeking additional funds at Town Meeting for the Five Rivers/LCHIP grant for this budget year.
 - b. Additional discussion focused on how to prioritize limited funds, and how the Town sees conservation efforts in Warner. For example, more farm conservation easements? The group will look at Conservation Plan for information on prioritizing land conservation efforts. Suggestion to develop a short survey to canvas residents about their vision for Warner – develop a focus for conservation efforts to help the WCC prioritize efforts. Send proposed questions and survey objectives to entire WCC. Doug will review survey questions from old Master Plan to see if any are still relevant. Susi to reach out to NHTI for potential senior capstone project – interactive online map highlighting conservation parcels?

8. ARM Funds for culvert replacement- update

63% of Warner's streams have native trout, also found that there are a number of culverts that prevent trout movement (lack of connectivity). NH Fish and Game identified Ballard Brook, that if 3 culverts were replaced, it would significantly address the lack of connectivity. DOT agreed to design fish weirs to help fish passage by last August. So far, no designs. DES has now made it a requirement for I-89 wetlands permitting, DOT must have the engineering designs done so that Warner can submit an ARM application for the culvert replacement by late spring.

9. Wetlands- Davis Rd. Wetlands Violation- update

Bridge abutment boulders that were illegally placed in the stream by persons unknown, have not been removed. Susi von Oettingen spoke to Tim Allen (DPW) about the situation last August (2019). The stream now consistently jumps its bank during moderate rain events (in fall and winter when the stream is at bank full), has created a second channel crossing the Davis Road extension (class VI part in Warner), and formed a third, smaller channel. Susi reached out to NHDES about the situation and is awaiting a return to her call. With the additional channels being created in the road, it will be a challenge to rehabilitate the road and build adequate stream crossings to allow vehicular access. Last year, vehicles illegally accessed Davis Road extension by driving through the stream (photos are on file) or through private property on an old snowmobile trail.

10. Forestry Permits- Stephanie no news.

11. Outstanding Easement Monitoring Reports

- a. RAW- Reschedule proposed walk Dec.15 canceled. Needs to be rescheduled.
- b. McCauslands- Scott & Susi

12. Communications-

Local Advisory Committee signs – the WCC will pay for two signs that inform the public that the Warner River is a protected river. Warner DPW will erect the signs.

13. Adjourned at 8:15 pm.