

Town of Warner, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission
Wednesday, August 4, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Conservation Commission members present: Nancy Martin – Chair, Alice Chamberlin, Doug Allen, Phil Stockwell, Ken Cogswell, recording

Members of the Public present: Jackie Germain

Meeting formally began at 7:09 pm

1. July meeting minutes approved
2. Update on revised Warner Conservation Commission members – At the August 3rd Selectmen's meeting, BOS approved WCC's decision to make Ken Cogswell the sixth full voting ConCom member, and upon meeting them at a future meeting to officially consider WCC's nominations of Jackie Germain and Jody Sloane as alternates on the ConCom.
3. Changes to Silver Lake Swim Area – Discussion regarding Warner Parks/Recreation's proposal to install an aerator to help reduce muck in the water of the swimming area, as well as remove and replace the beach's bordering pine trees, focused on comments and concerns with the temperature of the pond with such alterations and the effects of the water turbidity on the aquatic habitat, especially for native trout. It was agreed that before the WCC submits comments to Parks/Rec, we obtain additional information, hopefully from someone versed in limnology. In a previous e-mail on the subject, Scott Warren was attempting to contact a limnologist, and Nancy said she would reach out to the UNH Extension office.
4. Groundwater Protection – Alice reiterated that a prepared, incremental approach was necessary to garner eventual citizen support for a Town groundwater program by initially identifying the threats, and then educating the public, which would include reviewing what the Town's existing ordinances do and do not cover. It was agreed that seeking additional opinion from Ken Milender regarding what was learned from his earlier attempt to pass such a policy would be very helpful, as well as making public all future meetings on the subject. Another suggestion was to review copies of successful ordinances from CNHRPC, and to remain on the goal to achieve this November's grant application date.
5. ASLPT Dragon Fly Walk on Beaver Saga Pond parcel – Nancy conveyed that the July 27th public field trip to Ausbon Sargent's recently acquired 146 acre beaver pond wetland was well attended. Andy Deegan and Jon Waage led participants in identifying the variety of damsel and dragon flies and their behavior within this habitat of the Frazier Brook watershed that Trudy Daniels and her late husband Wayne transferred to Ausbon Sargent in 2020.
6. Agricultural Committee - Also at the August 3rd Selectmen's meeting, Michael Amaral was accepted to be among the six full voting members on the newly created AC, representing the Conservation Commission. Length of Michael's term to be determined by the AC's initial meeting(s), probably around April 2022. He will serve with four Alternate members from the community, making ten the total number on the AC.
7. Warner Area Community Land Trust - Nancy stated that the group is in the process of drafting their By-Laws, as well as planning to facilitate housing for prospective workers at the eventual upgraded Foster

Farm homestead on Loud Lane. Organization has not determined what their official name will be, however they are working on it.

8. Mink Hills Recreation Study Committee – As a member of the MHRSC, Nancy reported that they are arranging to have Tom Dustin (sp?) from Keene give the committee a presentation on Class A Trails, and discuss if such a designation can be applied to sensitive public access areas in the Minks. The Committee has identified two possible sites for consideration. Their meetings have been on the second Monday of the month, and are open to the public.

9. Economic Development Advisory Committee - Charlie Albano, chairman of EDAC, met with the Selectmen August 3rd to discuss both the current and possible uses of the Warner Community Center (aka Old Graded School/CAP building), emphasizing the importance of trying to establish child care at the facility. The Selectmen agreed to look into the feasibility of future child care at the Community by first having the Fire Department review the building for hazardous material and its fire suppression system, have the building inspector and/or another contractor provide estimate for additional bathrooms, and continue to gather more funding information. Selectmen also supported having CNHRPC's assistance in submitting a draft for a community survey on the subject, where the survey responses would help in any grant applications.

10. Forestry/Wetlands Permits – Ken reported that no Town Intent to Cut or Wetland Permits were recorded in July.

11. Communications - Nancy updated/highlighted the following topics :

Warner Power building – At the August 2nd Planning Board meeting, representatives from ChemStation, a company interested in using one of the vacant Warner Power buildings for their business, had an informational session with the PB members. They plan to meet again with the PB with a more formal presentation. Their web site is <https://chemstation.com> .

Knotweed – After contacting NHDES, Tim Allen has decided to apply their methods in trying to remove and/or limit the growth of Japanese Knotweed plants around one of the Town's bridges.

On July 12th, 4pm, at New London's Whipple Building ASLPT is sponsoring a discussion on Knotweed by NHDES' Doug Cygan.

Ordway Woods – Mr. Jay Doran(sp?) recently e-mailed the ConCom about the litter scattered in the Town's woods off NH 103. Other than periodic volunteer or Public Work crew clean-up, and public awareness, there is not a whole lot more the community can do about this selfish behavior.

SCA/NH AmeriCorps – Like last year, this youth conservation organization approached the ConCom and offered their services to the Town, however we feel it would again be difficult to approve the expenditure from our funds to pay their estimated cost of \$12K.

TrueGrid permeable pavers – Dan Watts forwarded us information on a unique parking lot surface matrix made from recycled HDP plastic, allowing for a more permeable finished surface, and a consideration in storm water management. TrueGrid web site: www.truegridpavers.com

'Taking Action for Wildlife' – NH Fish&Game, NHACC, and UNH Extension is offering a series of workshops for the next several months on wildlife conservation. The web site for information/registration is www.takingactionforwildlife.org .

Conservation Easement reports – Doug Allen's daughter has offered to organize our easement inspection reports as part of her KRHS curriculum in volunteer hours. Her proposal was well received, and the ConCom will make arrangements with her for this necessary project to begin.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:19pm

