



Town of Warner, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission
Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Minutes
Warner Town Hall 7:00 pm
In Person Meeting
Zoom Access
ID: 850 5567 0896
Passcode: 1234

Warner Conservation Commission (WCC) members present: Alice Chamberlin, Jody Sloane, Jackie Germain, Michael Amaral, Susi von Oettingen, Phil Stockwell, and Nancy Martin, Chair.

No members of the public were present.

Note: Zoom meeting was initiated at 7:20. One member of the public present.

Meeting began at 7:02 pm.

1. Approve July and August Minutes – July and August minutes approved.
2. Warner Conservation Commission Operating Budget and Conservation Fund – Nancy Martin presented a budget to the Board of Selectmen, it was approved. To date, half of the budget has been obligated to Taking Action for Wildlife project for seeding. Conservation Fund is stable and should be sufficient to assist in the securing a conservation easement for Blue Moon Berry Farm. Funds may also be available to update a natural resources inventory (estimated at \$8,000) in preparation for revising the Warner Conservation Plan (estimated at \$4,000) but this needs to be verified that the Conservation Fund can be used.
3. Stream Monitoring: Follow up
5 volunteers read about this in the Warner Public Library (WPL) newsletter. The WCC will put in another notice the WPL newsletter that training will most likely to occur in late September or October. Jody will keep track of the volunteers and draft a second notice.
4. Groundwater Project- Update
Potential sources of contamination will be compared to existing information including hazard mitigation (Warner has a good hazard mitigation plan) and One-Stop, the State website. Central NH will have some additional information up on their website for public access. Will provide a basic view of what the groundwater threats are to Warner's aquifer.

Michael Amaral raised the concern that there is little regulation of surface water, especially with respect to water withdrawals. Michael will investigate what is being done in Vermont and will follow up with DES. Alice Chamberlin noted that there are examples around the State to look at (e.g. Lamprey River).

5. *Taking Action for Wildlife*-Jody Sloane
Have approval from the Chandler Reservation to erect signs in the 1 mile loop trail. Still working on some of the content. Hope to complete this soon (dependent on getting the signs made). A spreadsheet was submitted to the WCC with the expenses (what seeds were acquired (attached to the minutes). Tyler Landscaping will inspect the site to determine what site work needs to be done.
6. Mink Hills Recreation Study Committee Presentation with CNHRPC- Sept 8 @ 7:00.
Presentation will include 4 staff from Central NH Regional Planning (CNHRPC), will have an introduction and background of the maps, and then break out into groups. CNHRPC will provide questions for the groups to work on. Property owners are the primary focus of the meeting, but it is open to the public. CNHRPC will provide a report on the meeting afterwards. Recommendations will be developed for recreational use of the Mink Hills.
7. Economic Development Advisory Committee-
 - a) Community Center/Child Care – open to all families, hired a director and two staff. Looking to hire more staff. Infants and toddlers only. Staffing preventing the opening at this time.
 - b) MentisScience Move to Warner – plan to move into the building the end of December or January.
 - c) Noted that there should be more attention paid to the economic development within the Town instead of just focusing on Exit 9. Suggestion to get a sign pointing to Historic Down Town Warner. The State will not allow a sign near the rotary, need to find another solution to getting signage for Warner.
8. Agricultural Committee Update – no update at this time. Next meeting, Monday, September 12.
9. Affordable Housing at Exit 9- Update
The Planning Board's interpretation of the ordinance is that the Project has to be 100% workforce housing. Next Monday will meet to determine the next step for the Project proponent to contest the Warner ordinance. Warner's legal counsel supported the interpretation of the ordinance. No approval has been given for market rate housing, only a special exception for the workforce housing.
10. Forestry/Wetlands Permits – NH DES, one wetland permit for a driveway on Rt. 114 has been approved. No Forestry permits this month. Pleasant Pond application was denied for multiple reasons.
11. Communications
 - a) Big Tree Program – Mike Kelley sends a report about the status of Warner's big tree. Is a white pine in the Ordway Woods (most likely). Jody will follow up on locating the tree and organizing a public walk. Will also look up the Big Tree Registry for information on how to nominate a tree. <https://extension.unh.edu/natural-resources/forests-trees/trees/nh-big-trees>
 - b) Brochures – Increasing Forest Resiliency and Forest Carbon brochures produced by UMass, Amherst. Can be available for the interested public outside of the polling station in September and at the Warner Public Library.

- c) Five Rivers Annual Report – invited Nancy to come to the Five Rivers Annual Meeting at Sanborn Mills Farm in Loudon. Michael Amaral will join Nancy. Their Annual Report highlights Warner’s Vegetable Ranch (dedication to Larry Pletcher) and in New and Noteworthy section highlights the Blue Moon Berry Farm’s potential easement.
- d) Have a local Merrimack County food guide available for review.

12. Adjourned at 7:56 pm.