



Town of Warner, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission
Wednesday, October 5, 2022

Minutes
Warner Town Hall 7:00 pm
In Person Meeting

Warner Conservation Commission (WCC) members present: Alice Chamberlin, Michael Amaral, Susi von Oettingen, Ken Cogswell, and Nancy Martin, Chair.

No members of the public were present.

Note: Zoom meeting was initiated at 7:10. Video still not operational

Meeting began at 7:10 pm.

1. Approve September Minutes – September minutes approved with edits.
2. Warner Conservation Commission Operating Budget and Conservation Fund – Nancy Martin will be presenting the WCC's operating budget at the October 20 Budget Committee meeting. Nancy has asked the Central NH Planning Commission (Central NH) to start the Natural Resource Inventory next year as there are sufficient funds to begin the Conservation Plan revision. Discussion re: the Capital Improvement Plan and requests for annual budget requests. Recommend the WCC defer long-range planning for projects until the Revised Conservation Plan is completed. In the interim, the WCC could assess areas that would connect already conserved lands as possible future projects, or be ready to consider potential easements as they come up. Additional discussion on town-owned lands with important conservation features that are not already conserved, consideration for placing on conservation easements, and how to proceed with conserving these properties. Next step, request an update on the process of auctioning town-owned land, where certain parcels are in the process, and how the WCC recommendations are taken into consideration.
3. Groundwater Project- Update: The Warner Groundwater Protection newsletter is on the website. There will be a booth at the Fall Foliage Festival. Subcommittees are forming, including ordinance development, education and outreach. Suggested to add interesting bits about the WGP and links to the newsletter in the Warner Public Library newsletter. Concerns raised regarding the apparent expansion of a gravel pit off of I89 Exit 7 and potential impact to the Warner River (if too close could an evulsion occur similar to what happened to the Suncook River?). Need to find out if permits were needed and/or obtained for the gravel pit expansion. Also questions as to potential impacts to the aquifer.
4. Stream Monitoring- Follow up – Jody Sloane will recruit stream monitoring. The Volunteer Training for stream monitoring will be held on October 15, training potentially on French's Brook, off of North Road. Once time is confirmed, Jody will contact volunteers with the information.

5. *Taking Action for Wildlife*-Jody Sloane reported via email to the WCC: Content has been completed and the QR Code content for the Woods Walk one mile loop trail at Chandler Reservation is on the Chandler Reservation website <https://warner.nh.us/woods-walk/>.
6. Mink Hills Recreation Study Committee Presentation Update – Focus of the meeting was on key concerns of landowners of Mink Hill properties. Fifty attendees at the September meeting, broke out into 5 groups answering the same questions. Central NH summarized the responses and provided feedback to the Study Committee. Greatest concern appeared to be maintaining vehicular access to landowner’s properties. Central NH will send out final report to participants. Next step to draft recommendations for public review and comment.
7. Economic Development Advisory Committee-Nancy Martin is the WCC representative and provided the following update:
 - a) Pressure on Independent Pharmacies-Warner Pharmacy closed due to pressure from larger pharmacies and insurance company payment structures for small pharmacies. Contoocook Pharmacy is facing similar pressure. Unsure what impacts are/will be on the local communities.
8. Agricultural Committee Update – no update at this time, unsure of when next meeting will occur due to regularly scheduled meeting occurring on Columbus Day.
 - a. Visit to Sandborn Mills Farm, Loudon – Michael and Nancy attended. Vegetable Ranch and Blue Moon Berry Farm projects mentioned during keynote address. Had a demonstration water powered grist mill and water powered sawmill.
9. Affordable Housing at Exit 9- Update: Comett LLC participated in last Monday night's Planning Board meeting. They plan to appeal the decision that the entire building needed to be affordable housing.
 - a. Update on the Planning Board’s preliminary consultation for the proposed development of multi-family units on Rt.103 opposite of Annis Loop. 39 acres (Map 7, Lot 39).
10. Forestry/Wetlands Permits – Nothing posted publicly for Forestry, culvert replacements (two town projects, Poverty Plains and Schoodac roads) had notifications and approval by DES.
11. Communications
 - a) Chocolate Swamp Conservation –a 16 acre beaver pond at intersection of Cunningham Pond, Gould Hill, and North Village/Henniker Road. Nancy discussed the potential for an easement for the pond/swamp with landowner. Has an interesting historical background and abuts Chandler Reservation lands.
 - b) Big Tree Program – Considering an educational walk to visit Warner’s Big Trees next spring. Suggestion to put Big Tree information on the WCC website.
 - c) Annual NH Association of Conservation Commission meeting November 5. Nancy will be attending and encouraged other WCC members to consider attending.
12. Adjourned at 8:34 pm.