



Town of Warner, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission
Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Minutes
Warner Town Hall 7:04 pm
In Person Meeting
Zoom Access

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

Two members of the public were present in person. Zoom option was available.

Note: Zoom meeting was initiated at 7:02.

1. Celebrating the conservation of the Nemeck Property- Ralph Ellwell (landowner) Steward of the Nemeck Property. The easement was filed 25 years ago and Mr. Ellwell suggested that there be a small celebration or observation for the 25th anniversary. Note there is a sign on Kearsarge Mountain Road inviting the public to the property. The family is inviting the WCC to participate in the celebration. Property provides wildlife travel corridors. WCC is interested in following up with Mr. Ellwell's suggestion.
2. Approve November and December WCC Minutes – November 2 minutes approved. December 7 minutes approved.
3. Approve Draft Town Report – Minor changes will be provided to Nancy Martin prior to finalizing.
4. Anticipated Collins Land Donation- 2nd Public Hearing-January 17– First public hearing indicated a positive response to accepting the donation. One question related to annual lost revenue to the Town from taxes. Annual tax bill on the property, that is under current use, is less than \$40 annually. Property has a beaver pond and wetlands. Abuts the Chandler Reservation and would be managed by the Chandler Reservation.
5. Groundwater Project- Draft Zoning Amendment for Town Meeting - <https://warner.nh.us/notices/> - Alice Chamberlin had a meeting with the committee. Public attendance via in person and Zoom was about 36 participants. Generally positive support for the concept of groundwater protection. Working now to prepare answers to questions posed during the meeting. Will post responses to the questions on the Groundwater Protection website. The Groundwater Committee will explain draft ordinance at the January 9 Planning Board meeting.
6. Properties for Auction – Next Steps – Properties that the Town owns and under consideration for sale. Three properties have been sold. See list of 91 parcels sent to WCC members by Nancy Martin on December 10, 2022. Suggestion to map the parcels and analyze how the parcels may relate to the Town's natural resources. Jackie attended an Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation

Trust meeting to discuss the potential mapping of these parcels. Found out that we could get assistance from college students to help digitize the maps, or put the parcels on existing maps. Warner is one of the few towns that does not have digitized maps of the town parcels. Check with Land Use department regarding plans to digitize the Town maps. There may be other options to getting digitized parcel maps.

7. *Taking Action for Wildlife*- Jackie Germain
 - a. Nature Trail- Chandler –Members of the WCC separately walked the mile loop and checked the QR codes, consensus is that it is well done (encourage the public to check it out!).
 - b. Chill Out at Chandler – Hopefully snow/outdoor activities will be organized in February.
 - c. Big Tree Program – no updates.
8. Mink Hills Recreation Study Committee- Update, Nancy Martin –
 - a. Report and Recommendations Subcommittees – putting data together that have been collected and drafting reports with recommendations within the coming year. Will have several public hearings in the future.
9. Economic Development Advisory Committee-Update, Nancy Martin – no news to report.
10. Agricultural Committee- Update, Michael Amaral – Last met on December 12, Warner’s Emergency Management Officer attended the meeting. Would like to put Warner’s farms on the next Emergency Management Plan for the Town of Warner.
11. Affordable Housing – Draft Zoning Amendment <https://warner.nh.us/notices/>
The notice on the Town’s website relates to definitions.
12. Forestry/Wetlands Permits – Ken Cogswell – Nothing publicly posted to report. Nancy Martin received one Permit to Cut and one Statutory Permit (from the Department of Environmental Services) for forestry via the mail.
13. Communications – Received a Mount Sunapee State Park Rare Old Forest pamphlet requesting help protecting forested land on Mount Sunapee State Park.
14. New Business – Tim Blagden (Friends of the Concord to Lake Sunapee Rail Trail) suggested that the Team who worked on the Chandler Nature Trail QR coded information team up to develop QR code content for the Concord to Lake Sunapee rail trail.
15. Adjourned at 8:12 pm.