



Town of Warner, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission
Wednesday, August 2, 2023

Meeting Minutes
Warner Town Hall 7:00 pm
In Person Meeting
Zoom Access

Warner Conservation Commission (WCC) members present: Alice Chamberlin, Ken Cogswell, Michael Amaral, Susi von Oettingen, Doug Allen, Phil Stockwell (Alternate), and Nancy Martin, Chair. No members of the public were present.

Meeting began 7:15 pm. New Business was requested, including 1) Mt. Kearsarge mountain bike trails, 2) Natural Resource Inventory, and 3) discussion about transcribing meeting recordings versus minutes drafted during the meeting as the WCC is currently doing. Transcribing meeting recordings is more time consuming than drafting minutes during the meeting. WCC will continue to provide minutes drafted during the meeting.

1. Approve Minutes- June 7, 2023 – after some edits were requested by Michael Amaral: spelling correction, Kevin Lee’s coaching, delete some superfluous information.
2. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) – Update on subcommittee meetings (Michael Amaral, Ken Cogswell, Alice Chamberlin, Susi von Oettingen, and Nancy Martin). There should be a draft map of the town-owned properties relative to the criteria being mapped for the NRI to highlight those properties that are of highest value to the Town (Wildlife Habitat, Surface Waters, Agriculture, Drinking Water, Scenic, Cultural, and Historical).
3. Stream Monitoring – Nancy Martin went to training on August 1 and collected monitoring equipment bought by Trout Unlimited. Jody Sloane (WCC member) will be recruiting volunteers. Monitoring equipment will be shared with Bradford. The WCC will draft a thank you note to Trout Unlimited for their generosity in supplying the water monitoring equipment.
4. Collins Donated Land Update; Map 9; Lot 28 – The Town’s lawyer sent a letter to the landowner for the transfer of the property. The landowner was away for a month and has not responded.
5. Chandler Ski Hill – Update on movement to restore the recreational uses of the Ski Tow rope. Have been told the project was not ready to submit a grant, needs more planning. The group reached out to ski lift engineers who reviewed the area and identified the necessary steps to identify the conditions, including an environmental review. The group is awaiting a response from the Chandler Reservation Board regarding the potential for restoring the tow rope for skiing. This fall there will be an effort to start the pollinator garden.

6. Mink Hills Recreation Study Committee- Update – A draft plan was released and presented at a public meeting. The draft Plan is posted on the WCC website. There are findings and recommendations that will be presented to the Selectboard later this year.
7. Mt. Kearsarge mountain bike trails – Alice Chamberlin, update. Key take away from the June meeting is that the proposal to create a trail is in a very early stage. Suggestion that the WCC draft a follow-up letter with specific questions regarding the proposal to the NH Parks representative present at the meeting (Eric Nelson). WCC members will send general questions to Alice to put into a letter to the State. Need to spell out the WCC's interest in the proposed trail.
8. Economic Development Advisory Committee- Community Center – Child Care Center is in operation. There should be a resolution to the Food Pantry situation regarding the terms of the lease in the near future.
9. Agricultural Committee-Update, Michael Amaral – The agricultural farm survey is available to the Town's residents to fill out. Over 100 surveys have been filled out. Craig Tufts (Central NH Regional Planning Commission) will be giving a presentation to the Agriculture Committee next month.
10. Forestry-Wetlands Permits – Ken Cogswell – one intent to cut on Poverty Plains Road.
11. Communications –
 - a. Received a letter from DES to a landowner on Tom Pond regarding violations of the RSA 483-B (Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act) by removal vegetation in the protective 50-foot vegetation buffer (WCC was copied). DES requested a response to a complaint they received regarding the potential violation.
 - b. The Planning Board will be doing an inspection of the sand and gravel operations in Warner, it is suggested that members from the WCC participate in the inspections.
 - c. At Ausbon Sargent meeting in July, UNH forester alerted people to the Beech Leaf Disease, see NH Bugs.org. UNH is monitoring the spread of this new invasive disease caused by a nematode.
12. Adjourned at 8:45 pm.