



Town of Warner, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission
Wednesday, December 6, 2023

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, Jackie Germaine (Alternate), Scott Warren (Alternate), Phil Stockwell (Alternate), and Nancy Martin, Chair.

Members of the public present: Tim Blagden, Kristen Riley, Derek Lich, Barbara Marty.

Meeting began at 7:03 pm.

1. Jonathan Stone Conservation Easement Amendment - Nancy Martin, Chair – Brian Hotz is negotiating an amendment to Jonathon Stone's property currently under an easement. The project would add acreage to the easement. The documentation is not completed therefore a vote will be postponed until it is finalized.
2. Approve Minutes- Nov. 1, 2023 – Minutes approved.
3. Rail Trail Work Session – Minutes of November 21, 2023 approved. Continued discussion on an additional information session to organize a "listening session" that is open to the public and public comment is allowed (as opposed to the closed working session). The public is interested in the rail trail on many fronts. Currently, there are parts of the rail trail are completed, parts (2) that are in progress, and sections that have not been designed or had easements completed. The WCC could hold a facilitated listening session, pertaining to potential environmental impacts (negative and positive) that solicits information. Tim Blagden would lead an information session on the proposed corridor and discussion on the environment. Ken Cogswell requested some history of how sensitive environments were treated during the construction of other rail trails. There will be an environmental consultant (for the Exit 9 Project) hired by the **Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail** by the end of January who would be able to provide additional information on the environment potentially affected by the proposed rail trail. A motion was made and seconded for the WCC to hold a facilitated public information session on the background of the rail trail, the process of the development of the rail trail, and possible rail trail **alignments** in order to better inform understanding of environmental effects. A possible date is the regularly scheduled WCC meeting, February 7, 2024 dependent upon securing a facilitator.
4. Mountain Bike Trail on Mt Kearsarge - Update on the status of the proposed Mountain Bike Trail. – A proposed trail has been flagged, but may not yet have been submitted to the State Lands Committee.

5. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) – Town-owned properties – Subcommittee had a call with Craig Tufts on Monday, December 4, 2024 reviewing the data collected and updating maps at the Subcommittee’s request. He also produced a short report on the Short List of the Town Auctionable Properties. Future action items for the WCC: review and refine the report (Alice Chamberlin and Scott Warren) and correct some errors in the list of properties (Ken Cogswell will review the ranking and lists for errors and corrections) before submitting to the Selectboard.
6. Letter of Support for NH F&G Application for National Fish Passage Program – update Nancy Martin, Chair. The WCC received a letter (**memo**) from Ben Nugent stating that the Town was requested to submit a full application for funding the replacement of failing culverts that inhibit passage for fish, reptiles, and amphibians. Ben Nugent is drafting the application and needs a budget from the Town.
7. Forestry-Wetlands Permits – Ken Cogswell - no permits of intent to cut, two DES utility permits from Eversource, can look at information for shoreland and wetlands drop down menu on the Town’s website ([*Water - Wetlands and Shoreland Permit Application Query*](#))
8. Agricultural Committee-Update – Michael Amaral reported no update for the WCC.
9. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.