



TOWN OF WARNER

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SELECT BOARD MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

October 31, 2023 3:00 pm
Lower Meeting Room Warner Town Hall 5 E Main St

1. Open the Meeting & Roll Call

Allan Brown opened the meeting at 6:36pm. Present were Faith Minton, Allan Brown, Georgia Flanders

Absent: Harry Seidel, Chair

Others Present:

2. Appointments

A. Unanticipated Funds – Tim Allen

Tim said in 2020 Fish and Game, the Warner Conservation Commission, Emergency Management Commission and Warner River Advisory looked into getting funding for improving the aquatic movement on the Ballard Brook. With the help of Fish and Game and others, the Town applied for some ARM (Aquatic Resources Management) grant money, through DES. The Town was successful and was granted funds to improve the three crossings over Ballard Brook; two on Red Chimney Road and one on East Joppa Road.

Tim said the State did the permitting for the first crossing and Tim agreed to do the processing and permitting for the other two crossings. The first structure is a 16' wide by 54' long box culvert with a simulated stream crossing. The whole project is between \$340,000 – \$380,000. The Town was awarded \$165,000 of ARM funding, plus about \$100,000 ARM funding that was applied for previously for the project. There was possibly more money coming from another New England Forest and Rivers Fund. To him it seemed like a good project for the Town if they could get funding for half of the project.

Tim explained that at the last meeting they had, it was discussed that once the design for the other two crossings were done, the second crossing didn't seem to have that big of effect on the aquatic movement. It was suggested that if the Town could pay for the second crossing on its own, that would be good; it wouldn't score that high for eligibility of ARM grant funding. The third crossing could then be scored higher to be able to receive more grant funding.

Tim said they have the permitting and easements in place and everything is ready to go. He wanted to hold the public hearing that evening to make sure everyone was on the same page. He would like to begin work in the

spring. Allan Brown asked if the funds, besides the grant funds, were already appropriated. Tim said they were and available in the Capital Reserve account. Tim said the Town will have to fund the project up front. The structure is \$107,000 and they can use matching labor and equipment for their match towards the project. The Town will then be reimbursed up to \$265,000 or possibly more. Allan Brown asked if the grant money was without strings; it isn't a loan or needs to be paid back in any way? Tim said as far as he knew the grant was straight-forward and they would only need to submit receipts to be reimbursed.

Ken Milender, Chair of the Warner River Advisory Committee was present. He said that the ARM fund was a result of the DOT's improvement project on I-89, three to four years ago. It was meant to compensate for the wetlands impact from the highway improvement project. Ken said the grant would not need to be paid back.

Tim said he wanted to mention that the Town received \$169,000 for ARPA funds for bridge construction. Right now that is in his CIP for the culvert crossing at Silver Lake. He thought it might be worth considering reapplying those funds to the crossing at Red Chimney so the whole project in that area can get done. Allan Brown agreed that the ARPA funds could help the Town get a leg-up on paying for the second crossing. Tim hoped the design work would be done by the end of December or beginning of January.

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The meeting adjourned at ?? pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of Warner