



WARNER RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<https://www.wrlac.com/>

MINUTES - Approved at an in-person meeting on July 27, 2022

Wednesday, 23 March 2022

7:00 p.m.

(on Zoom)

Appointed WRLAC Representatives present in **bold** (term ends):

George Embley, Webster (2024)

Dan Morrissey, Hopkinton (02-09-2025)

Marlene Freyler, Bradford (08-16-2024)

Dan Moran, Webster (09-03-2022)

Patti Furness, Bradford (2024)

J. Michael Norris, Hopkinton (11-26-2024)

Mike Howley, Bradford (2024)

Laura Russell, Warner (11-26-2024)

Andy Jeffrey, Sutton (07-29-2022)

Peter Savickas, Sutton (08-19-2022)

Ken Milender, Warner (11-26-2024)

Christopher Spannweitz, Warner (11-26-2024)

Note: Although enough members were present on zoom for a quorum, current NH law only allows a quorum to consist of those who are present in person. Thus, this meeting did not have a quorum.

New Business

1. Meeting minutes - Secretary neglected to send the February minutes to the Committee; therefore, the discussion was tabled until the April meeting.
2. Treasurer's Report - No changes. Waiting for an update on whether a 990 form needs to be filed.
3. Subcommittees - Here is the updated [WRLAC directory](#). Committee members, please let Laura know if something needs to be corrected.
4. Voluntary River Assessment Program - Chair is working with George in reassessing our river monitoring program. The [2021 data report from DES](#) is linked.
 - a. Ken has been in conversation with [Lauren Zielenski](#) the NH Water Resources Program Manager of the [Merrimack River Watershed Council](#). The hope is that MRWC will take on the VRAP program. The Committee liked this idea.
 - b. Ken stressed that it would be important for community members to be involved as volunteers, and several Committee members indicated an interest in doing so.

- c. George plans on mentioning the need for volunteers in the upcoming [Warner River Watershed Conservation Project](#) newsletter. He will be including WRLAC's contact info from our website so community members can indicate their interest.
5. Merrimack River Watershed Council presentation - **April 7** is the date of the [Merrimack River Watershed Council](#)'s virtual program to update Warner River watershed community members on the MRWC's plan for the Warner River watershed. The program will be led by [Tyson Morrill](#), MRWC's Restoration Manager. [Sec note: MRWC program was moved to 4/21]
 - a. Ken and George should be getting the link to the meeting soon.
 - b. WRLAC members are encouraged to attend.
6. Community events planning - As the Committee begins its outreach efforts, Laura shared a planning document that she hoped would help the Committee figure out how to ensure WRLAC is visible at community events. The [Community Events Planner](#) lists events at which WRLAC could have a presence. Discussion also included what kinds of materials and messaging should be consistently delivered at these events. In addition, there is a space to list names of folks who could volunteer to staff a table/booth for a particular event.
7. ["Reps' Reads"](#): In the February meeting, the Committee discussed adding relevant readings to the website for community members to consider. Tonight, Laura asked the Committee to brainstorm their favorite reads about the natural world, with the goal to create a place on the website for that list and links to our local bookstores.
 - a. Laura can add your favorite read, with or without your name to the list!
8. Protected Instream Flow Study - This program serves as a kind of road map to make sure all of the competing users in the watershed are heard. There will be a report ready for the public after the fall. Ken has asked the program to address the Committee, possibly before the draft is finalized.
9. ATV Impacts - Warner ConComm sent photos of riverbank impacts from ATV riders at several points along the river in Warner. Photos were taken by DES/DES contractors during the PISF Study. The Committee noted that if riders are using their ATVs below the highwatermark, they may be violating some state and local ordinances, even if they have accessed the area through privately owned land. It was noted that sometimes amicable solutions have been reached across parties in other communities. Mike H will do some research to see who might be an appropriate contact to help address the issue.

Continuing Business.

1. New permit applications - None this month.
2. Warner Power drums update - Ken and Chris have reached out to the owner of record as well as numerous community state and town leaders. While some have indicated that the barrels are not a hazard, others remain concerned. The Committee concluded that the next steps would be for the Committee to send a letter to the Warner Select Board that lays out our concerns. In

addition, the Committee would ask the select board for time on its agenda to have the letter read into the minutes. Also, the Committee thought it would be prudent to contact the chair of the Warner Conservation Commission to see if they could advise or even partner with us in this effort.

New Business

1. New Hampshire Watersheds Map - Mike H found 17 parcels of state-owned land in the river corridor.
2. Warner River Watershed conditions (river gage, observation well, etc.). Not discussed
3. George reported that he and Ben Nugent are writing a grant to TU asking for equipment that would enable the Warner River Watershed Conservation Project to increase and improve its ability to monitor important data for river health. This would also create an opportunity for volunteer participation. George would like to list WRLAC as a partner. The Committee enthusiastically agreed.

Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday 27 April 2022 (7:00 p.m.). LAC discussion on returning to in-person meetings. [Sec note: April meeting will be on zoom.]

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Russell, Sec.