

WARNER RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

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

Wednesday, 27 April 2022

7:00 p.m.

(on Zoom)

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

George Embley, Webster (07-08-2024)

Marlene Freyler, Bradford (08-16-2024)

Patti Furness, Bradford (07-33-2024)

Mike Howley, Bradford (06-22-2024)

Andy Jeffrey, Sutton (07-29-2022)

Ken Milender, Warner (11-26-2024)

Dan Morrissey, Hopkinton (02-09-2025)

Dan Moran, Webster (09-03-2022)

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

Laura Russell, Warner (11-26-2024)

Peter Savickas, Sutton (08-19-2022)

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 for and March 23
 - a. Feb 23 minutes approved unanimously.
 - b. March 23 minutes approved with one abstention
2. Treasurer's Report (Chair and Patty).
 - a. Ken will make sure Judy Newman Rogers at Town Hall forwards bank statements to Patty.
 - b. Patty is still working on our taxes; she will go see Judy.
3. Opportunities for Water Resource Restoration Projects in the Warner River watershed (Chair and George): [Merrimack River Watershed Council](#) hosted a virtual program for their 2022 schedule of projects in the Warner River Watershed, Thursday, 4/21. The audience was primarily WRLAC members for the presentation by Ben Nugent of F&G and Tyson Morrill of MRWC.
 - a. 7% of Warner River watershed is categorized as "poor" quality based on scores of macroinvertebrate surveys; the good news is that means 93% is in better shape for supporting brook trout and other native sensitive species.
 - b. Culvert surveys - only about 1/3 of culverts allow for full aquatic organism passage; these locations also often have geomorphological problems such as plunge pools and impassable perches and/or hydrological problems such as an inability to withstand extreme events.
 - c. WRLAC also has watershed-wide culvert survey maps which would be good to put on the website.
 - d. Funding opportunities - They depend on government grants from feds and the state of Mass, but they want to become more plugged into NH through programs.
 - e. They mentioned that there are grants available for fixing erosion of riverbanks or assisting with culvert reconstruction and/or design. There are also grants available for

restoring native plant species and removing, controlling, or suppressing invasive species (such as the dreaded knotweed). They showed photos of a tree-planting project along the river that took place earlier that day.

- f. Electrofishing season will begin soon. NHF&G and Trout Unlimited will be coordinating to gather data. They always want to involve local volunteers.
- g. They also talked about work, such as in-stream wood along tributaries (18 feet wide or less).

Continuing Business.

1. Voluntary River Assessment Program (Chair)
 - a. Ken reported that Lauren Zeliensky of the Merrimack River Watershed Council has offered to take over river monitoring for 2022. They hope to continue beyond 2022 as long as they can secure funding.
 - b. They will share data with WRLAC.
 - c. They have volunteers as well as an AmeriCorps staffer for this summer. They would really like to involve local volunteers as well.
 - d. On June 4, Ken and MRWC reps will tour the Warner River basin.
2. New permit applications: None this month.
3. Warner Power Drums (Chair and Chris): Chris provided the Committee with photos showing that the drums are gone! Nice work, everyone!
4. Reps' Reads (Chair and Laura): Reps' favorite reads about the natural world added to our website for that list and links to our local bookstores. Laura will send the list to Andy to post on the website.

Other Business

Chris was approached by a member of the river management advisory committee for the state. He told the Committee that they are looking for someone to represent agriculture.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Russell, secretary