

WARNER RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

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

Wednesday, 25 May 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. April 27 meeting minutes were conditionally approved with 7 yes, 2 abstentions
2. Treasurer's Report - No change in account (\$2,350.03)
3. Guest Speaker: WRLAC Vice Chair Dan Moran - Presentation and discussion of invasive species in New Hampshire. Dan attended a [Coverts Project](#) sponsored by UNH which trains volunteers in wildlife conservation, forest stewardship, and effective outreach. Dan shared a slideshow that explained how to identify common invasive plants, why they are problematic, and how to treat/eradicate these invasives.
 - a. Common invasives - bittersweet, winged euonymus (burning bush), multiflora rose, autumn olive, knotweed, Norway maple, garlic mustard, black swallowwort, purple loosestrife,
 - b. Why they are problematic - Invasives typically leaf out and go to seed sooner than natives; they crowd out natives; they are not usually good food for native animals; they have few natural predators; they may replace natives including sensitive alpine vegetation and food for native animals, like monarch butterflies, they take moisture and resources from natives.
 - c. Methods of control/eradication - bio control (animals and insects); choose native plantings; physically remove plants (very labor intensive); herbicides (have their drawbacks; landowners can use herbicides on their land; a special license is needed on public land)
 - d. There are maps showing the [hot spots of invasives](#); these maps might be good to put on the website.
 - e. UNH Extension has resources for choosing natives.

- f. Discussion
 - i. Part of the Coverts Project included having a county forester come to Dan's property
 - ii. Do we find out what the towns' conservation commissions are doing so we can partner with them?
 - iii. [Amy Smagula of NH DES](#) has materials on invasive species in the aquatic domain. She has published a booklet specifically about Lake Todd.
 - iv. The [app "Picture This"](#) helps you identify plants.
 - v. What is our role? Clearinghouse? Activism? Educational?
 - vi. Chris can look up BMPs on managing and mitigation strategies for invasives at NH Landscapers Association; relevant information could be linked to the website.

Continuing Business

1. Volunteer River Assessment Program - Chair is finalizing arrangements with Merrimack River Watershed Council to perform the 2022 monthly river monitoring. We have received a handful of volunteers, and we are putting them in touch with the Merrimack River Council. Chair will be meeting with the Council 4 June to visit (and possibly perform) the June river monitoring. Chair will be leaving our equipment with DES for annual refurbishing.
2. New permit applications - None this month!
3. Reps' Reads - Just a friendly reminder that we should all be reading and recommending books about the natural world, and link our website to our local bookstores.
4. WRLAC Speaker Series - We've had some good speakers to date, education is an important function for us. We should be more environmentally literate if we are to teach our riverfront towns. Roundtable discussion on keeping a list of possible guest speakers and guest audiences
 - a. Past speakers - Ben Nugent F&G, Tyson Morrill MRWC, Sherry Gould and Darryl Peasley [Abenaki Trails Project](#) (March 2021), Tracie Sales NHDES Rivers Program, Mike Tardiff and Stephanie Alexander CNHRPC, Mark Beauchesne [Landowner Relations Coordinator](#) for NH Fish & Game, and our very own Dan Moran
 - b. Ideas for the future:
 - c. Fall 2022 - Wayne Ives and Joe Schmidl - Instream Flow program and study education
 - i. Mike H - Could this be a field trip to the gauge!?
 - ii. Mike N - Have a hydrologic technician from Pembroke to give a presentation
 - iii. Dan Morrissey - It would be neat to see them "stream gauge"
 - iv. Ken - Maybe we'll do this in July or August - a "reps' road trip"!
 - v. Mike N - Don't forget the gauge at the Contoocook Dam.
 - d. Brick Moltz - The Warner Historical Society is planning an exhibit about Davisville
 - e. Tracy Sales (again) to talk about NH Lakes Association work
 - f. At our 8/28/19 meeting, Bonnie Christie (of the Hopkinton Historical Society? Or Five Rivers?) had invited WRLAC to co-sponsor two programs about the Contoocook, North Branch, and Warner Rivers which they were going to call "Living Waters" on the natural and cultural history and the future of the Contoocook and Warner Rivers. The Committee voted to co-sponsor this event.

- i. Laura will contact the HHS to see if the program ever ran.
 - 1. Update on 6/9/22: Laura spoke to Nancy Chabot, admin and curator at the Hopkinton HS, and the program did not sound familiar to her, but she did mention that they ran a program with Abenaki Trails that took place IN the river. I think Sherry Gould did mention that in her presentation to us. Nancy took my contact info for future partnerships.
 - g. [NH Lakes Lay Monitoring Program](#) or other lake associations - Tracie Sales?
 - h. This spring Joe Schmidl held a field demo of an instrument he was installing in the Ashuelot River basin, and the LAC was a co-host of the event, and it was a public event. Could we reach more people by making ourselves a co-host of a similar program?
 - i. Is [this](#) the event Mike was referring to?
 - i. River herring program run by F&G; one repository has been Lake Winnepocket
- 5. [Community Events Calendar](#) - Discussion on planning for upcoming community events, who will man the booth, and what will we have (planning before the events).
 - a. Could folks who live in the towns where events are happening organize our presence at community events?
 - b. We will need to get things together to share at any booth!
 - i. QR code to the WRLAC website? Laminated flyers? Paper flyers? Demonstrations?
 - c. Sweet Beet will be getting their 4th of July event info out soon. Mike H will get us the info as it comes out.
- 6. [Quorum Votes](#) - We might need a 1-time, in-person quorum to make legal some of our non-quorum votes over the past year (likely over the summer).
 - a. After a cursory search, it appears that we need to vote on minutes from Sept 2021 (due to lack of quorum), Oct 2021, Dec 2021, Jan 2022, Feb 2022, Mar 2022, Apr 2022, May 2022
 - b. We also need to vote on the executive committee roles:
 - i. Chair - Ken Milender
 - ii. Vice Chair - Dan Moran
 - iii. Treasurer - Patty Furness
 - iv. Secretary - Laura Russell
 - c. We could meet outside in Warner.
- 7. Executive Committee Reminder (Chair): Reminder that the Exec Comm is half way through our current terms and elections will be in November. **We will need a volunteer to take over as Chair.**

Next meeting: Weds, June 22, 7 PM - Location to be determined.