



WARNER RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

MINUTES

Wednesday, 24 May 2023

7:00 p.m.

In person: Pillsbury Free Library, Warner, NH

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)

Ken Milender, Warner (11-26-2024)

Dan Morrissey, Hopkinton (02-09-2025)

Laura Russell, Warner (11-26-2024)

Peter Savickas, Sutton (08-19-2025) *On zoom*

Christopher Spannweitz, Warner (11-26-2024)

Member of the Public: Asa Dustin, Hopkinton

New Business

1. Introductions - Welcome to Asa Dustin, Hopkinton. Dan Morrissey explained that Asa's family has been active in preserving quite a bit of land along the Warner River. Dan hopes that Asa will join WRLAC.
2. Meeting minutes for March 22 - Accepted unanimously
3. Treasurer's Report - Laura will ask Patty for a check to pay the dues for the Wix-hosted website.
4. New permit applications (Chair). New House Proposal, Willaby Colby Lane, Warner Lot 33-19-1. Permit App Review Subcomm's letter to DES was submitted; we raised concerns about the design and requested a number of permit conditions. (We have heard from two unhappy abutters). Chair thanks the permit app subcomm for their service. Applicant submitted a letter

addressing our concerns. Our response to their response should have gone out around 19 May. Chair was invited to address the Warner ConCom on this issue May 3.

- a. Permit was issued on 5/23/2023.
 - b. Discussion continued about how to improve a system of permit notifications so that WRLAC is able to comment on applications in a timely manner. Topics of discussion included the following:
 - i. Should we invite building inspectors to attend a WRLAC meeting to help them understand our goals?
 - ii. We've learned that we want to be notified about intent-to-cut permits within the Corridor, and we need to learn about the rules for logging or timber harvesting in or around wetlands. The challenge is that intent-to-cut permits are for tax purposes but not for environmental impact reviews. Should we invite a selectboard member to inform this committee about the intent-to-cut purpose and process and to perhaps let them know how cutting can impact the environment, particularly the river?
 - iii. GIS functions can help us look at any property within the corridor more closely, and we could share the info with permitting bodies; perhaps add a GIS link to the website; there's a river mapper from NH DES that would be useful. (Bradford and Sutton have this capability.)
5. Bradford Transfer Station (Mike). Possible new earth-moving operation? Bradford ConCom inquired of the Bradford B-O-S. Town cleared 3 ac. to process gravel for town roads. Possibly to include blasting rock, but as of late April, nothing further. Crushers are expensive to rent!
- a. If the project goes forward, could WRLAC ask that the town adhere to best management practices to control silt runoff into the river? This request could be sent to conservation commissions and select boards.
6. Other New Items
- a. Bradford: Mike has observed town markers on three culverts under Jones Road from the south side to the north side. The north side is the wetlands adjacent to the Warner River. The south side is Naughton's. Two of the culverts (on west side and east side) drain parking lots and a swale on the side of the road. The center one drains a series of settling ponds coming down from Naughton's solid waste building that separates recycling, but does not store materials long-term. After the last settling pond is a perched culvert about two feet above the base of the pond; it goes under the road and into the wetland and thus into the river during spring freshets. We have not received an application for culvert replacement, but any stormwater runoff would be concerning. Anne Eldridge now knows about this. Ken will send Anne a note asking her to look further into it.
 - b. Warner: Town is planning on replacing a culvert that carries Barclay Brook under Schoodac Rd (near 137 Schoodac Rd). (Sec note: I believe this was the brook that was written up in the Monitor regarding the presence of brook trout.) The existing culvert is very out-of-date, so this committee is pleased to hear that it will be upgraded. WRLAC did receive the permit application, and the subcommittee did not have any major concerns. The subcommittee's letter asked please not to add riprap and please consider matching the soils/streambed sediments when reconstructing the site.
 - c. The Warner Village Water District notified Ken that their permit application for their infiltration discharge plan. They have petitioned to conduct the testing program from

June 1 into November (170 days).. Dan will look over the temporary discharge permit application with Ken.

Continuing Business.

1. Continuing permit applications: None.
2. Breezy Hill Road/Warner River Turbidity (Chair): Update on logging and land clearing misbehavior on Breezy Hill Road in Bradford. Applicant missed their deadline, but submitted their plan to prevent/mitigate the erosion and sediment problem to DES, who approved the plan (we have not seen the plan). Still unknown is whether the Applicant needs to submit for an AoT permit. In DES's eyes, the erosion controls should have been installed by now (May 1 deadline).
 - a. It's not clear whether DES has been looking into some other questions, such as some earth moving nearby.
 - b. Questions about the Twigs property were also discussed. (Twigs is a firewood supplier that has been in Bradford since 2016.)
3. Website update (Laura): Laura and Mike will be meeting June to formulate questions for our technical rep, Andy Catts, who will be helping them update the website. Andy Catt's time has been generously provided by former Sutton rep Andy Jeffrey.
4. VRAP (Chair): Rebecca Herman and George Beaton of Bradford have graciously agreed to lead the charge on VRAP monitoring this summer. Our gear went to DES for its annual refurbishing. I also learned that the DES needs to visually inspect the gear every year (who knew!?), and the gear was actually loaned to us. I thought gift was the wording actually used, but I was incorrect.
 - a. The Committee should ask Rebecca Eaton to speak about the program to further inform the Committee.
5. Instream Flow project - No updates
 - a. DES tried to access Blaisdell Lake dam to look at it.
6. Route 127 (Davisville) Bridge Project: NHDOT held a meeting at Warner Town Hall 27 April to keep Warner informed of the progress of this bridge project. Since we last connected, DOT has decided that the bridge will be wholly replaced, with prelim site work and electric lines work completed by summer 2024 and the bridge closed and replaced by summer 2025. The dam will be free-span, without piers in the river. Chair believes they took our concerns and addressed them.
7. [Public Events](#) (Laura): It appears that we are gearing up for a number of potential public events at which we can publicize ourselves and our mission. Calling all volunteers!!

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Next meeting: Weds, July 26, 7 PM