



## WARNER RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

### MINUTES

Wednesday, 26 July 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)

**Christopher Spannweitz**, Warner (11-26-2024)

### *New Business*

1. Meeting minutes for May 24 approved with minor changes.
2. Treasurer's Report - In Patty's absence, Laura reported that she is waiting to get the final billing from Wix.com for the website fees. The cost will be about \$500.
3. New permit applications - No new applications
4. Other New Items
  - a. Laura will send Dan the form for becoming an LAC member and he can forward it to Asa Dustin in the hope that he will join the WRLAC.
  - b. George will contact Fish & Game to find out if it makes sense for WRLAC to have a booth at the Hopkinton Fair.

- i. Secretary's note: George found out that the booth would need to be staffed for the duration of the Fair. Via email, George and Laura agreed that WRLAC would not be able to commit to that.
- c. The Ballard Brook culvert project continues with some promising developments that will improve it as a healthy habitat.
- d. A resident of Warner reported to Ken earlier today that they saw someone down in the Roby Road section using an excavator and dumping something into the Warner River. Ken will follow up.

#### *Continuing Business.*

1. Continuing permit applications
  - a. Schoodac Road/Barclay Brook culvert (Warner). We got the letter in from DES Wetlands – DES requested redesign of some portions of the plan per our suggestions (that revolved around better designing what the restored streambanks and streambed would look like).
  - b. Warner Village District Rapid Infiltration Basins. DES issued the district their temporary GW discharge permit. We did have a couple of small victories with our letter-writing (the field parameters were tweaked per our comments, Cu was added to the testing list (!!)) per our requests, and the river will be sampled at two points during the testing). Consultant has not been able to string their piping on the plant side of the river due to the flooding. Everything else is in place (except for one basin, which is not needed for the start). They hope river levels drop this week so they can install the last section of pipe and start the testing.
    - i. Discussion by Committee members included whether there is an alternate plan if the tests indicated that the original plan is not suitable. Concerns also continue about the impact of copper in the aquifer.
  - c. Breezy Hill Road AoT Application (Bradford): We were sent the after-the-fact AoT permit application mid-June. Likely we will submit a short letter requesting DES confirm whether the easterly end of the open earthwork area should be included in the AoT permit area (right now, it is not included). We are also unclear whether this additional area has erosion controls in place. Deadline for comments is August 20.
    - i. Questions for DES and landowner might include
      1. Can you confirm that the more recent earthwork along the railroad bed is not included in the AoT permit application?
      2. Are there sediment erosion controls in place for that additional area?
      3. Can DES perform a site inspection?
2. Website update - No update; Laura and Mike are still working on finding a time to meet!
3. Instream Flow project (Chair): DES visited and inspected all four dams we want to evaluate for possible relief pulses (Kezar, Loch Lyndon, Todd, Blaisdell). They deployed pressure data loggers to determine the stage/discharge relationships at 5 locations along the River and tribs. And then it rained. And it continued raining. Some of their staff gages were swept away, and some of their data loggers have not been checked yet (to see if they are still in place on the river bottom). As of this weekend, they've met with all four lake associations/owners. DES has also met with folks on Toms Pond, too, just to help them out. They are planning to perform release tests at the four dams so they can quantify how much water will be released at different configurations (pulling 1 board, pulling 2 boards; opening gates halfway, opening gates full), in August if there is

a low flow, otherwise, testing will have to be done at fall drawdown. They are planning on releasing the PISF Report, final, this month. No significant changes from the draft.

4. Public Events

- a. Laura will staff a booth at the Warner Palooza on August 12.
- b. Chris will head up the WLAC booth for the Warner Fall Foliage Festival. Please consider staffing the booth for a few hours over the weekend.

5. Other topics

- a. For future discussion: Asking for donations - yes? no?
- b. Rail Trail status - see the [CLSRT](#) website for latest news

Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 27 at 7 PM