



Town of Warner, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission
Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Minutes
Warner Town Hall 7:00 pm
In Person Meeting
June 5, 2024

Warner Conservation Commission (WCC) members present: Ken Cogswell, Doug Allen, Michael Amaral, Susi von Oettingen, Jackie Germaine (Alternate), Alice Chamberlin, and Nancy Martin, Chair.

Members of the public present: Benjamin Kramer, Caroline Allen

Meeting began at 7:13pm.

1. Digitizing Easement Monitoring Documents- Video Presentation- Caroline Allen, adobe file of presentation saved. Presentation captured on ZOOM.
2. Mt. Kearsarge Mountain Bike Trail- Benjamin Kramer, passionate cyclist, including racing. Provided an update of the proposed downhill mountain bike trail on state property. The New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) will ultimately be the management and responsible entity of the proposed trail. The majority of the trail is on State property. Follows the road closely for the most part. In discussions with Eric Nelson (NH State Parks), the trail designer (professional mountain bike trail designer) developed a plan on how to create a low impact, low maintenance trail. Benjamin will check if the plan can be shared with the WCC. Should be sustainable, a dirt trail minimizing impacts to the environment. Presented a map with the proposed trail. The trail being next to the road allows for quick access in an event of an emergency, and for repeat loop trips by cyclists. Design should be for a downhill trail only and will be signed as such. Will be developed as a multi-use trail to include winter sports. The width of the trail will be approximately 3 feet at the dirt opening, but the clearing will be wider on the sides.

Question – why does the trail not follow the road the entire way? There are areas where the road is in steep terrain, and following the road would cause greater environmental impacts. The trail would be 3 miles long (not as long as the road).

Question regarding accessing the mountain – when the toll road is open it is the price per vehicle, not per passenger. For example, a truck could bring up to 4 bikes but be charged as one vehicle. There may be increased parking to accommodate the increased use.

Request by WCC to see references on impacts of mountain bike trails on the natural resources. Benjamin will provide references.

Comment regarding the impact of the trail (visual) on the auto road, an historic road built by the Civilian Conservation Corp. (CCC).

What is the time frame of the process, including public hearings? Unknown at this time. The process will start when the application has been submitted to the State. The application may be submitted by the end of the summer.

Potential for a trail site walk with the WCC, Benjamin will look into organizing either via when trees are marked, or driving up and walking down (a 2 hour trip). Benjamin will provide potential dates of his availability, possibly in June, late afternoon after getting permission from the State for after hours access.

3. Approve Minutes- May 1, 2024. Minutes approved as written
4. WCC Re-appointments – Ken Cogswell and Jackie Germaine have been reappointed by the Board of Selectmen (BOS). Michael Amaral will coordinate a time to meet with the BOS for reappointment.
5. Stream Monitoring – Barbara Marty will coordinate stream monitoring of approximately 10 streams in town. Training was held last Friday. Barbara Marty will set up dates/schedules for interested volunteers.
6. Mink Hills Stewardship Committee – Seeking a volunteer from the WCC. The primary responsibility is for Committee volunteers to monitor roads. Question regarding whether the Chandler Reservation was on the Committee. Let Nancy know if we want to volunteer.
7. Collins Donation – The BOS will have the acceptance of the Collins Property on the June 28 agenda. Held two public hearings with no opposition to accepting the donation.
8. Rodenticide Poisoning – The WCC offered options in place of the toxic material in the boxes. The BOS ordered the removal of the boxes with rodenticide and replaced them snap traps.
9. Housing Committee-Update-Jackie Germaine – Working assimilating the information gathered during the Town meeting.
10. Economic Development Committee-Update- Nancy Martin – Will be focusing on the future of the Community Center. A survey for residents to respond to questions regarding the future use of the Community Center.
11. Agricultural Committee-Update – Michael Amaral – working on an advisory document to the BOS re: housing for agricultural workers.
12. Forestry/Wetlands permits – Ken Cogswell, 4 intents to cut permits have been filed but not all are active.
13. New Business – Susi von Oettingen, TNC Appalachian initiative. Also reported an incursion of MXbikes in the Mink Hills on Saturday, June 1. Probably an organized event, the WCC needs to look into it due to wetlands violations. The WCC also discussed the upcoming meeting regarding the Mount Sunapee proposed parking lot expansion Saturday, June 8 in Newbury.

14. Adjourned at 9:15.