

WARNER GROUNDWATER PROTECTION Newsletter

PROTECTING WARNER'S DRINKING WATER FOR OUR FUTURE

A PROPOSED GROUNDWATER PROTECTION ORDINANCE OVERLAY DISTRICT FOR WARNER

Findings from the Dec 13 Public Meeting on Groundwater Protection

Townspople and property owners in Warner had the opportunity to talk with the Warner Groundwater Protection Committee in December to learn about our findings related to groundwater and aquifers in Town and what we can do locally to better protect our drinking water resources. This examination focuses roughly along the Warner River– see map on Page 2.

These valuable groundwater resources have little protection. Development at Exit 9 will continue and will eventually span to Exit 7. Incompatible future development over this area without regulation can harm our groundwater.

Conclusions

We drafted the proposed **Groundwater Protection Ordinance (GPO) Zoning Overlay District** language and map to give Warner some local control over *future* and *expanded* incompatible land uses within our vulnerable water resource areas.

Next Steps – We Need Your Support at the Jan 30 Planning Board Meeting

The Planning Board held the proposed GPO's 1st public hearing on Jan 9 and will hold the 2nd and final hearing on Mon, Jan 30 at 7:00 PM to decide whether to place the proposed GPO onto the Tues March 14 ballot. [Click here for the public notice, proposed GPO and Zoning map](#) on the Town website.

Your attendance and support at this crucial meeting are necessary. Attend in person or on Zoom: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87061407427> Passcode 1234.

Support the Groundwater Protection Ordinance at the Planning Board Public Hearing

**Mon Jan 30 @ 7:00 PM
Warner Town Hall**

Lower Meeting Room

WHAT WARNER'S PROPOSED GPO DOES AND DOES NOT DO

Does:

- Propose a protection zone over the aquifer and wellhead protection areas which provide our public drinking water.
- Prohibit a few new or expanded industrial uses that could lead to aquifer contamination.
- Fit within Warner's existing regulatory structure of zoning districts and uses.

Does Not:

- Regulate private residences.
- Cost the Town money to implement.
- Discourage new businesses along the Exits 7-8-9 area.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Resource Available

The December 13 Public Meeting brought numerous questions about the aquifers, water resources, and the proposed GPO to the forefront. The public asked and we answered. For the full FAQ, visit the WGPC webpage at <https://warnernh.gov/gpc>.

- Why do we need a Groundwater Protection Ordinance?
- What incompatible land uses we want to keep away from our drinking water?
- Doesn't the State already permit and regulate these incompatible land uses?
- Is a GPO going to raise my taxes or water bills? Are there costs associated?
- How do I know if I live on top of an aquifer or if I'm in the proposed GPO zone?
- Will a GPO drive business away from Town?
- Who will enforce this new Ordinance?
- Why not include the whole Town within the Overlay District?
- Have we ever had groundwater contamination in Warner?
- Will a GPO impact agricultural uses along the river and in the proposed overlay district?
- How can I get my well water tested?
- What if a large water withdrawal business like Poland Springs wants to locate to Warner?

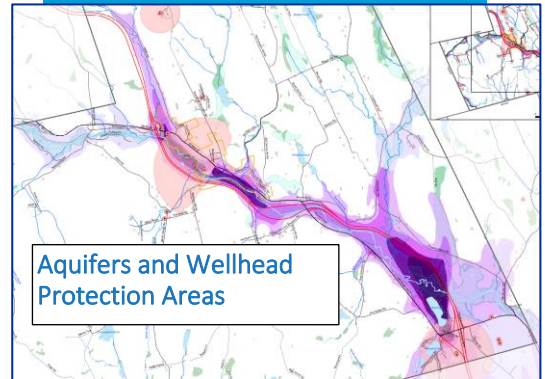
Curious about the answers? [Download the FAQ here!](#)

What Can You Do to Help Protect Source Water?

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides information about what citizens can do to protect drinking water sources. Their tips include:

- ◆ Learning about your drinking water sources.
- ◆ Use and dispose of harmful materials properly.
- ◆ Think twice about lawn and garden chemicals.
- ◆ Maintain your septic system.
- ◆ Dispose of unwanted medications as directed.
- ◆ Volunteer in your community:
 - Organize a stream or wetland clean up – contact the Warner Conservation Commission to ask how to help: <https://warner.nh.us/departments/concom/>.
 - Prepare a presentation about your watershed for a school or civic organization;
 - Work with community partners and the Warner Village Water District – visit <https://warner.nh.us/departments/wvwd/> - to advocate for water protection.

Visit the EPA website for more ideas at: <https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection/how-can-you-help-protect-source-water>.



Did you know?

❄️ Snowstorms & Drinking Water ❄️

Gather emergency supplies of water BEFORE the storm hits. Visit the Red Cross winter storm website at:

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/winter-storm.html>

❄️ You can find a Warner River fact sheet on the DES website! Visit

<https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/rl-29.pdf>.

Join us for the [WGPC's last meeting!](#)

WGPC MEETINGS at the Warner Town Hall

- Wed Aug 3 @ 5:00 PM
- Thu Sep 29 @ 6:30 PM
- Wed Oct 19 @ 6:30 PM
- Wed Nov 16 @ 6:30 PM
- Wed Nov 30 @ 6:30 PM
- **TUE DEC 13 @ 7:00 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**
- Wed Jan 4 @ 5:30 PM
- **Thu Feb 9 @ 6:30 PM**