



Town of Warner, New Hampshire  
Conservation Commission  
Wednesday, March 6, 2024  
Meeting Minutes

Warner Town Hall 7:00 pm  
In-person Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nancy Martin (chair), Alice Chamberlain, Ken Cogswell, Michael Amaral, Phil Stockwell (alternate), Jackie Germain (alternate), Scott Warren (alternate)

Public Attendees:

Sophie Courser, Barbara Marty, Bret Ingold, Harry Seidel, Tim Blagden

Meeting began at 7:00 pm

1. Water Quality Monitoring Streams  
Barbara Marty is managing 12 volunteers under the supervision of Ben Nugent (NH Fish and Game) to monitor 6 streams in Warner using equipment donated by Trout Unlimited. Barb asked the WCC to act as an oversight committee. Once yearly, Barb will report findings to The WCC and will also notify The WCC of any urgent findings. A training is scheduled for June 2024 (TBA), and will be posted in The Pillsbury Newsletter. Additional volunteers are welcome.
2. Kearsarge Community Land Trust (KCLT)  
Bret Ingold, who is on the Board of Directors for KCLT provided a history and goals of KCLT which focuses on sustainability of housing and land management promoting housing that fits the character of The Town. Their pilot project is The Foster Farm. The home there is now being rented to a couple who produce NH wines. KCLT welcomes donations and volunteers. Sophie Courser, also a Board member of KCLT reviewed the volunteer efforts to renovate the historical house on the property. KCLT is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
3. Approve Minutes- February 7, 2023  
Minutes accepted with spelling edits.
4. Natural Resource Inventory Update  
Mike Tardiff (Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Committee) has advised Nancy Martin that documents should be completed within a month.

5. Mountain Bike Trail on Mt Kearsarge Update  
Alice Chamberlain spoke with Eric Nelson (State Parks Dept) who said that no application to them has been received.
6. Rail Trail Warrant Article  
Bill Watson (DOT) sent the WCC information to review. Alice Chamberlain asked several questions regarding potential cost to the Town to do a resource impact analysis, the impact of the Warrant Article Petition if passed at Town Meeting, potential liabilities for the Town and residents, authority of The WCC over the project. Suggestions made that an explanation of the permitting process should be done by Tim Blagden at Town Meeting. Scott Warren spoke to our non-authoritative role in the permitting process. Bullet points on a slide will be presented at Town Meeting. WCC members and Tim Blagden will be there to answer questions.
7. Housing Committee- Jackie Germain  
Jackie, a member of the Warner Housing Advisory Committee, asked members of The WCC for input from a conservation perspective with the following questions: "From the perspective of The Commission, what are the important considerations for Warner's approach to housing?", and "Do you have any recommendations for how to engage the community around the topic of housing?"  
Members were invited to provide responses to Jackie after the meeting. Michael Amaral spoke to his opinion that we should be respectful of the town's existing zoning regulations and any changes should be subtle and cautiously made.  
Alice Chamberlain provided ideas for community engagement including newsletters and info booths at Town events. Harry Seidel asked about the capacity of the Town's water supply and his concern for development causing a concentration of run-off from rain and ground water.
8. Economic Development Committee Update  
Alice Chamberlain discussed The Warrant Article pertaining to the food pantry rent.
9. Forestry-Wetlands Permits- DES Notice of Reported Violation  
On 2/21/2024 a letter was sent to John Warren regarding property on Dustin Road about a violation for building a beach on the property. Nancy Martin visited the site and responded to DES that the sand build-up was a natural occurrence caused by stream run-off and not a man-made beach. The Land Use Office received three Intent to cut applications now under review.
10. Agricultural Committee Update  
Nothing to report.
11. Harry Seidel asked the WCC for input on revising Building Permit Application for the Town. This application is being revised to improve the process of site plan review, including The Groundwater Protection Ordinance and how to include that framework. A draft of the revision to be sent to The WCC. Mapping by CAI could be helpful with overlay maps.
12. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.