



Town of Warner, New Hampshire  
Conservation Commission  
Draft Minutes  
Warner Town Hall  
January 8, 2025, 7:00 pm  
In Person Meeting  
Zoom:

Warner Conservation Commission (WCC) Members present: Alice Chamberlin, Michael Amaral, Ken Cogswell, Scott Warren, Jackie Germain, Nancy Martin, Chair (via Zoom).

Members of the public: Craig Tufts, Tim Blagdon, Richard Allmendinger, Brea Arvidson, Laura Russell, Barbara Marty.

Meeting began 7:05 pm

1. Approve Minutes- December 6, 2024 - approved
2. Draft Natural Resources Inventory for the Town of Warner - Craig Tufts, Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC) –The final Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) document will be converted into an online document that is interactive with maps connected to text, as well as a written document. There will be an executive summary.

The WCC and Craig Tufts reviewed the following questions provided to Craig Tufts in an email from Nancy Martin (December 6, 2024).

Scott Warren will provide editorial recommendations to Craig Tufts with respect to comments regarding the “denseness of the document”.

Additionally, the Recommendations will be reviewed and fleshed out. Craig will send the WCC text for review by the entire Commission. (See bullet: Members would like to harden up Recommendations e.g. more specificity in recommendations... Make them actionable.)

Response to bullet #4 Recommendation: On the suggestion of an Open Space Plan...what would that look like? Do you have an example of one that you have done for other towns? - Craig explained how maps will be developed and must show a clear intent as to which properties are of most importance. Recommendations are helpful to steer actions. The WCC needs to identify what is needed as a tool to address the Town’s conservation and natural resources objectives. Craig provided an example from Pembroke of their NRI and their open space plan. Discussed the usefulness of a heat map vs an open space plan. The NRI has heat maps created for the priorities identified by the WCC at the initiation of the NRI project.

Response to #8 Recommendation: On Climate Change. How should we approach climate change? Review The Nature Conservancy’s approach to climate change (creating networks). Look at the TNC climate change webpage (<https://crs.tnc.org/pages/assistedmigration> and Nature Conservancy Resilient Land Mapping Tool <https://www.maps.tnc.org/resilientland/#/explore>) and UNH climate change assessment. Suggestion to review Deering Story Map

(<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f20771313cc9425993c5c1d046fe54cb>), and how the NRI approached climate change. Could use what Deering developed.

Response to “In the Agricultural Section: Maple Sugar as an agricultural product. There was no(?) mention of maple sugar harvest and the economic and cultural impact it has on Warner (annual Maple Sugar Weekend when many sugar houses are open to the public) Ag Map doesn't represent the many steep and stoney mountainside locations of sugar bushes.” Craig will add some language addressing maple sugaring importance to the Town of Warner. GIS mapping most likely not available relative to sugar bush. The WCC will provide information regarding Maple Sugar producers, could include as a map in the NRI. Michael Amaral will provide additional information.

Lastly, need to add a Recommendation to work more closely with Planning Board to identify and achieve deliverables. eg. auction of town owned properties. The WCC will get on the Planning Board agenda to discuss Auctionable Properties and present a summary of the NRI (including objectives and intent of the NRI relative to Auctionable Properties). Nancy Martin will coordinate getting this topic on the Planning Board agenda.

Craig asked if the Town of Warner has wetland buffers that are more strict than the State of New Hampshire restrictions (no) and steep slope restrictions (may be for building).

Craig will follow up with Michael Amaral regarding sugaring operations, and will follow up with Recommendations with Nancy and set up a working Zoom meeting with the WCC to go over the revisions. Craig will wait for Scott Warren’s editorial revisions.

3. Auctionable Properties Recommendations- CNHRPC Scores – tabled for now. The WCC has this tool to use in concert with site visits. Will review how the CNHRPC scores are used.

4. Conservation Fund- NH Public Deposit Insurance Pool – Nancy Martin reported that the fund is in the process of setting up the NH Public Deposit Insurance Pool so that the WCC can access the funds quickly for a needed payment/project.

5. Mt. Kearsarge Mountain Bike Trail – no application for the Trail, yet. Ben Kramer (via January 7, 2025 email to Nancy Martin) anticipates that the application may be made in June, 2025. Nancy Martin recommends that a walk of the general area of the trail be undertaken in the spring. Michael Amaral noted that State Parks is investing funds in new buildings, restrooms, and a small parking area on the Winslow State Park side of Mt. Kearsarge. Jackie Germaine was approached by a member of the public who has been trying to contact Ben Kramer and NEMBA with questions about the proposed trail. She will provide information on the current status of the application (no submittal yet).

6. Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail Permitting- Public Hearing run by HEB Engineers. – Public Hearing January 22, 2025 at 6 pm at the Town Hall for the Exit 9 portion of the project.

7. Planting Trees Project- Harry Siedel (not present) – No updates.

8. Economic Development Advisory Committee-Community Center Proposed Warrant Article – Nancy Martin – Held an open house and listening session for the public to provide input. Recommendation made to create a capital reserve fund for the Community Center. Capital Reserve Fund may be used to add bathrooms and repair stairwell among other needs.

9. Housing Committee-Planning Board Review- Barbara Marty – There was a 3<sup>rd</sup> working session on the draft document - Housing Chapter of the Master Plan.
10. Forestry/Wetlands permits – No new permits, will get a complete tally of the 2024 permits for the Town Report.
11. Town Report – review draft report that Nancy Martin wrote. Needs to be done ASAP.
12. Community wide request for a donation to support the Fishing Derby – Five River Conservation Trust has a conservation easement on lands dedicated to the Fishing Derby for Warner children. Nancy Martin asked if the WCC would be able to make a donation to support the Fishing Derby. Need to review whether it is legal to withdraw funds for a donation. Alice Chamberlin will follow up to determine whether it is legal. Funds needed to acquire fish (trout) and food and drink for the children during the Derby. Will follow up with a vote at a later date if donation is allowable.
13. WCC Alternate Position – Brea Arvidson is interested in the alternate position. Has experience (professional and personal) with aquatic species and habitats. Will coordinate with Nancy Martin in the application process. Ms. Arvidson will need to be appointed by the Selectboard as an alternate after submitting the application.
14. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.