

Town of Warner, New Hampshire

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

October 2011

Selectmen's Office
(603)456-2298 ext. 2
selectboard@warner.nh.us

Monday - Wednesday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
www.warner.nh.us

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From the Town Administrator

The weather seems to be changing and slowly ushering us into another beautiful New England season and with it, the annual Fall Foliage Festival. This is such a time honored tradition and an opportunity for the Town of Warner to be showcased via a festival powered by volunteers. As always I am sure they will do a remarkable job and the event will be a success as usual.

Once again we have experienced and pulled through adverse weather in the form of Tropical Storm Irene. We were fortunate that we only sustained minor damages and that our Public Works Director Matt Waite and Foreman Tim Allen were out during the storm taking care of any washouts that occurred. Prior to the day of the storm, the highway crew was out checking culverts and catch basins to make sure they were free of debris so that water didn't back up and flood the roads. Of course, during a storm, debris from other areas can easily be washed down and cause backup as well but again, Matt and Tim were out there to work in any areas that experienced problems! The Fire Department and Police Departments were also ready to respond if and when needed and both departments handled calls for service throughout the day.

We have established a new way of getting information out to people in the case of an emergency or disaster. The phone line that we typically use for our welfare assistance line (456-3420) will now be used as an information line during disasters such as tropical storm Irene, the ice storm, etc. You'll be able to call that number and get shelter information, warming stations, power outage updates as available, etc. You will not be able to leave a message however; emergency services are available during all disasters. You can also get emergency updates via twitter at Warnernh03278.

We have been approved for a grant to cover 50% of the cost of purchasing and installing a generator for the Town Hall as was voted on in 2010. The installation is almost complete and will enable us to be up and running if we have power outages and can

provide extended services to residents at the same time in the form of a warming or cooling center or in an extreme event, a shelter. We are still waiting on the grant application for the generator for the fire station but have been informed that money is available and we should be hearing the status in 4-6 weeks however, since we have the money raised, we may be able to move forward with the Town's portion of the project in the meantime.

The 2012 budget season is in full swing. The Board of Selectmen is reviewing the preliminary budget which is a combination of department head submittals and my suggested adjustments. From there, the Selectmen will develop a draft budget and present it to the Budget Committee. Regular Budget Committee meetings begin on October 13th for the purpose of the 2012 budget (see schedule of meetings within this newsletter). Please remember that there may be changes to the meeting schedule as the weeks go by so if you're interested in attending, make sure to check our municipal calendar on our website (warner.nh.us) for updated information. The Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) has been put together for 2012 - 2018 and has been presented to the Planning Board who has approved the draft version.

I hope you all enjoy the autumn weather and take advantage of everything the area has to offer by way of events this time of year. I look forward to seeing some of you at the Fall Foliage Festival and at various meetings at the Town Hall.

Street Lights

As a result of a review conducted by the Highway Safety Committee, the Selectmen recently ordered changes to some of the street lights around Town from PSNH. When fully completed, the changes will save the Town approximately \$1,200 per year in electrical costs. Recommendations included 15 lights that now go off at midnight and come on again the following evening, 4 lights that were not needed and have been removed, plus some changes to the lighting around the Police Station.

From the Conservation Commission

In June Warner residents Tina Schirmer and Pam Trostorff attended an afternoon workshop on conservation easement monitoring conducted by Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust in New London. Conservation easement monitoring is the regular gathering of information about an easement property to identify changes and to ensure that the property is being used in accordance with the easement agreement. The session provided a thorough overview of the monitoring process, including map reading and compass use. The Warner Conservation Commission currently holds conservation easements on eight properties that need to be monitored on an annual basis and welcomes volunteers, like Pam and Tina, who are interested in becoming involved.

If you would be interested in assisting the Town's monitoring effort, please contact the Chair, Nancy Martin (456-3064) or send an email to concom@warner.nh.us You are also invited to attend a Commission meeting at Town Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. to learn more about the Commission's activities.

Roads

The Warner Roads Committee is in the process of updating the list of priority roads in need of rebuilding and/or repair. The focus will be on identifying the "Top 10" and the estimated cost to complete the work on those roads in time to have recommendations for the March Town Meeting.

From the Pillsbury Free Library

Our website has been redesigned with assistance from James Dudley (JD Studios). Suggestions are welcome for content, or arrangement of links for easy access. New content includes Library policies and meeting minutes, links to community organization websites, contact forms, and photos. We are also excited to be participating in the Online Newsstand Project to provide simplified access to full text magazine articles available via EbscoHost. If your group would like a short demonstration about using this or other web accessible services such as Mango languages, the library catalog, genealogy indexes, or downloadable audio or ebooks, please contact Nancy Ladd, Library Director.

The Board of Trustees has bid a regretful goodbye to Chair Laura Milliken, who moved to Concord in August. If anyone is interested in being appointed to fill in on the board until March elections, they can contact any Trustee for information or let the Board of Selectman know. Trustees meet on the third Tuesday of every month and also participate in committees to work on policies, building projects, technology improvements, etc.

With Fall Foliage Festival comes the library book sale:

We need volunteers to sort, and to set up and sell. Please call ASAP. Book donations may be dropped off in SMALL BOXES starting Sept. 26.

Thank you to all the families who made the children's summer program a huge success. Over 200 attended the performance by Odds Bodkin! After school craft programs for grades K – 5 will be held on Wed. Sept.21, Oct. 19, and Nov 16 at 3 pm. Call Sue at 456-2289 to register. Story times for preschoolers are on Thursdays at 10:30 AM.

NEW: Book Nook youth book group for grades 5 to 8. Add your ideas to the bulletin board, come to the meetings and discuss your favorite reading or suggest activities. See Sue.

This October 2nd marks the 120th anniversary of the dedication of the Pillsbury Free Library. Detailed information about the library and its architecture is available in Larry Sullivan's book "19th Century Libraries of Warner, N.H.", now for sale at the Library and the Historical Society. Also for sale: canvas tote bags with image of library by Betty Lovejoy, \$10.

From the Fire Department

The members of the Warner Fire/Rescue would like to wish Lt Alan Piroso all the best on his retirement from the Fire Department. Alan has been a valued member of the Warner FD for over thirty years, his expertise will be missed. Good Luck Alan!

With summer coming to an end, it's time to look to the heating season. We would like to remind our residents to have their chimneys cleaned and checked. We also remind you to replace the batteries in your smoke alarms and CO detectors. If you do not have a CO detector, GET ONE, it could save your families lives! Please shovel out the fire hydrants that are near your home as you shovel your driveways.

The members of the FD are planning for the Fall Foliage Festival. Please stop by our booth and spend a little time visiting with us, we can use your support. Come visit the station and see our latest Fire Engine. We will also be selling a redesigned t-shirt.

The FD was fully staffed during hurricane Irene and thankfully had only a few emergencies. Mostly down trees and wires. Flooding was minimal and most of the power outages were short.

Again we remind ALL residents to number your houses. As much as we request this, there are still many homes that are not numbered. No numbers makes our response time a little slower. Time is of the essence when we are responding to an emergency at your home. Having numbers on your mail box is the law in New Hampshire!

From Safe Routes to School

The Warner Safe Routes to School committee is partnering with the Central New Hampshire Bicycling Coalition (www.cnhbc.org) and Bike-Walk Alliance of New Hampshire (www.bwanh.org) to offer a ***Train the Trainers bicycling education*** program ***for adults*** who will share these skills with children.

The TTT program will be at Simonds Elementary School in Warner on **Wednesday, October 5th from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Refreshments and childcare will be available for participants.** Bikes and helmets may be brought to the seminar, but they are not required.

From the Budget Committee

The Town budget process is underway. Please come and attend any of the following meetings. Public input is always welcome.

Thursday, October 13

2012 Police Department Budget

Thursday, October 20

2012 Fire Department &
Emergency Management Budgets

Thursday, October 27

2012 Highway Department &
Transfer Station Budgets

Thursday, November 3

2012 Board of Selectmen, Election, Town
Clerk, Tax Collector and Assessing Budgets

For future dates please check the Town's website @ www.warner.nh.us. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. located at the Town Hall.

Interested in Lowering Your Electric Bill?

The Board of Selectman is investigating opportunities to reduce the town's electricity bill through pooling, or aggregating, the kWhs consumed by the town's buildings and facilities to obtain a quantity discount. The Board is inviting Warner businesses interested in learning whether they, too, can reduce their bills, to join that investigation. Please contact Laura Buono @ administrator@warner.nh.us for more information. Warner citizen Susan Olsen is assisting in the data collection.

Fuel Assistance

The Fuel Assistance Program can also help households in a heating emergency by securing an emergency delivery of fuel, delaying a shut-off notice, or referring clients to another source of assistance.

FAP provides income-eligible households with assistance in paying their energy bills during the winter heating season. Households where elderly, disabled persons, and/or young children reside

receive priority. Benefits are calculated taking into account household income, energy costs, number of heating degree days within a region, and housing type. This targeting allows FAP to provide those households with the lowest incomes and highest energy costs with the highest benefits.

Fuel Assistance benefits range from \$120 to \$975, depending on household income and energy costs. The average benefit is \$500.

To apply for Fuel Assistance contact Laura Hall at the Community Action Office @ 456-2207

Single Stream Recycling Approved by Coop

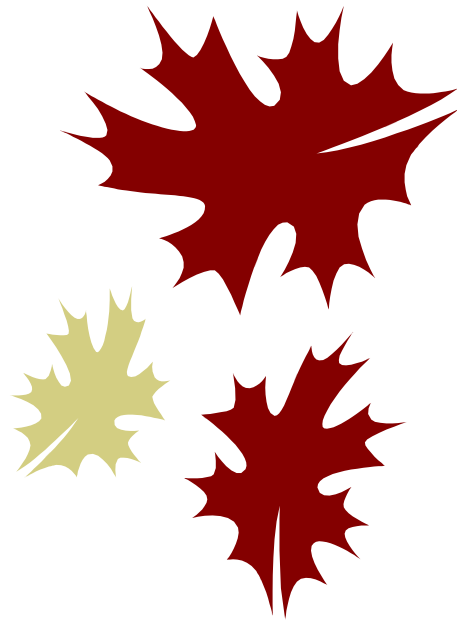
At its meeting on September 15, 2011, the Concord Regional Solid Waste Cooperative voted to build the proposed \$18.4 million single stream recycling facility. The vote was 264 yea to 76 nay. As Warner's representative to the Cooperative, Selectman David Hartman cast his vote in the nay column. The September 21st issue of the Concord Monitor publicized the Coop's action and provides background to the project.

Chief among the reasons given by Hartman for opposing the building of the new facility was that the Coop has not reached the guaranteed 25,000 tons of recyclables seen as the minimum to operate the facility at a break even point. The Coop has tried for over two years to convince towns outside the Coop membership to join in the effort and commit to using the facility but to no avail. Hopkinton and Webster last year dropped their membership altogether in the Coop in part over what they considered to be a poor proposal. New London voted recently to not join in the project.

Most troubling to Hartman is the fact that the Coop is using a capital reserve fund set aside for future trash disposal when the current trash to energy contract expires in 2018 to fund the recycling facility. There is no guarantee that the money borrowed from that reserve fund will ever be paid back. How will the Coop deal with funding future trash disposal requirements with the funds tied up in the single stream facility?

Warner does propose to continue its membership in the Coop for trash disposal needs. However, it will not be participating in the single stream facility for recycling. Warner is continuing to update its facility to accommodate recycling by separating recyclables at the transfer station and marketing them on our own. Up till now, it has seemed like a step backwards for Warner to pursue the single stream option when it has a perfectly good operation at present. Warner maintains its membership in the Coop and has the right to join in with the single stream operation at a later date if it chose to do so.

64th
Annual
Fall Foliage Festival



October 7 -9, 2011