



Town of Warner, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission
Wednesday, August 7, 2024

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

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

Members of the public present: Mike Smith (Selectman), Barak Green, Barbara Marty

Meeting began at 7:02 pm.

1. Approve Minutes- June 5, 2024 – Minutes approved with one small edit.
2. Executory Interest- Blue Moon Berry Farm, Nancy Martin was contacted by Five Rivers Land Trust and asked if the WCC would take executory interest of the conservation easement. Michael Amaral brought the potential for the WCC to take executory interest over the property to the Agriculture Committee. The Agriculture Committee recommended the WCC take executory interest over the easement. With preliminary approval by the WCC for the executory interest, Nancy will present the recommendation to the Board of Selectmen (BOS). The WCC voted to recommend that the WCC take executory interest and Nancy will take this to the BOS.
3. Auctionable Properties – Discussion and overview of the WCC’s review of auctionable properties. Nancy reviewed her statement to the BOS in January of 2024 with the WCC’s overview of auctionable properties (see meeting minutes of January 3, 2024 for Nancy’s remarks and summary of the development of natural resource inventory maps). Nancy presented the co-occurrence map and an email from Craig Tufts regarding the natural resource value (based on criteria developed by the WCC). Those documents are on file with the WCC. Selectman Smith reviewed where monies from the sale of auctionable properties go. State law requires that funds from the sale of an auctionable property will pay off the back taxes, filing fees, and/or auction fees. Any money that is surplus after that goes to the State and a search for the owner is initiated. If no owner can be found within 3 years, the money goes to the town to be used for specific projects (not to pay off Town bills). The selling process can either be by sealed bid or through an auctioneer (more expensive). Selectman Smith reviewed the purpose of selling some auctionable properties and the BOS interest in selling some properties (see Minutes of 8/2/2021 for example). Selectman Smith suggests selling one or two properties upon consultation with the WCC and/or the Planning Board to work through the process.

Tax map lots Map 28-002 and Map 28-004-1 are of interest to an abutter who approached the BOS for a possible sale via auction. Selectman Smith reviewed the lots and visited the location. These are not buildable lots (too small). Lots are about 16 feet wide. Recommendation by

Nancy to take a site walk of the Town Pond lots, Wednesday August 14 at 2:30 (meet at Town Hall).

Selectman Smith is also interested in pursuing logging of some of the auctionable properties, one in particular on Poverty Plains Road. The WCC recommends that more than one logger be researched for the town properties. Perhaps putting it out to bid. Suggestion put forth to reach out to the Chandler Reservation for information on reputable loggers.

4. Mt. Kearsarge Mountain Bike Trail-Update, Nancy discussed the update for the trail with Ben Kramer. The application to submit to Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) for the trail is still in progress. May be submitted by the end of the month. Local people will build the trail. Ben will send references regarding environmental impacts of similar trails. Nancy suggested that the WCC walk the trail during a working session. Suggested date for September 27 at 1 pm, meeting at the Toll Booth. Nancy will notify Ben Kramer of the site walk date and time. The site walk will be posted as a public meeting.
5. Economic Development Committee-Update by Nancy Martin - An open house of the Community Center will be held on September 12, at 6:30 pm. On September 26, 7 pm, there will be a listening session for the public about the Community Center. The listening session will be facilitated by the Central NH Regional Planning Commission (Central Planning).
6. Collins Donation – still not completed due to the process for transferring the property to the Town.
7. Stream monitoring volunteers – a few streams still need to be monitored. Need to check water quality. Silver Brook needs to be redone, Fraser Brook off of Pumpkin Hill (just after town line), and one more (will follow up on the identification of this stream). Five people per stream needed ideally. Barbara Marty will provide dates and streams that need additional volunteers.
8. Easement Monitoring this fall – Nine easements need to be monitored this fall. Nancy will bring the list at the next meeting.
9. Mink Hills Stewardship Committee – Susi von Oettingen volunteered to be on the Committee.
10. Housing Committee-Update – Barak Green (on the Housing Committee) stated that the Committee is waiting for Central Planning to come back with the suggestions for the housing section of the Master Plan.
11. Forestry/Wetlands permits – one forestry permit primarily to improve wildlife habitat, acreage unknown at this time. Full Circle Forestry will be implement the cutting. One wetlands permit off of Kearsarge Mountain Road is still under review by the State.
12. Adjourned at 8:29 pm.