

Warner River Local Advisory Committee

5 East Main St., PO Box 265, Warner, NH 03278

warnerriverlac@gmail.com

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Pillsbury Free Library (Lower Level)

18 E Main St, Warner, NH 03278

Appointed WRLAC Representatives present (Term Ends), those present in **bold**:

Bruce Edwards, Bradford (10-8-2021)

Christopher Spannweitz, Warner (11-26-2021)

Scott MacLean, Bradford (10-8-2021)

Doug Giles, Hopkinton (11-26-2021)

Carol Meise, Bradford (10-8-2021)

Linden Rayton, Hopkinton (11-26-2021)

Ken Milender, Warner (11-26-2021)

J. Michael Norris, Hopkinton (11-26-2021)

Laura Russell, Warner (11-26-2021)

David White, Hopkinton (11-26-2021)

Susan Roman, Webster (10-12-2021)

Robert Wright, Sutton (05-22-2022)

Invited Guests – Mike Tardiff, CNHRPC; Joanne Cassulo, CNHRPC

Meeting called to order 7:05

New and Continuing Business

1. Welcome to Sutton's new representative (Mr. Robert Wright, Jr.). Adjust quorum to 8 ($\frac{2}{3}$ of 12 representatives).
2. Meeting minutes
 - a. March minutes approved with one abstention.
 - b. April minutes approved with two abstentions and with two corrections:
 - i. A December 2019 date was corrected to December 2018.
 - ii. Mike informed the Committee that the \$7500 funding for writing the Corridor Plan now extends through *March 2020*, rather than June 2019.
 - c. February's minutes are still in progress.
 - d. Chair Ken and Secretary Laura will review any other minutes that need to be approved.
3. Bylaws (attached)
 - a. A question about revisiting the quorum threshold was tabled until the Committee felt it warranted another look.
 - b. Bylaws approved unanimously with updated date.
4. Discussion of Warner Village District's Proposed Wastewater Infiltration System.
 - a. Chair Ken summarized the WVWD's situation, boiling things down to the fact that the Water District is not up to compliance with the amount of copper in the

treated effluent that is discharged into the Warner River, and the Water District has proposed a plan of rapid infiltration basins to catch the copper outflow.

- b. Chair Ken expressed concern that although this plan might reduce or eliminate copper from entering the river directly, it might cause another problem, namely the copper would now enter the ground water instead. He wonders if it would be better to reframe the solution by looking at the *source* of the copper instead. (Usually the source of copper in water is corrosion from old copper pipes.)
- c. Ken has asked for more information from EPA, DES, and the Water District.
- d. Susan asked if any permits had been completed yet. Ken replied that the Water District does not yet have ownership of the land on which they would like to build the infiltration basins. They have a temporary discharge unit to test samples, but they don't have a groundwater discharge permit at this time. The proposal would be to install a pipeline that would run from the treatment plant under the river, which would be installed using directional drilling that would not require extensive excavation
- e. Linden asked if the typical change of the volume of water flow in the summer was something to be concerned about. Ken replied that he was not sure it would have an impact.
- f. Susan asked if Ken knew why the Water District chose the proposed parcel. Ken said he thought the parcel was in the right place and it was available.
- g. Bob asked whether the WRLAC, as an advisory body, could call a "time out" on the plan.
- h. Ken noted that the WRLAC could advise the commissioner of environmental Services.
- i. Ken noted that the WRLAC is now listed as a "concerned party" with the Water District, DES, and EPA. He has requested that the WRLAC be copied on communications from these groups regarding the Water District's plans.
- j. Bruce noted that if the Water District is not able to get the land that they would like, they would still have to find a way to comply.
- k. Ken would like to find out what alternatives were considered.
- l. Susan wondered whether the buffers between the proposed infiltration basins and the river would be adequate . Every time we take away the ability of the river to clean itself, it has an impact on the river.
- m. Bob suggested that a letter to DES and District should indicate the WRLAC's role and the Committee's specific concerns (the copper, the pipe, effluent that might need regulation in the future). He highlighted the need to ensure the tone of the letter was positive.
- n. Ken will keep the Committee posted about responses he gets. He indicated that he is happy to follow the Committee's desires. Bob indicated that he'd be happy to help Ken.

5. Mike Tardiff and Joanne Cassulo (CNHRPC), Warner River Corridor Management Plan.
 - a. Mike noted that Joanne, as a project planner, would be the lead staff person from CNHRPC to help the Committee write the Corridor Plan.
 - b. He recommended that a subcommittee be formed to begin the work, particularly on drafting the Corridor Plan and community outreach. The subcommittee would then report back to the entire Committee for review and to divide up work on tasks.
 - c. For the Corridor Plan, Mike emphasized that the WRLAC would want to include information and data that is most relevant to our communities and the Warner River. He also encouraged the Committee to create a smaller, more compact document rather than a larger one.
 - d. The first step would be to draft a Corridor Plan in the next two months. He reminded the Committee that about 80% of the data needed in the plan already exists in the Nomination document, and this can be used in the Corridor Plan without the need for extensive editing.
 - e. In addition, the Committee can make plans for soliciting community feedback about the plan.
 - f. Feedback from public input would help the Committee determine the goals and objectives for the Corridor Plan.
 - g. Publicizing the Corridor Plan in order to get that feedback could include several formats.
 - i. Surveys of town residents and stakeholders – Mike provided a sample survey from Contoocook (attached, or see the electronic version: [Appendix J](#), towards the end of the document for an electronic version of the paper document), and suggested that the Committee think about questions that would elicit the kind of information that would be most useful to the Warner River communities.
 - ii. Possible survey questions: Are you a riparian landowner? Do you live within a 10-minute walk of the river (within the ¼-mile buffer)?
 - iii. A survey may also need to include some contextual information, such as definitions and explanations of terms.
 - iv. Surveys could be disseminated at various town events and locales: Fourth of July in Bradford, Bradford 5K, Hopkinton Fair, Fall Foliage Festival, Newbury Days, Sweet Beet, Warner Public Market, The Local, Schoodacs
 - v. Surveys can also be emailed to residents. The Committee would need to figure out how to get access to those email addresses.
 - vi. Since summer events are coming up quickly, perhaps the way to start is to create and distribute a preliminary flyer at summer events. The flyer would attempt to make people curious. Then, the survey and other outreach activities could be launched in the fall.
 - vii. Linden suggested that Committee members compile a master list of town events that would be useful for publicizing the Corridor Plan.

- viii. Bob suggested that people who are signing in for the Bradford 5K could be asked to fill out a questionnaire. Asking people for their opinion is often very appealing to folks.
 - ix. Scott noted that a while ago, Bradford sent out surveys for its 10-year master plan; he said he would find out how many responses were actually returned.
 - x. For reference: [Warner's updated master plan](#), updated in 2018.
 - xi. Mike noted that he could help the Committee get a domain name for a website that would host the WRLAC's work and events.
 - xii. Joanne noted that hand-written surveys can be difficult to analyze, and that it might be better to work to drive people to a website by handing out a card (perhaps business card size?) with information about how to log in to a survey monkey (or Google forms) online survey.
 - xiii. For the Millennial generation, a QR code on the card might be appealing.
 - h. The following Committee members volunteered for a subcommittee that would begin drafting the Corridor Plan with support from Mike and Joanne.
 - i. Chris and Linden are particularly interested in public outreach.
 - ii. Laura and Ken are interested in the drafting of the Plan and its technical aspects
 - iii. For reference: [Warner River Nomination](#)
6. NHDOT Proposed Project #40512 (I-89 roadway improvements) Wetlands Permit approval - [DES permit](#) and latest NHDOT supporting documents ("NH DOT 40512 Wetlands Permit") attached.
- a. Permitting approved; work will proceed; NHDOT seems to have taken the concerns of the Conservation Committee and this Committee into consideration.
7. New Business, as of 5/22/19 – Shoreland permit review (**attached**)
- a. Proposed Bean Residence, 44 Dustin Rd. (Webster) – Single family home with some modifications to that land within the 250-foot line, but 150 feet from the high-water mark.
 - b. Susan notes that it is part of a subdivision.
 - c. Susan shared that while the permit looks in order, Craig Day (DES Wetlands Bureau) encouraged the Committee to note that #4 on the permit was not completed.
 - d. Susan also noted that we could also express a concern about the vegetation buffer being interrupted, even though we know that the application meets the statutory requirements.
 - e. The Committee authorized Ken and Susan to prepare and send a letter to Mr. Day at DES that would express the Committee's concerns. Ken will have the letter for the Committee to see at the next meeting although the letter will have been sent earlier to meet the commenting deadline.

8. *Long-Term Monitoring Updates*

- a. Route 127 (Davisville) Bridge
 - i. Warner has decided to proceed with the accelerated construction plan for minimal disruption.
 - ii. It's still not clear if the bridge will be replaced entirely or just the deck.
- b. Rail Trail
 - i. Tracie Sales (NH Rivers Program) communicated to Ken that there are parcels of land that Warner is trying to purchase from DOT that would help with the construction of the Rail Trail. We will want to comment on this.

Old business (leftovers from previous agendas)

- 1. Warner River VRAP (Volunteer Rivers Assessment Program): Current status, 4 May 2019 workshop, call for volunteers, &tc.
- 2. Quick Summary: [Wetlands Rules revision](#) – proposed rules submitted to JLCAR 03/20. Rules expected for adoption later this year.
- 3. Permit application reviews, a review of the latest weekly, introduce review guidelines.
- 4. Representatives introductions/interrogations (continued).

Long-Term Monitoring (all quiet, for now . . .)

[Instream Flow Study](#)

[FEMA Risk MAP Contoocook Basin](#)

Hopkinton complaint

[Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail](#)

Permit application reviews

[Permit review guidelines \(UMRLAC\)](#)

Adjourn: 9:00 PM

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 7 PM, Pillsbury Library, Main Street, Warner, N.H.