

Warner Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting
September 6, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Attending: Nancy Martin, Alice Chamberlain, Susi von Oettingen, Mike Amaral, Doug Allen, and Russ St. Pierre (recording).

Also Attending: George Embley and Chris Connors from Trout Unlimited.

Discussion:

Approve June Minutes:

The Minutes of August 2, 2017 were approved as written.

Warner River Watershed Projects Update:

George Embley and Chris Connors reviewed results from the ongoing Warner River Watershed stream assessment program, noting that two thirds of the streams surveyed contained brook trout. George also described using macroinvertebrate surveys to assess water quality, again noting that the presence of hellgrammites (Dobson fly larvae) is a strong indicator of good water quality. Water quality testing will continue and Trout Unlimited will continue to work with owners of properties adjacent to streams.

Chris presented a graphic representation of the data collected from the culvert surveys and described how that information can be used in conjunction with municipal public works efforts.

Update on the Proposed Willow Brook Easement:

The Selectmen approved the release of \$26,000 from the conservation fund for the project.

Update on DOT Surplus Riverfront Lot (Tax Map 29, Lot 4):

Nothing new to report.

Warner River Nomination:

The River Management Advisory Committee approved the nomination. The nomination has been sent to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services (DES) for approval. DES will draft the legislative bill nominating the Warner River, which will be sponsored by Senator Feltes.

Next Steps in the Mink Hills:

The Central NH Regional Planning Commission is interested in OHRV use as it is becoming a regional issue that could probably benefit from regional planning. To that effect, the CNHRPC met with some local conservation commission chairpersons in August to begin to collect information on current and proposed trail use.

Wetlands Protection

Nothing new to report. The Town's permit application to repair the North Village Road culvert at Silver Lake is still under review by DES.

WCC Budget

The Commission has used 63.3% of its operating budget through the end of August. The Commission will submit a request for \$10,000 to the Warner Capital Improvement Plan for 2018 to support ongoing and future conservation efforts. It was noted that the Commission had not made such a request in quite some time.

Easement Monitoring

Ausbon-Sargent will be conducting easement monitoring training the last week in September for persons interested in monitoring Town easements.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

The next meeting is October 4, 2017, at 7:00 PM.