

Warner Business Association Minutes
Tuesday February 20, 2007 7:30am

Attendees: Ginger Marsh, Barbara Annis, Laura Buono, Mark Violet, Dan and Mary Watts, Jane

Ginger reported informally on the Treasurer's report – We have approximately \$4100 of which \$565 is reserved for the Warner Beautification Fund, leaving approximately \$3600.

Laura Buono agreed to accept a position on the WBA board.

Barbara reported on the Planning board. Work session was held Monday the 19th. This was a private session with the town attorney. For the public session, RAW was a no show, and case has been disapproved unless he communicates an extension prior to the 22nd deadline. Barbara pointed out the difficulty of maintaining a majority vote, when members do not show up reliably to all meetings where a specific item is discussed, and a difficulty in achieving the work that needs to be done, with only two meetings a month. Mark suggested that perhaps additional meetings should be added to meet the workload, but Barbara feels that this would only make for more absences, and possibly even harder to find willing individuals to serve on the board.

On the Hotel, Barbara reported on the court case, where Basset represented the Hotel's interest, Scott Hogan represented Citizens for Smart Growth, and Don represented the town's interest. Barbara mentioned that she reviewed the Charrette, there is specific allowance for a 50,000 square foot hotel. The proposed hotel would be located in an already designated commercial zone, and the building is in keeping with the neighboring already established businesses [some discussion of area eyesores ensued].

Dan announced that he is setting up a new website for town information <http://www.warnernh.com>, which will contain photos of our town, and documents and information about suggested planning and zoning wording changes.

General consensus is that we need to get information out there to educate the voters as to the issues on the table for this years voting.

Mark announced Candidate's Night March 7th. Barbara will prepare a flyer on the planning wording changes up for vote, and Laura will prepare an explanation of what the warrant articles mean. Mary will prepare a flyer for posting around town to advertise the event.

Mark discussed the water precinct warrant article. This article will be presented to the town voters, and if it does not pass, will result in higher rates for the precinct. This will affect many town businesses. The proposed well and storage tanks would allow servicing on existing wells without loss of service, and will provide services to the Intervale area. Some of the expense may be defrayed by incoming businesses, but until then, the full amount will need to be funded by either town taxpayers [adding \$.20/1000] or passed on to the current precinct members [increasing \$.65/1000]. Next Precinct meeting is March 20th.

Laura was asked if Intervale could be made a TIF District. She stated that this has already been studied, and would take a lot of work to define the scope of the project, how the downtown would connect.

Laura filled us in on some of the budget discussions. The capital budget is sorely underfunded. She is working to verify all items are on the CIP, and are planned over years, for all departments. Due to personnel and other changes, the operating budget was only 1-1/2% increased. There are some expenses the town is locked into that only increase each year, including Insurance, and NH Retirement.

She discussed the petition article for the transfer station “to have the town address the pay scale”. The department was issued pay scale information last October. The department head felt it was not in line, and Laura challenged them to bring forward a statement of how it was unfair. That was received just at the end of January. Petition was circulated in early February.

Mark reported on the budget committee. The grant for a new fire truck has been received. The budget and selectmen were able to come to agreement on the budget – with only difference that of \$182,000. The on-call EMT position is now vacant.

Blood drive tomorrow. Volunteers are in line.

Meeting adjourned 8:39