



Warner's Pond Task Force: Meeting 1

February 8, 2024



CBI

CATALYZING COLLABORATION

Welcome!



Goals for today:

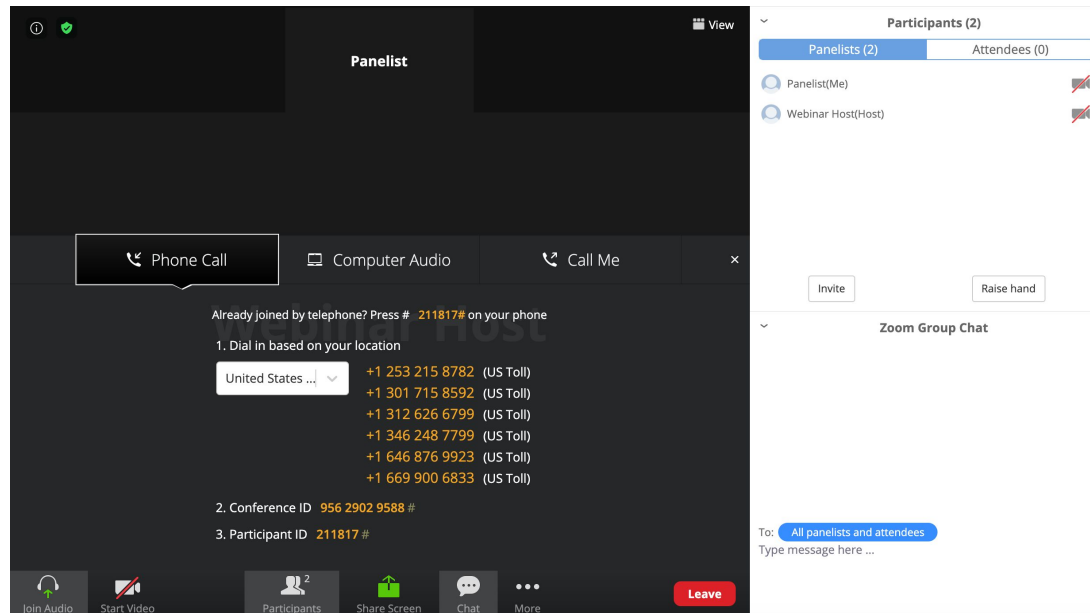
- Introduce Task Force members to each other
- Orient Task Force members to their charge, Group Protocols, and overall timeline
- Identify principles for a successful outcome of the Task Force's work

Agenda



- 5:30 Welcome & Introductions
- 5:50 Task Force Overview & Group Protocols
- 6:20 Group Exercise: Defining Success
- 6:50 Wrap-up & Next Steps
- 7:00 Adjourn

Zoom Checklist for Task Force Members



- ✓ If you know you have less than optimal internet connection, please join the meeting via your computer for video and then opt to dial via phone audio. When you are dialing in, please be sure to enter your participant ID.
- ✓ Please mute yourself when you are not speaking.
- ✓ Please raise your hand or use the chat function to make a comment. Raise hand function can be found in your toolbar or in your participants tab.
- ✓ We encourage that you turn on your video, when possible, for a more engaging experience.
- ✓ Bring a tech-adaptive mindset!

Zoom Norms



- Members please keep videos on
- Raise hands to speak
- Mute when not speaking when in large group (usually)
- Use of chat welcome
- Recordings (and meeting summaries)
- Non-members = observers only

Expectations



BE CONCISE



BE RESPECTFUL



BE CONSTRUCTIVE

Task Force Purpose



The purpose of the Warner's Pond Task Force, appointed by the Natural Resources Commission, is to **become familiar with all alternatives that have been considered to date and explore new ideas as appropriate.**

The Task Force will **recommend a course of action** for the Pond that **reflects community criteria identified in Envision Concord – Bridge to 2030:** (i) History + Character, (ii) Livability + Values, (iii) Mobility + Accessibility, (iv) Environmental Sustainability, and (v) Fiscal Sustainability



Introductions

Introductions



- Name
- Organization/affiliation
- What do you hope to bring to this group?



Task Force Overview & Group Protocols



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How We Got Here



- Eutrophication over time -> decreased depth, invasive plants, impaired recreation
- Since 1990s, exploration of alternatives to improve ecological health and recreational capacity of the pond
- Ongoing efforts to remove aquatic invasives and address sediment build up
- 2012 Warner's Pond Management Plan -> limited dredging
- 2018 Dredging Feasibility Study
- 2022 project bid came in at over \$9M
- May 2023 consultant's evaluation -> dam removal
- Community concerns -> development of Task Force

Task Force Charge: 10 Tasks



- 1) Get familiar with the pond
- 2) Review prior report, plans, etc. on alternatives
- 3) Explore/evaluate ecological health, 4) recreational opportunities, 5) costs, and 6) possible funding sources for each alternative
- 7) Review community concerns around dam removal
- 8) Solicit community input (including early public hearing)
- 9) Consider need for more planning/implementation time
- 10) Submit a final report to the Natural Resources Commission recommending a course of action to improve the ecological health and recreational capacity of the Warner's Pond system **by December 2, 2024**

Group Protocols



Authority: Members develop shared recommendation for the NRC to take under advisement.

Composition:

- Voting members: Community members representing various perspectives; from Town boards/committees, other community views.
- Ex-officio (non-voting) members: Staff from key Town departments; representatives speaking on behalf of other fundamental interests

Time Commitment:

- Meetings: ~10 virtual and hybrid meetings between now and December; 2-3 hours for each online meeting, slightly more for each hybrid meeting
- Between meetings: Tracking project-related communication, reviewing materials and draft documents, and coming prepared to meetings

Facilitating & Note-taking: CBI will provide impartial facilitation and documentation support and will be responsible for helping the Task Force write up its final recommendation.

Group Protocols



Expectations/Ground Rules:

- Take space/make space
 - *Contribute, share time*
- Foster a safe environment for discussions
 - *Honesty, respect, intentions & impacts*
- Be an effective participant
 - *Attendance, preparation, active participation (between meetings too!), bridging differences, keeping on track with agendas*
- Communicate thoughtfully
 - *Respect within and outside meetings, “no surprises” policy, will not characterize others’ opinions or the Task Force as a whole*

Proposed Task Force Decision-Making

Seek overwhelming agreement on final recommendation: 75% of voting participants can at least live with it, with each member having 1 vote

Possible votes:

- Endorse and support the final recommendation
- They can live with the recommendation
- They cannot live with the final recommendation
- *Members can also abstain from voting. Those who abstain will not be counted in the final tally.*

Final report: Capture the weight of the group's perspective on the final recommendation, including the key reasons why any who do not support the recommendation are not able/willing to sign on. If necessary, report out areas of agreement and disagreement. One report only.

Potential Role for Co-Chairs



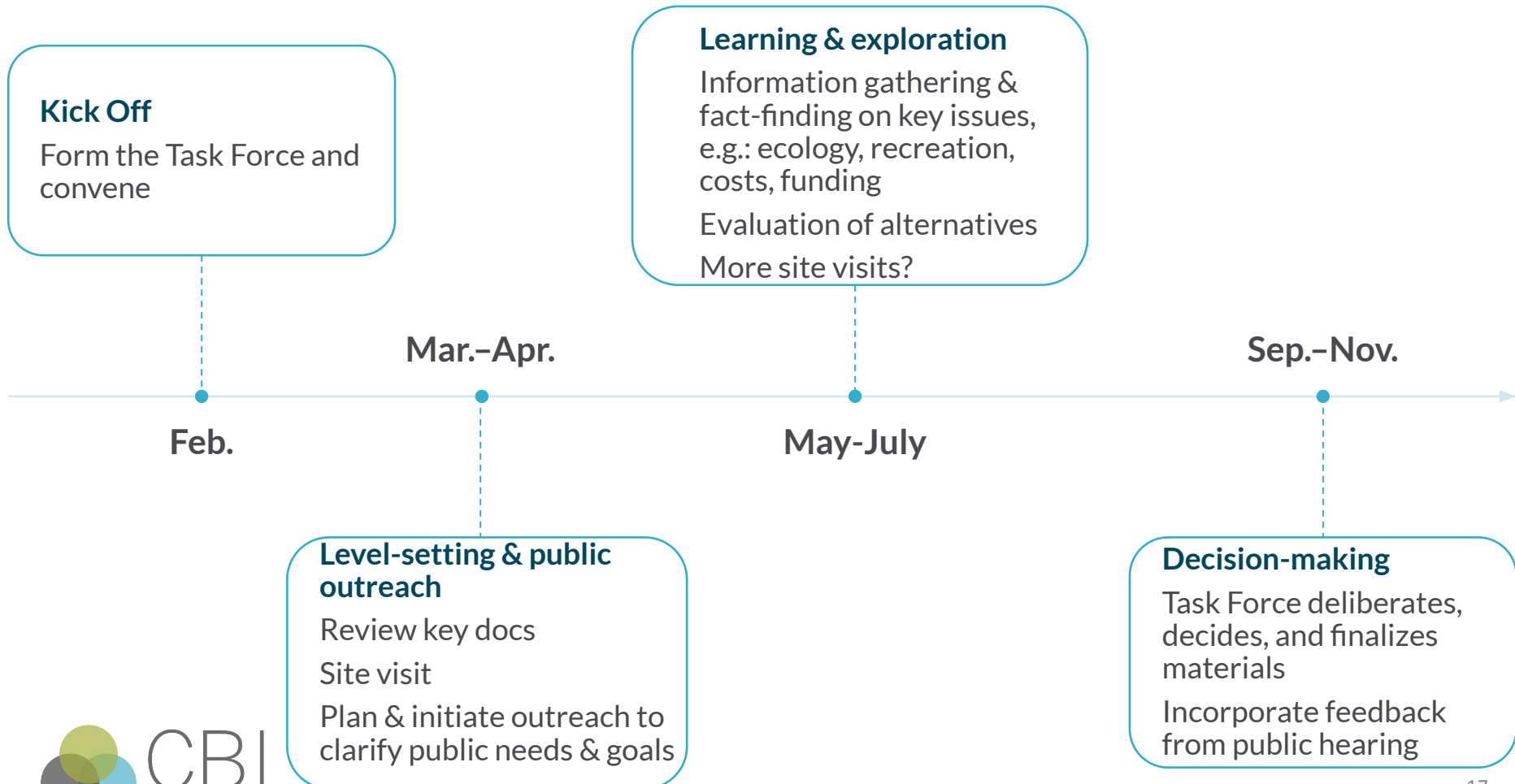
Considerations

- Typical operation of Task Forces in Concord
- Role of CBI
- Likely workload
- Benefits of designating additional eyes on agendas/work plans, having a point person for communication
- Desire to be a “task force of equals”
- Possible use of Co-Chairs with a limited additional time commitment

Our request

- For next meeting, consider if you feel strongly about this and/or would like to be nominated

Potential Task Force Timeline





Wrap-up & Next Steps

Wrap-Up Next Steps



- Meeting scheduling
- Next meeting late February or early March
- Stay tuned for “homework” TBD
- Welcome calls with Toby & Rachel: your goals/concerns, advice for the process
- Quick meeting eval



About CBI

CBI is a nonprofit organization with decades of experience helping leaders collaborate to solve complex problems.

Our staff are experts in facilitation, mediation, capacity building, citizen engagement, and organizational strategy and development. We are committed to using our skills to build collaboration on today's most significant social, environmental, and economic challenges. We work within and across organizations, sectors, and stakeholder groups.

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