



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES November 3, 2009

PRESENT:

Larry Ballin, Chair
Mark Kaplan, Selectman
Tina Helm, Selectman
Jessie Levine, Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Carol Foss, New London Resident
Harmon Lewis, New London Resident
Bob and DJ Lavoie, New London Residents
Michael Doheny, New London Resident
Ruth White, Conservation Commission
Debbie Cross, Reporter from *The Villager*

Chair Ballin called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed Debbie Cross to the meeting, noting that she was now reporting for *The Villager*.

Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition: The first item on the agenda was appointment of Carol Foss to the SAWC (Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition). Ms. Foss would be taking over for Terry Dancy, who resigned about six weeks ago. Upon giving his resignation, Mr. Dancy recommended Carol Foss to fill his position. Ms. Foss gave some quick background information on the SAWC. She began by saying that SAWC had completed a lot of what its grant was intended to do. She added that they have come up with recommendations that have been distributed to the area towns regarding stormwater runoff in an effort to protect the watershed. She understood her position to be the liaison between the SAWC and the Board of Selectmen to keep them informed what was going on within SAWC. At this point the Coalition is only meeting on an "as-needed" basis. In the past they had met with the Board of Selectmen about three times per year. She believed this would probably be the case in the future.

Ms. Foss noted that at this point SAWC is not technically involved with the NOAA grant, though they are supportive of it in the survey of culverts within the watershed to make sure they are adequate to handle 25-year storms and make recommendations as to upgrades that may be needed to cut down on road damage due to excessive water that the culverts could not handle. Chair Ballin thought the group had a noble effort in mind. He remarked that with their sewer upgrading plans it was good to have the watershed group involved as well. He hoped they could work together to work to protect the water quality the area in the future. Mr. Kaplan shared with Ms. Foss that the Sewer Department in New London had been very diligent in repairing manholes to prevent rainwater from going into the sewer system, which has greatly decreased the town's flows going into Sunapee.

Mr. Lewis asked what happens to rain water in New London. Chair Ballin said that most of it is absorbed into the ground. Ms. Levine said that significant storms can sometimes wash out roads, which is why the stormwater analysis is important. Mr. Lewis asked if the drains were related to the sewer. Chair Ballin said that stormwater drains are not connected to the sewer system, but that manholes must be tight to prevent infiltration into the sewer.

Mr. Lavoie asked why the “25-year” marker was chosen for the severity of storms. Ms. Foss said that they don’t have huge storms every year but that every so many years there are storms with large amounts of rain. She recalled several significant rain events that happened in one year. Mr. Lavoie asked if anyone looked at the 50-year storm requirements. Ms. Foss said that that wasn’t something she knew about. The NOAA grant included 113 groups who have gone out to measure over 200 culverts in the watershed. There were around 170 culverts that they knew about and they have found some that were not on their maps. They have all been measured and some data (size and elevation) has been recorded. She explained that this data would go into a computer to be crunched by another group of people. Mr. Lavoie asked what the design criteria were for the future. Ms. Foss said she didn’t know and that would be found out later date. Ms. Helm said that after the data is gathered, they can determine this part of the equation. Chair Ballin added that the purpose of the meeting with Ms. Foss was to approve her appointment to the board, and was not their intent to have her try to answer all these technical questions. He said that after she has been in the organization for a few months she will probably be more of an expert on it, but this was not a discussion for the meeting.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to accept the nomination for Carol Foss to be the Board of Selectmen’s representative to the Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition (SAWC).
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes from October 19, 2009: Ms. Levine noted that Carol Fraley had suggested some edits to the minutes, including that on page 4 regarding the \$5500 given to the Portsmouth Coalition the motion should reflect that the money came from the legal budget. Ms. Helm said on page 4, it should say “bid” instead of “big.” The next paragraph should say “enterprise fund surplus.” Mr. Ballin said on page 3, second paragraph, there should be a period after the word “vinyl.” In the last paragraph, the .5 cents should read “5 cents.” In the same paragraph, Tina Helm said that the word “in” should be removed after “donor tax”. Chair Ballin corrected the spelling of the Griffiths’ name on page 7. Ms. Helm noted some confusion on page 6 under “committee reports.” Ms. Levine said she will clean up that paragraph. The Selectmen decided to hold off on approving the minutes until an updated draft could be distributed.

New Business:

Town Moderator: Chair Ballin referred to a letter from Cotton Cleveland stating that she has decided not to run for re-election as Town Moderator in 2010. He added that the Selectmen look forward to seeing who would be interested in the position. Ms. Levine said that Ms. Cleveland would preside over the 2010 Town Meeting in March and that would be a good time to give some recognition to her.

Deputy Health Officer: Chair Ballin noted that they have also received a letter of resignation from Michael Loomis as the Deputy Health Officer. Ms. Levine indicated that she would be updating the position requirements and description and would talk to Don Bent about filling the position when this updating was complete.

2008 Town Report Award: Chair Ballin referred to a notice from the Local Government Center that the Town of New London had earned a third place award for its annual report for the 3001-5000 population bracket. He added that there would be a award luncheon on the Thursday of the LGC conference (November 19). Mr. Kaplan said that he would be willing to go to the lunch to accept the award for the Town.

2009 Sewer Rates: Ms. Levine said that it is time to set the sewer rates for the second half of the year. She distributed a spreadsheet to everyone in attendance that showed the 2009 sewer budget, the expenses and revenues to-date, and the proposed sewer rates. She said that sewer users used 24,737,000 gallons of

water in the past year based on water meter readings. She recommended eliminating the separate loan rate on the sewer bills, as the bond payments vary from year-to-year. Instead, she suggested including the bond payments in the operating portion of the bill for collection purposes. Ms. Levine said that even in doing so, the total sewer rates could stay the same while collecting enough to cover the 2009 budget.

Ms. Levine summarized that there were to be no change in the rate. She said that they have paid down the Georges Mills bond using the reimbursement from the State of NH, which will change what the payments would be. Mr. Lewis asked if they would go through with the wastewater treatment plant construction this year or postpone it. Chair Ballin said that they have decided to do some engineering on this but no construction as of yet. Mr. Lewis said that he had a question on how the project would be paid for, as it doesn't benefit all of New London, but should be allocated among the people who use it.

After minimal discussion, Chair Ballin asked for a motion.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to approve the rates as set forth in Ms. Levine's report, which showed \$12.50 per \$1000 for operating costs and \$.50 per \$1000 for capital. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Other Business: Mr. Lewis commented that he thought the Board did a great job with the Beach Ordinance issue this past summer. He said that he had witnessed a lot of traffic going in and out of the beach area and felt there should be an exit from the beach at the far end of the parking lot to help with this problem. He said that since Route 114 was a state road, perhaps stimulus money could be used for a project like this, like they are doing at Crockett's Corner. Chair Ballin said that they would take this suggestion under advisement. Mr. Lewis said that they should write to the State. Chair Ballin said that perhaps Mr. Lewis should take this up with the Recreation Department, as this area was their "domain."

Lake Sunapee Byways Presentation: It being 6:30 PM, the noticed time of the Lake Sunapee Byways Presentation, Chair Ballin handed the floor over to Ms. Levine. Since the audio portion of the Scenic Byway PowerPoint presentation was inaudible, Ms. Levine showed the presentation and gave a brief explanation of the proposal to include New London in the route. It was noted that there would be a copy of the full presentation available online soon, with audio. She indicated that the Byways grant would fund signage and kiosks to help drivers navigate through the Byway. Ms. Helm asked if the grant would pay for the printing of maps, brochures, and the creation of a website. Ms. Levine answered in the affirmative. She noted that action was needed at the meeting to approve their proposal to move ahead with this project. Chair Ballin said that he felt this could be a good marketing strategy for the Town and that they should get on board with it.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to support New London's involvement and move forward with the Scenic Byways program. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Holiday Bonuses: Ms. Levine distributed a memo from Carol Fraley asking for the annual holiday bonus of a \$50 (net) payment to part-time employees and \$100 (net) for full-time employees. The money would be funded by the Board of Selectmen's discretionary account and totals \$4,513.12 (plus \$915.03 for Library employees). Chair Ballin noted that there was plenty of money in the fund for this sort of thing. Mr. Kaplan asked how long this had been a practice for the Town of New London. Ms. Levine said that it was happening when she arrived at her position in Town and that was ten holiday seasons ago.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to appropriate, as indicated by Carol Fraley's memo, to fund the holiday bonuses for Town employees from the Board of Selectmen's Discretionary Account. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Skateboard Park: Ms. Levine and Ms. Helm attended the skatepark kick-off meeting on Monday, November 2 with Chad Denning, Recreation Director, and Keith Pomkoski, Chair of the Recreation Commission. Ms. Levine said that there were about 25 kids and parents who came to the meeting to express their interest in having a skateboard park in town. Ms. Levine said that they explained that the Town was in favor of such a project but informed them that it should be a citizen-driven project. At the end of the meeting, people signed up to be on an executive committee, site and design committee, and fundraising committee. Chair Ballin asked if there was a goal on the fundraising. Ms. Levine said that they first have to find out what they want for a design and where it would be located. Mr. Lewis asked who would raise the funds. Ms. Levine said that by and large funds should be raised privately but that the Recreation Facilities Fund could possibly match or bring them over the top of what they needed as they got closer to the end of their fundraising efforts.

Mr. Kaplan asked if the skateboard park would need to be staffed. Ms. Levine said that it would not be staffed, but would be the Town's facility and would fall under the Town's insurance at no added cost. Ms. Levine said that there was volunteer help expressed at the meeting to maintain the facility. Mr. Kaplan asked if the site would be described in insurance terms, the same way the skating rink was. Ms. Levine said that it would be. She also explained that the land the facility was built on may be purchased or leased by the Town. She said that there were a number of new ideas and they are not sure of all the options as of yet.

Ms. Helm said she felt energized by the meeting and loved seeing the young people and families involved and wanting to take part in these sorts of things. One thought she had as she went home after the meeting was whether the Town should give some parameters on the location of the park. She was envisioning the site and design committee coming up with where they want to have it located and after conversation with Chief Seastrand and others, it might not be appropriate for one reason or another. Ms. Levine said that the Town would be part of that conversation all along; she felt everyone was on the same page on the site being visible and central. From the Police Department's standpoint, they wanted it to be very visible to keep their eye on what was going on there. Ms. Levine shared that parents would also appreciate this too, and that it would be good to have it close to the shops in Town. Ms. Levine said that both she and Chief Seastrand thought that one proposed location, that being the sewer property on the end of Frothingham Road, was not ideal, as it was not visible, was "off the beaten path" and would require travel over a residential street. She did not feel that the people in that area would be happy with a lot of extra traffic on the road.

Chair Ballin noted that the fundraising committee for this project should plan on raising the entire amount to construct the park, as well as create an endowment for repair and maintenance for the future. He thought they should be encouraged to do the whole thing and look to the Town for emergency funding only. Chair Ballin opined that they should build in an extra 10% for maintenance and upkeep of the facility. Ms. Levine said that ultimately the Recreation Fund is taxpayer money, so she did not think it would be inappropriate for them to ask voters for matching funds. She added that if they did a concrete bowl design, there would be less maintenance than with structures built above ground. Mr. Lewis commented that he wasn't enthusiastic on spending his money on skateboards. Ms. Levine said to keep in mind that the parents involved are taxpayers as well. Ms. Helm said there is something to be said for having a central place to skateboard safely.

Mr. Doheny commented that he "Googled" a facility called "Aspen Park," which Chad Denning had helped build when he was an assistant director in Aspen, and thought it was very nice looking. He felt that if they did something similar in New London, that it could bring a lot of people into Town from other regions. It could attract a lot of people. Mr. Kaplan opined that a visible skating facility may be a distraction to drivers who may be going by.

Chair Ballin thanked the parents and kids for stepping up to the plate to get involved.

Old Business:

Main Street 10-year plan: Ms Levine wanted to follow up on the DOT's public hearings last week on the ten-year plan, and remarked that she was planning to draft a letter for the Selectmen to take to the GACIT hearing on November 18. She asked whether sending a joint letter from New London, Sutton and Springfield would help make it known that the project was needed. Chair Ballin suggested that perhaps Bradford and Grantham would also want to be involved. He did think that they should keep their eye on the GACIT hearing in Concord and thought it best to try to encourage participation on Townspeople and the press. Chair Ballin noted that the next meeting would be held on November 18 in Concord in the Legislative Office Building.

Mr. Kaplan said that he would like to find out when the Financial Commission that studies and makes changes to highway fund solutions is meeting on November 5. Ms. Levine said she would find out and let him know.

Chair Ballin said the Town did a good job in making their point heard at the meetings last week and he thought they had been heard. He wanted to thank all who participated.

Safe Routes to School: Ms. Levine reminded the Selectmen that they had to postpone and reallocate the funds for this project to deal with the wetlands on Pleasant Street and the Job Seamans historic building. Ms. Levine referred to a proposal from Clough, Harbor & Associates to do the design work for the sidewalk from Cougar Court to Job Seamans Road. She said that they've received a grant for construction and engineering and that at Town Meeting they were granted permission to use \$80,000 out of the Capitol Reserve Fund to match the grant. The engineering proposal was \$33,000, assuming a worst-case-scenario, and that is the extent that they have had to spend out of the Capital Reserve Fund. The rest of the funds would come directly from the grant. She explained that this would leave \$47,000 unspent to use for future sidewalk projects. Chair Ballin summarized that the total project was to cost \$133,000 of which \$100,000 would be covered by grant. He asked why \$33,000 would go towards engineering, and Ms. Levine said that this was primarily because of the federal requirements relating to wetlands and the historic building. She noted that since this was a federally funded project they are required to follow the National Historic Preservation Act. She said that they have to go through a federal permitting process, which includes archaeological surveys and sub-surface sampling for artifacts.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to approve the engineering contract with Clough, Harbor & Associates to move forward immediately with the sidewalk project on Pleasant Street. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Committee Meetings:

Budget Committee, October 26: Chair Ballin reported that all three members of the Board of Selectmen were present at the meeting. He said that there was discussion from some of the non-profits and that they asked to have the Hospital come back in and justify their requests, as their costs were increasing every year. Chair Ballin said that there was some discussion after the meeting on the use of time at the budget meetings and whether they should be going over the budget line by line at this time.

Ms. Levine said that the next budget meeting was planned to review the items line by line and that they have prepared their agenda reflecting this strategy. Ms. Helm said she went home after the last budget meeting and questioned whether that would be the best use of everyone's time. She was also concerned

that reviewing the budget in this way micro-manages our fine department heads. She felt a better approach would be for the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee to come to a conclusion of what the budget should be and ask the department heads to work further on their budgets if necessary. Ms. Helm said that she sent an email to the Budget Committee to see if they should reconsider going line-by-line. She felt the majority of them would still want to go line by line but felt that it wasn't the best way to whittle down the budget. She thought it was important to share her concerns.

Mr. Kaplan said that he agreed with Ms. Helm in terms of principle and preference, but having been on many budget committees in the past, it has come to his attention that the people on the committees really do want to review it line item by line item. He said they feel like they aren't doing their job unless they do it that way. Mr. Kaplan said that he may not agree with this idea, but he has recognized a long time ago that he can't micro-manage the Budget Committee. He remarked that not everyone felt the way he and Ms. Helm did and he said that he has learned that it is better to do it the way the people on the committee want to do it.

Ms. Levine said her biggest concern is that the budget wasn't even completed yet; they are still discussions to be had regarding employee health benefits and merit raises. She feared that if the Budget Committee "zeroes out" any line item, it can't be brought back in even at Town Meeting. She said that to prevent this, she would ask the Budget Committee to vote things down to just \$1 so that the Board of Selectmen could still offer the item as an amendment for Town Meeting. Ms. Levine said that the Municipal Finance Act only allows Town Meeting to increase the budget by 10% more than what the Budget Committee has approved. She said that she wants to have that conversation because she was concerned that cutting another \$300,000 - \$400,000 out of the budget would do a lot of damage to the programs in the Town and to the morale of the staff.

Mr. Kaplan opined that they can't take another big bite out of the budget like they did in 2009. Ms. Helm said she supported Mr. Kaplan in this thinking. She said that people expect certain programs and services so they do have to be careful about what gets cut and how much.

Chair Ballin noted that it was the Budget Committee that has to defend the budget so if they need to go line by line, it shall be done. He did think that they had members on both sides of the fence as far as where they need to cut and reallocate money from last year. He said that they need to encourage a good healthy dialogue and wanted to avoid anything that would appear to be adversarial at this point. Ms. Helm thought there were some people who did not speak up at the last budget meeting who felt the same way that she did, which is why she sent the email to start the dialogue.

Mr. Lavoie asked if at voting time the listing of the approval between the Budget Committee and Selectmen could ever conflict. Mr. Kaplan said that they could. Ms. Levine said that it is the Budget Committee's budget that goes to Town Meeting, but the warrant articles would say whether the Selectmen recommend or do not recommend that article, so that people would see that there was a conflict. She also said that she may ask the Budget Committee to consider allowing something they want removed as a special warrant article.

Chair Ballin said that the next budget meeting was November 16 at 7:00 PM at Whipple Memorial Town Hall.

Planning Board: Ms. Helm reported the following:

- 1) PSNH was asked by SegTel Inc. to allow them to install their cable on PSNH poles. In order to comply, PSNH must install three new poles on Davis Hill Road. To do this, they must remove a number of trees. After considerable discussion amongst Planning Board members expressing concern

over the number of trees to be cut, the Planning Board allowed the cutting of some trees, but required PSNH to contact each homeowner for individual permission. There are also trees on Camp Sunapee Road to be trimmed in accordance with regular maintenance. Permission was granted.

- 2) There were no public concerns voiced over the proposed revisions to the new Planning Board Fee Schedule. It was, therefore, passed as revised.
- 3) Resident Bob Ewing came before the PB to request lot line adjustments to two of his lots on his total property on Main Street. Request was granted. A second concern regarding another parcel of his property was presented by Peter Stanley: Mr. Ewing's Letter of Credit, securing his obligation to create a hammerhead so that he could provide adequate frontage, as well as to extend water and sewer to a three lot subdivision at the foot of Balsam Acres Road has come due. Mr. Ewing had not fulfilled his obligation. The Planning Board has required Mr. Ewing to provide a new Letter of Credit while he considers his options.
- 4) Dan Wolf, Hodan Properties, Inc. came before the Planning Board with Conceptual Plans to build Shops at New London Village, to be located on a parcel of land now owned by New London Hospital, between Hubert's and the WNTK Radio Station, facing Newport Road. He made it clear that he really wanted to "test the waters" with the Planning Board as to whether they supported his moving on to the next steps of finding tenants for his shops and for more detailed designs. The PB did seem to support his moving along to the next steps, though they had concerns over some wetland issues, traffic flows, etc.
- 5) The PB discussed the proposed requirement to Notify Abutters for a Concept Minor Subdivision Application. The PB members decided against this proposal.
- 6) The PB voted to approve a few minor revisions to Article XXVI of the Workforce Housing Overlay District Zoning Ordinance.
- 7) There was discussion about the Revocation of two old Subdivision Plats. One should have a public hearing, the other will receive a letter informing the property owner why the approval, dating back to 1993 is being revoked.

Mr. Kaplan asked if it would be a good idea to have Dan Wolf come to the next Economic Development Committee meeting to explain his idea for the new shopping plaza. Chair Ballin said that they had discussed having commercial realtors come to their meetings. The next meeting they had Bruce King lined up to talk about what was going on at New London Hospital. He said that they would certainly like to have Mr. Wolf come to the meeting. Mr. Doheny said that he heard that Mr. King may not be able to make the next meeting and so Mr. Wolf may be invited.

Mr. Lewis said that he had heard something about fees being charged by the Planning Board. He said that Mr. Stanley is being paid a salary and some may ask why fees are being paid. He believed that they were charging fees because the Town was short on money. Chair Ballin said that the fees are charged to offset the costs for applications that are seen by the Planning Board. Mr. Lewis said that he had recently read about rescues in the White Mountains and sometimes the State charges for this service. They won't charge you now unless your behavior was considered reckless. Mr. Lewis commented that National Parks rescues are all free. He said that he was not sure if the cost analogy was correct, but opined that since the Town was short on money, the fees were being charged. Mr. Kaplan said that they were not short of money but that there was a fee schedule based upon what other towns in their area charge. Mr. Kaplan also shared that New London's Zoning Administrator did an extensive survey to explore what was being charged around New London.

Joint Sewer Commission: Ms. Levine reported on the Sewer Commission meeting in Sunapee on Thursday, October 29, which she had attended along with Tina Helm, Mark Kaplan, and Richard Lee. She said that the biggest thing that came from the meeting was that they will probably go to Town Meeting in March to seek approval for the major renovation at the Sunapee Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project could happen sooner because there is the possibility of receiving stimulus money from the USDA Rural Utilities Service program. Ms. Levine said that that money is available in the immediate future but would run out if they don't receive approval for the project in the next budget year. She shared that Sunapee had the possibility of receiving 45% of the grant. She opined that the warrant would have to be written with some flexibility.

Mr. Lewis asked who would pay the balance of the cost. He felt there should be some allocation between everyone in the town (perhaps 50-75%) and others who directly use the sewer. He said that he should not have to pay for an extension of sewer service to other parts of the Town. Mr. Kaplan said that they face this argument all the time. Sewer users are only in a certain part of the town. Some do not use the sewer so they don't feel that they should pay for it. But the hospital and schools are on the Town system and don't we want the hospital and schools to have a good sewer? They have to be able to resolve in their minds that the sewer should be paid for by all because they all use it in one way or another. Ms. Levine shared that when there has been a sewer line extension, the users pay for that, not the whole Town. She explained that the Town passes the bond but charges the betterment back to the users to pay for it. She said that this was a different subject, however, concerning replacement versus extension.

Ms. Helm asked if at Town Meeting it is voted on who pays for the sewer balance. Ms. Levine said that the decision can be made by the Board of Selectmen, but the decision has to be made clear in advance in order to win approval at Town Meeting. Chair Ballin agreed that they have to craft the wording on this very carefully. Ms. Levine said that sewer users alone can't afford this bond. This would be the largest bond the Town has ever had, even if the USDA grant pays 45% of the cost. Mr. Lavoie asked what Sunapee's approach was to this large project. Chair Ballin said that they have a lot of money in reserve, but would still have to bond. Ms. Levine said that New London has maybe \$200,000 in sewer-related capital reserves, but not for this project. Mr. Kaplan said that Sunapee had \$862,000 in Capital Reserve for this project. Ms. Levine said that Sunapee would most likely have to put the total project on their warrant and will have to educate their townspeople that a portion would be reimbursed by New London. Mr. Lavoie asked if the grant application was a joint effort between the two towns or if it was individual. Ms. Levine said that she believes it would be a Sunapee grant application.

Ms. Levine also reported that at the meeting, the Sunapee Sewer Commission agreed to allow the effluent from the Bucklin Beach holding tank to be pumped directly into the Town's sewer during the summer months. This should reduce the pumping costs. Ms. Levine said that the septic proposals are due this Friday and Carol Fraley had notified prospective vendors of this amendment.

Upcoming Meetings:

Joint Selectmen's Meeting, Newbury, November 5: Ms. Helm said she would be at this meeting. Mr. Kaplan said he will try to get there. Chair Ballin cannot attend.

Wild Goose Meeting, Newbury, November 9: Chair Ballin said that he would not be there due to his position on the Wetlands Council. Ms. Helm and Ms. Levine said they would be there.

LGC Annual Conference: Chair Ballin will attend the conference and Mr. Kaplan will attend the Thursday luncheon. Ms. Helm expressed her regret at not being able to attend.

Veterans' Day: Ms. Levine announced that the Selectmen were invited to the Veterans' Day Celebration on Wednesday, November 11 at 10:30am at the First Baptist Church in New London.

Other Business: Mr. Lewis asked to make some comments. He wanted to thank the Board of Selectmen for their work on the Beach Ordinance and Fiscal Year shift and also for the tax bills being lowered. One thing he did not agree with was having an Economic Development Committee. He said that there were a lot of people in Town who don't want the Town to grow. He said that in fact he would be happy to see the Town shrink. Mr. Lewis explained that they moved to New London because they liked the semi-rural atmosphere. The growth had been well-managed but he felt that he didn't see growth as being a good thing to go towards. He felt that there were a lot of people who didn't want growth in the Town.

Mr. Kaplan said when he came to New London, there were 1700 people. Today there are 4400 people. He agreed with the reasons for coming and the reasons for staying in Town. Mr. Kaplan explained, however, that the Economic Development Committee was formed to ensure that they maintain their small Town "flavor." He said that they can't do this if there were a lot of empty store fronts. Mr. Kaplan believed the Economic Development Committee sees it as their charge not to be bursting with all kinds of projects to bring business to New London but to do it in a very judicious manner and make sure businesses are filled and that people are happy and don't lose what the President of the College calls "a quintessential New England town." Mr. Lewis said he was glad to have heard this statement to allay his fears of over-growth in the Town.

Mr. Lavoie asked how the Recreation Department's Halloween event went. Ms. Levine said that it was very well attended. She, Peter Stanley and Richard Lee ran the tractor rides, along with a Colby-Sawyer student. In the 5-7 PM block, with the younger kids, they saw at least a few hundred people. Attendance was steady and the hay wagons could not keep up with all the people. During the break between 7-7:30 PM, while the Colby-Sawyer Players made the changes to haunt the woods, it started pouring. They still got a few hundred during the 7:30-9:00 PM time slot. Overall, there were not as many as they expected but the weather had something to do with this. Ms. Levine shared that this activity was a theatre production put on in conjunction with the College Players.

Mr. Kaplan noted that he had received a call from Foster Boardman about the light at Four Corners. He believed that the lights would be put back in the spring. He said that there are two stop signs on Route 114 and now there is no stop sign on Route 11. There used to be a blinking light which was on a post in the median, which is not there now.

Chair Ballin said that in theory, the traffic will be slowed by the lines in the road. He opined that they wouldn't even need a stop light or sign. Mr. Kaplan replied that without that light on Route 11 people will go too fast. Ms. Levine said none of the officials she spoke to thought the light was the best solution to slowing traffic. Mr. Kaplan thought they should write a letter to the State to caution them about the light being taken out. Mr. Lavoie asked if they could request a temporary light on a pole. Ms. Levine said the Board of Selectmen could make a request for this. Ms. Helm said that she hasn't noticed a slow-down of traffic at this intersection.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to have Ms. Levine write a letter to the State requesting a temporary light at the intersection at Route 114 and Route 11. The motion passed 2-1.

Chair Ballin commented that it was the State's project and they own it until it is done.

Application for Building Permits:

- Amendment: Bright Farmhouse Trust, 412 Burpee Hill Road (Map & Lot 070-019-000) new foundation, concrete floor, add door & drip ledge – Permit #08-145 – Approved.
- Amendment: Steve & Jessy LaValley, 260 Little Sunapee Road (Map & Lot 046-002-001) add suspended floor under garage – Permit #09-070 – Approved.
- Loretta Steiner, 15 Scythe Road (Map & Lot 078-016-000) demolish old structure – Permit #09-118 – Approved. (signed 10/29/09)
- Valerie White, 46 Wallula Road (Map & Lot 033-016-003) demolish old house – rebuild new – Permit #09-119 – Approved. (signed 10/29/09)
- Blunt Trust, 700 Route 103A (Map & Lot 091-016-000) construct 40x60 barn – Permit #09-120 – Approved.
- W. Michael Todd Living Trust, 159 Old Main St. (Map & Lot 107-005-000) exterior renovations – Permit #09-121 – Approved.
- Robert & Jennifer Mack, 340 Pleasant St. (Map & Lot 061-019-000) extend back deck – Permit #09-122 – Approved.
- Arthur Davis, Jr., 155 Wilder Lane (Map & Lot 099-009-000) install free standing car port – Permit #09-123 – Approved.
- Loretta Steiner, 15 Scythe Shop Road (Map & Lot 078-016-000) construct 14x16 ell connected to 24x26 garage w/living space above – Permit #09-124 – **DENIED**.
- Steven Landrigan, 22 Milkhouse Road (Map & Lot 122-003-000) mount solar panels – Permit #09-125 – Approved.

Application for use of Whipple Memorial Hall:

- New London Area Center for the Arts – Children’s Christmas stories & Carols – Sunday Dec. 13, 2009 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM – Approved.
- Tiger Mountain Shotokan Karate – Wednesday’s 6:00 – 8:00 pm – Approved.

Application for sign permits:

- PERMANENT - Wells Fargo Advisors – 276 Newport Road, The Gallery – c/o Hodan Properties – Approved.
- TEMPORARY – St. Andrews Church, 52 Gould Road - Holiday Fair Dec. 5, 2009 9:00 AM – 2:00PM request sign to go in front of information booth – Approved.

Application for Raffle:

- New London Outing Club Holiday Raffle – drawing for \$10,000 to be drawn 1/1/2010 – Approved.

Application for Tax Abatement:

- Abatement for John & Roberta Hollinger Trusts/Trustees – 443 Bunker Road (Map & Lot 063-002-000) – abated the amount of \$11,082.47 – property owner received supplemental bill for the 1st billing in 2009 but payment was not applied to 2nd billing therefore they were charged the full tax on 2nd bill for 2009.- Approved. (signed 10/26/09)
- Abatement for Timothy C. Wick – 20 Hilltop Place, (Map & Lot 144-001-020) – abated in the amount of \$17,200; after reviewing sales and listings in the complex it was determined that this unit should be reduced – Approved.
- Abatement for Christine Bowditch – 99 Hilltop Place (Map & Lot 144-001-099) – abated in the amount of \$21,100 due to changes to the building sketch & the 3-season room it was determined that this unit should be reduced – Approved.

- Abatement for Lauren Armstrong – 30 Hilltop Place (Map & Lot 144-001-030) – abated in the amount of \$12,700; this property is considered to be an efficiency type unit, based on the review of the sales & listings it is determined that this unit should be reduced – Approved.

Other:

- Disbursement voucher weeks of October 26, 2009 & November 2, 2009 - Approved.
- Second Property Tax Billing 2009 in the amount of \$8,100,170.25 – Approved. (signed 10/21/09)
- Second Property Tax Billing 2009 Supplemental – in the amount of \$5092.63 – Approved. (signed 10/27/09)
- Sewer Warrant in the amount of \$361,612.33 -- Approved
- Permission to serve Alcohol at Fire Department on 12-7-09 – Approved.
- Appointment card for David Alan Croft, Patrolman.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of November 3, 2009. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary