

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES**

May 9, 2005

PRESENT:

Mark Kaplan, Chair, Board of Selectmen
Ruth I. Clough, Selectman
Douglas W. Lyon, Selectman
Jessie Levine, Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT:

David Seastrand, Chief of Police
Debbie Cross, Intertown Record
Carolyn Dube, Argus Champion

Chair Kaplan called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Police Department Update: Chair Kaplan welcomed Police Chief David Seastrand to the meeting. Chief Seastrand said that he wanted to update the Selectmen on Police Department activities, and also wanted to talk to them about a proposed ordinance regulating the use of skateboards on public property and streets and roads. The Board of Selectmen reviewed the draft ordinance. Chief Seastrand said that he was primarily concerned about “long boarders” who ride on hilly roads, such as Seamans Road or Pleasant Street. The draft ordinance would prohibit the use of skateboards and other wheeled skates in the street, and would limit the use on public property, including sidewalks. He said that he does not want to banish skateboarding altogether; in fact, he hopes to be able to continue working with Bob Andrews, Recreation Director, to develop a skate park in New London. The purpose of this ordinance would be to allow skateboarding to continue in the safest manner for the skateboarders and the general public.

Ms. Clough suggested making changes to the ordinance to eliminate the negative “no person shall” language. Ms. Levine said that she would make the changes to the ordinance, and that it would then require a public hearing before going into effect.

Chair Kaplan asked Chief Seastrand for more information about a skateboard park. Chief Seastrand said that a small committee had formed consisting of Chief Seastrand, Bob Andrews, and a young man who was recently injured in a car accident. Following the accident, their project has taken a back seat, but had included looking at parks in other communities. Ms. Levine said that they had discovered that one of the difficulties with the parks is that the police and other officials want the park to be in a visible location for safety and to prevent vandalism, and most of the public wants the park hidden from view. Chief Seastrand said that Bob Andrews was going to talk to the New London Outing Club or Community Center people about it. The Board of Selectmen was generally supportive of the idea. Chief Seastrand cautioned that while skateboard parks attract trick skaters, they do not provide an alternative for long boarders, who are similar to surfers or snowboarders and are interested in a long ride that requires balance and skill. The Board of Selectmen briefly discussed whether there would be an appropriate location for long boarding, such as an infrequently used road. Ms. Levine said that she would have liability concerns about doing so. No decision was made.

Chief Seastrand went on to update the Board of Selectmen on other activities of the Police Department. He has hired Robert Thorp as a full-time police officer; Rob will start work at the end of this month and

will enter the Police Academy this fall. The Police Department will work with the Water Precinct, of which Rob is superintendent, for a smooth transition. This is especially important given the Precinct's summer project to install an underground water tank at Colby-Sawyer College.

The Police Department has also hired Louise Stark of Grantham as the Administrative Assistant, and a new dispatcher, Jennifer Rossiter of Newport, who will start next week. He is very happy with all of the new employees.

Chief Seastrand said that he is 80% through the items recommended by the management study of the Police Department. He has reorganized the police functions and has put the sergeant in charge of many functions. Most of the job descriptions have been revised. Milestone Engineering is working on improving the HVAC in the building. Chris Pankhurst has worked on a technology plan for the department. They are waiting for their new radio frequency license, and are excited that they will be a test site for the Crimestar mobile data. The department has improved its use of Crimestar and is using the latest version. Chief Seastrand has used the statistics and data for presentations such as the one to Country Squires. Ms. Levine said that she noticed that the New London police log is now appearing in the Argus. Chief Seastrand said that Heather Cusanelli has pulled that together, condensing a 45 page report that prints from Crimestar. Carolyn Dube said that the log is edited by the Argus editor, who adds the humor. Ms. Levine suggested that the newspaper should include a note that the items are excerpts from the police activity logs; otherwise, it looks like there are only three calls per day.

Chief Seastrand said that he has worked with staff in the department to sketch a proposed design for the basement, which he distributed to the Selectmen. Ms. Levine said that she had asked for a conceptual design to know what the staff wanted to include in the renovation. Ms. Clough suggested that the Budget Committee and public be given tours through the basement once the renovation plan has been decided. Accessibility will be an issue with the basement.

Chair Kaplan asked Chief Seastrand to comment on the dispatcher customer committee that was recommended by the management study. Chief Seastrand said that Fire Captain Jay Lyon has been working on standard protocols with the local C-5 (emergency response) committee. Chief Seastrand hopes to use that as a jumping off point to work on standard procedures with all dispatch clients. He said that they have a plan in action but have not identified members of the committee or set a meeting schedule. Chair Kaplan said that he was thinking about towns that had commented that they were paying for services but did not have any input in the services they received, and he asked how the other towns were responding in terms of communications. Chief Seastrand said that if the other towns had concerns, he hopes that they are not sitting on them. He said that one town recently had a concern about protocols and wanted to make a change; that town put its concern in writing and the change has been implemented. He said that he is happy to make changes as long as the protocols and procedures are consistent; exceptions could result in more mistakes from dispatch staff. Mr. Lyon said that the end result should be scheduled regular meetings of the representatives of the various groups; they should make a regular habit of reviewing policies and breakdowns so that it becomes a routine part of doing business. Chief Seastrand agreed.

Chief Seastrand said that the department had hoped that the outgoing cruiser would last until the new cruiser arrived in July, but it needs \$800 worth of work and he does not want to make that investment in a vehicle that will become a taxicab in a few months. Mr. Lyon asked Chief Seastrand if there has been any discussion about the new Ford 500, and opined that it might replace the Crown Victoria. Chief Seastrand had not heard anything.

Chief Seastrand said that he would also like to clean up the parking ordinances this year, and Ms. Levine agreed. She said that Richard Lee has ordered some signs that should help with the enforcement of parking.

Chief Seastrand thanked the Selectmen and departed at 8:45 AM.

Meeting Minutes: Mr. Lyon moved to approve the minutes of April 30 and May 2, 2005. Seconded Ms. Clough and approved 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Crushed Glass Request: Ms. Levine referred to a request from Pierre and Ann Bedard to use crushed recycled glass in the base for their new driveway. Since the Town of New London is the glass crushing site for the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA), the Town gets to keep the end product for use in construction projects. Ms. Levine said that Richard Lee had supported the Bedards' request, because it would be a good test of the use of straight glass in the construction of driveways and roads. Richard Lee has used the glass mixed with gravel, but has not used straight glass. This would be a beta site, and if it worked, the Town could sell the crushed glass to other residents or towns.

Ms. Clough asked if there was a precedent for selling town material. Chair Kaplan said that all recycled material is sold off to vendors. Ms. Levine said that surplus equipment is sold in the summer, and the Town sold the old street signs to the public. She said that she would hope that the Town could sell the end-product of the crushed glass. It would be a good source of revenue.

Mr. Lyon said that this seems experimental in nature. Their contractor would pick up the material; the Town would just have to open the gate. If the glass worked, then we could market it to others. Chair Kaplan said that he is interested in finding out if it works. The Board of Selectmen approved the request at no cost to the Bedards.

OLD BUSINESS:

Squires Lane: Ms. Levine said that she had spoken to Bart Mayer about returning the flow of water to its original watercourse on Squires Lane. Mr. Mayer had advised that it would not be required to seek new drainage easements. He said that Towns gain a right by adverse possession, but cannot lose it by adverse possession or abandonment. In any event, it has not been 20 years since the Town used that drainage swale. Ms. Levine will still talk to the property owners to make sure that their concerns are addressed.

Town Hall Update: Ms. Levine said that she is meeting at 11:00 this morning with someone who was recommended for historical projects. She will talk to him about whether the Town Hall ceiling can be covered with sheetrock, which Bill Hardy has also recommended. She will also talk to him about window replacement. Ms. Clough suggested consulting with Ken Miller, who is involved with the NH Preservation Alliance.

Joint Board: Ms. Clough said that George Jamieson had agreed to be New London's representative to the Joint Board for the Intermunicipal Assessing Contract. Ms. Levine will contact him.

Personnel Policy: Ms. Levine said that she had received the draft personnel policy from Peggy Brown and had reviewed it and made edits. She will talk to the Board of Selectmen about the changes once they are made in the document. She suggested that before meeting with all Town staff, the Selectmen should meet with the department heads about some of the potential changes. The Board of Selectmen agreed. Ms. Levine said that Carol Fraley had attended the Government Finance Officers Association conference last week, and had learned that the Town should be taxing employees on certain fringe benefits, such as some reimbursable meals, take-home vehicles, and uniforms. This will be included in the new draft personnel policy.

Kearsarge Regional School District: Chair Kaplan noted that the School District will be hosting a public meeting on May 26 to discuss the middle school proposal. He suggested that the Board of Selectmen should encourage the District to listen to the minority opinions. Ms. Clough said that she had no problem

encouraging the School Board to listen to the opinions of all residents. Mr. Lyon agreed, and noted that the dissenting residents have also repeatedly said that the School Board had not considered a two-school option, which is not true. The Board of Selectmen suggested encouraging residents to attend that meeting to express their concerns. Mr. Lyon said that it is in the best interests of the town to have a resolution of the school issue. Ms. Levine will draft a letter to the editor.

Board Appointment Process: Ms. Clough asked if a meeting with the board chairs had been scheduled yet. Ms. Levine said that there have been some scheduling conflicts but they are getting closer; May 23rd is the best possibility.

HB90: Ms. Levine said that Senator Odell had voted in favor of local government on HB90, regarding the local ability to regulate race tracks. Even though the bill lost, it was comforting to see Senator Odell's vote. She said that she planned to send him a thank you note.

There being no further public business, Chair Kaplan asked for a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) personnel matter; (d) consideration of the acquisition of real estate ; and (e) consideration of pending litigation. Motion Mr. Lyon, Second Ms. Clough. Roll Call vote Lyon – yes; Kaplan – yes; Clough – yes.

Upon returning to public session, the Board of Selectmen signed the items below.

SIGNATURES:

Building Permits:

- Raymond & Susan Chacho, 21 Quail Run (Map 109, Lot 21), permit to erect gazebo and replace and enlarge existing deck – Approved (Permit 05-043)
- Myers Family Trust, Great Pines (Map 045, Lot 040-015), permit to construct new two bedroom home on lot #15 – Approved (Permit 05-042)

Sign Permits:

- NONE

Other Items for Signature:

- Disbursement Voucher for the week of May 9 and 16, 2005
- Abatement: Mary & Gregory Curtis, 332 Burpee Hill Road (Map 70, Lot 38) – Approved in part, denied in part
- Raffle Permit for Masonic Association of King Solomon's Lodge for raffle on July 17, 2005
- Application for Use of Whipple Memorial Town Hall by Northeast Shakespeare Ensemble on August 17, 2005 from 6 PM-11 PM – Approved

There being no further business, the Board of Selectmen voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Levine
Town Administrator