



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES March 23, 2009

### PRESENT:

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

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Marilyn Andrews, New London resident  
Brenda Balenger, Lake Sunapee Rowing Club  
Erle Blanchard, New London resident  
Chris Bottinger, New London resident  
David Bowen, New London resident  
Hilary Cleveland, New London resident  
Dale Conly, New London resident  
Jeanne Conly, New London resident  
Gerald Coogan, Recreation Commission  
Chris Cundey, New London resident  
Janice Cundey, New London resident  
Andy Deegan, New London resident  
Chad Denning, Recreation Director  
Joseph DiClerico, New London resident  
Laurie DiClerico, New London resident  
Michael Doheny, New London resident  
Chris Dorman, New London resident

Steve Ensign, New London resident  
Carol Foss, New London resident  
Bobbie Hambley, New London resident  
Jack Hambley, New London resident  
Virginia Johnson, New London resident  
Ron Koron, New London resident  
Vicki Koron, New London resident  
Tom McCormick, New London resident  
Les Norman, Chair, Conservation Commission  
Josh Penick, New London resident  
Pat Sheehan, New London resident  
Betsy Shelby, New London resident  
Gerry Shelby, New London resident  
Roger Smith, New London resident  
Michael Todd, New London resident  
Marylee Verdi, Lake Sunapee Rowing Club  
Debbie Cross, Intertown Record

Lake Sunapee Rowing Club – Public Hearing: Chair Ballin opened the meeting at 8:00 AM, introduced the other members of the Board of Selectmen, and thanked the people in attendance for coming to the meeting.

Chair Ballin introduced Marylee Verdi and Brenda Balenger of the Lake Sunapee Rowing Club and invited them to present a proposal for the public hearing. Ms. Verdi began by saying that she has been a New London resident for the past four years, with two children, and is an emergency room nurse at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. She has rowed since high school, and has rowed in the Upper Valley for the past three years in a competitive program. In the course of doing this she had an opportunity to see the high school and master's programs operate and thought this would be a wonderful thing to bring to the New London area. In the past two years she and Brenda Balenger have tried to offer rowing to the local community through the Lake Sunapee Rowing Club. Last year the Club was at Lake Sunapee, but the cost to operate out of a state park and the bureaucratic processes that are required are prohibitive for a small club with only two volunteers, both in terms of cost and time. The other problem was that they occasionally experienced white caps on the large lake. She said this was not a problem for a

large “eight” with experienced rowers, but for the smaller boats and for the adaptive boats from the New England Handicap Sports Association (which is about 40% of their program), this was a problem.

Ms. Verdi said that for these reasons, the Rowing Club looked for a place from which they could develop their small rowing program and eventually return to the big lake once they have more experienced rowers and more volunteers. She said they had 70 participants last year from ages 11 to age 70, with six different adaptive rowers participating in the program. They are using donated equipment from Dartmouth College and St. Paul’s School. They have looked at all the surrounding bodies of water and thought that Little Lake Sunapee was the best fit for the club in its present state of evolution. With this in mind they approached Chad Denning, Jessie Levine, and the Board of Selectmen, who recommended a public hearing on this proposal before any decisions were made.

Brenda Balenger, also of the Lake Sunapee Rowing Club, introduced herself and added that the goal of the program was to continue to offer rowing to junior boys and girls, as well as adaptive and masters rowers. The program would be aimed at skill development and fitness for life rowing. She said they would also like to encourage the demography such as Council on Aging members who are independent to participate with the goal of staying fit and flexible.

Chair Ballin asked Chad Denning, Recreation Director, if he had anything to add. Mr. Denning said that without adding his personal opinion, from what he understood, the beach would be getting a floating dock. He thought the Town’s kayak and sailing programs offered through the Recreation Department would benefit from the dock that the Rowing Club would provide. Additionally, the Town might benefit from the potential use of the Rowing Club’s boats for instruction. He added that the time frame that this activity would be occurring, 6:00-9:00 AM, was a time when the beach was not used by many residents. He said he has had a chance to witness the program in the Upper Valley and was amazed at the participation in the program once it was offered to the community.

After asking the other two Selectmen if they had thoughts at this time (they did not), Chair Ballin opened the discussion to the floor.

Ron Koron, president of the Little Lake Sunapee Protective Association, said he sent out an e-mail to the association membership requesting comments regarding this rowing proposal. He said the some of the comments were favorable and others not. He said he recognized the objective of the Rowing Club, but the association would like to identify six primary areas of concern:

1. Exotic Weeds Inspection: Mr. Koron said that money is received from the Town and NH Lake Association to inspect all boats going into the lake. This is done at the state boat launch. How will the association be assured that exotic weeds are not getting into the lake?
2. Parking: There is parking for 18 vehicles in the beach parking lot. Overflow cars park on Route 114 or Old Dump Road. Additional people and cars parked in this area, which is already congested during the summer months, will only increase congestion and raises safety concerns.
3. Beach capacity: In the summer, this is a very crowded beach. Attempting to move the long boats through a crowded beach is a potential problem. He asked where the boats will be stored. Mr. Denning responded that there is a narrow corridor about 15-20 feet wide and about 7 feet long at the end of the beach and along Route 114. The boats would be stored there on racks similar to those currently being used to store the kayaks and sail boats.
4. Noise: He was concerned about the use of a bullhorn early in the morning and wondered what other types of noise could be expected.

5. Dock: What impact will this have on the lake? Who will get to use it? Is it a public dock? Can anyone use it to launch a boat?
6. Lake congestion: How many boats will be out at one point in time? Will they go through the channel at Colby Point?

Chair Ballin asked Ms. Verdi to respond to the issues raised by Mr. Koron. She said that she saw the use of Little Lake Sunapee as temporary. She said that although there were 70 people participating in the program, from June to October, they did not all participate at once. There are only two eight-boats, with ten people associated with each boat (eight rowers, a coxswain and a coach in a chase boat). She said that only New London residents who were participating in this program would be permitted to park in the beach parking lot. The program is held early in the morning and generally finishes by 8:00 AM. If they were to do any other types of programs, like a “learn to row” program at the request of the Town’s Recreation Department, this would be held after the lifeguards are off-duty. She said that the traditional beach times would not be utilized by the rowing club at all. With regard to the equipment, in addition to the two eight boats, they have one single Alden skull and four adaptive rowing boats, plus oars. She said that the adaptive rowing program meets once a week.

With regard to noise, Ms. Balenger said this is a definite issue because there will be people added to the area where there were almost none before. Ms. Balenger addressed the concerns regarding the use of the megaphone by saying that the staff and coaches were aware of these concerns and would try to aim any instructions away from residential areas. The coaches would try to do most of their coaching on the shore prior to entering the boats and would try to be near to the boat they are coaching while on the water. With regard to exotic weeds and milfoil, she said that for most of the season the boats, which have a smooth surface, would be taken off the racks, used in Little Sunapee, and placed back on the racks. They would be used on other lakes only one or two time per season and they would carefully inspect the boats upon re-entering Little Lake Sunapee. With regard to the other uses of the floating dock, this would be limited to use by the Recreation Department for their sailing program. It is not a permanent structure and is not intended to become a public boat launch, adding that it will be removed at the end of the season. With regard to the beach access, the large boats would be launched at about 7:00 AM at the far end of the beach, not in the swim area. This is not a time that the beach has a great deal of use, but they would be respectful of anyone who was there.

Michael Todd said he has been the race director for the Head of the Charles and has worked on that regatta for the last 20 years. He wanted to add a point about coaching the eight-person boats. He said these boats are equipped with speakers and the coxswain is equipped with a microphone, and the rowers have speakers at their seats that enable them to hear instructions that eliminate the use of a bullhorn. He said there is radio equipment available that allows the coach to communicate directly to the coxswain, skipping the use of the bullhorn. These latter items are in the club’s budget.

Gerald Coogan was recognized. He is vice-chair of the New London Recreation Commission. He said that that their last meeting, the Recreation Commission voted to support this initiative. His impression was that the impact of this program on the beach would be very small. He said that if the Board of Selectmen had concerns about parking or use of the beach, he would recommend that they place conditions on any approval that was granted. He thought this program would benefit the Town and complement the Recreation Department’s programming.

Joseph DiClerico said he has lived in several areas along the beach since 1966 and has had the opportunity to watch the beach develop. He said his remarks were not aimed at this fine organization and he thought they were doing a great job. His remarks had to do with the policy issues concerning the uses

of this important but limited town resource. It is a small beach on a small piece of land. He said he had four points he wished to make:

1. This is a small beach, both in the number of people using it and the types of uses that are going on in the summer. The added use of kayaks and sailboats has intensified what goes on at the beach over time. Parking problems and issues of trash are increased with additional use. He was concerned that a small beach can only be overburdened so much and then it becomes unattractive.
2. The amount of open space is limited on the beach. He said that the open land is used by people to get away from the congestion of the beach or to get out of the wind and he thought it would be unfortunate if boats were going to be stored there. He also thought that this open area also added to the natural buffer.
3. He said that there were important policy issues at stake. Should valuable limited town resources be committed to any private organization for a significant period of time, in this case an entire summer season into the fall? He suggests that this beach resource be held for the taxpayers, residents, and guest of residents of New London. He said the Selectmen, who are temporary trustees of our town, should hold these resources for the greater good of the townspeople. He said if this is allowed for one private organization, how do you decide which private organization to grant access to and which not to? He suggested that this is a very slippery slope.
4. The installation of the dock was also a concern. He thought that this structure would attract motor boats and bathers and become a distraction for the lifeguards, and signage alone will not address this.

He would like to respectfully suggest to the Board of Selectmen to protect the interest of the Town and its residents and its resources and make sure that the resources are used wisely for our greater good. He would further suggest that the Selectmen walk the beach and even better, do it on a hot summer day.

Pat Sheehan read the following statement signed by her and her husband Jack, who as unable to attend the meeting today:

We find it unfortunate that the Selectmen would choose to consider this proposal in the month of March when so many of the residents who would be affected by this activity are not in New London. Many of the lakefront residents choose to vacation in March, and our seasonal residents are not in their homes in March. Many seasonal residents have chosen to own a home on Little Sunapee because of the quality of life here. They contribute considerable tax dollars to the Town but do not put much stress on the support system. This proposal, however, could impact the peaceful atmosphere of our Lake. We feel that the Selectmen owe our lakefront residents the courtesy of having this proposal discussed when they are available, that is, in the summer months. If you are inclined to further consider this proposal, we urge you to hold a hearing in the summer when the largest number of residents are available and postpone any decision until after this hearing takes place.

Virginia Johnson introduced herself and said that she is a seasonal resident of Little Sunapee and a year-round resident of Sutton, and she is concerned with the impact of this proposal on this very small little pond and is concerned about preserving the water quality of the water in the lake.

Michael Doheny said he and his 14-year-old daughter joined the Rowing Club last summer and thought it to be a great program for high school age kids, both for bonding and scholarship potential. He spoke in

favor of the rowing program and thought it would be a benefit to the community and people of all ages. He said that as far as concerns about kids drinking on the dock, they can do it now at the pergola.

Steve Ensign said he is a seasonal resident of the lake, and his concerns are peaceful enjoyment of the lake, especially in the early morning hours. He wondered what the residents might be expected to hear from the rowing activity during the arrival and coaching. Ms. Balenger said that the details of the programming had not yet been worked out so she did not have the details he was asking for. Arrival time is generally 5:45 AM and they are in the water by 6:00 and out of the water by 7:15 AM. Each boat goes out with a launch, which usually has a 4 HP motor or a canoe with a 2.5HP motor. During rowing the rowers are not allowed to speak in the boat. The coxswain communicates via a headset microphone to the rowers who have a speaker at each seat. A second group could go out at 7:00 AM until 8:00 AM Ms. Verdi said that there would be 16 people on the beach, so she could not say that nothing would be heard, but it would be conversational and not shouting. Mr. Ensign asked the Board of Selectmen to ensure that the beach would be locked and access limited. He said that if the Selectmen were to approve this, even on a temporary basis, they should begin to take some action to contain what is taking place.

Ms. Helm asked for clarification on a few facts relative to the number of vessels, as there have been differing figures used. Ms. Balenger said that there were two 60-foot boats and two 36-foot double Aldens which are used in the adaptive rowing program, one single Alden that is 25 feet in length, 10 oars, the chase boat, which they may use this year, is owned by the Town and is a flat bottom aluminum boat with an 8 HP motor, and 2 fours which were on loan from St. Paul's School which they might have the use of this year. Ms. Helm asked to clarify that they do not yet have the radio capacity between the coach and the boat but that this would further reduce the noise. Mr. Todd said that was correct and if they were required, they could get this equipment.

Ms. Balenger further clarified that the rowers would be on the water from 5:45 AM and off the water by 8:00 AM. The adaptive rowers would be on the water at 5:00 PM and off the water by 8:00 PM once a week with a coach. She said that only the two doubles would have two coaches on the water at the same time.

Ms. Verdi said the program and the timing would be adjusted to the needs of the community. She said the goal of the club is to totally cooperate with the community that they are a part of. Times are flexible to the needs of the Town, as are all other plans, which is why they do not yet have formulated, definite plans. Mr. Denning said that any rowing program through the Recreation Department would be on a limited time basis, say once a week, just to try it.

Chris Cundey asked for a definition of the word "temporary." Ms. Verdi said it could be this season and maybe the next, dependent on the Board of Selectmen. From the club's standpoint, they would like to keep the club small. Although they would like to have other people join the club and help out administratively with the additional paperwork, they are not there yet. When and if they reach that level, they would move to the State Park at Lake Sunapee. Chair Ballin suggested that if this proposal were to move forward, the word "temporary" would be defined by the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Levine said legally that the Board of Selectmen could not grant use of greater than 1 year without Town Meeting approval. She suggested that if this proposal is approved, it should be considered a trial year.

Mr. Kaplan commented that the town administration is in a difficult position in terms of what they can and cannot allow. He pointed out that the lake water belongs to the State and once anyone is on the lake that is State property. The only thing the Town can control is the land around the lake. Chair Ballin noted that there is public access to the lake at the state boat launch.

Chair Ballin suggested that the dialogue on this issue be continued with one or two more public hearings before any decision is made. He proposed that the next public hearing be held, as part of the Board of Selectmen's meeting on April 15, 2009 at 6:00 PM. He said there will be a public announcement of this meeting to make sure all interested parties were aware of this meeting. Ms. Levine said that the announcement for this meeting will be posted in the Intertown Record and she will notify residents via the Town's e-mail list. Chair Ballin noted that a number of e-mails have been received regarding this issue and without reading them these are all being entered into this meeting's record. He further assured the residents that all deliberations will occur in a public manner and that this meeting was just a beginning to the process. Ms. Helm asked if there could be a representative at the April meeting of the high school students who have participated in the program.

Ms. Verdi suggested that anyone who was interested could feel free to contact her at [lakesunapeerowing@yahoo.com](mailto:lakesunapeerowing@yahoo.com) or go to [www.lakesunapeerowing.com](http://www.lakesunapeerowing.com), commenting that there is also a video available on the web.

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E-mails received:

- From Cornelia Boyle:

Hi Jessie,

Below please find our comments regarding the proposed use of Bucklin Beach for a rowing club. Gary Anderson and I are traveling and unable to attend. Thank you. CB

-----Forwarded Message-----

From: cornelia boyle  
Sent: Mar 22, 2009 10:55 AM  
To: Ron Koron  
Subject: Re: Rowing Club-Little Lake Sunapee

Hi Ron,

My husband, Gary Anderson and I will not be able to attend the meeting since we are traveling, but I wanted to send our thoughts along in this e-mail. We live at 46 Twin Lake Villa Road, and we own lakefront in Jeffer's Cove (between the Moore's boat house lot and Peter Gunn. Gary is the designated weedwatcher for that section of the lake.

We'd like to know if the rowing club has contacted Slope and Shore for access to their property on Pleasant Lake. In our opinion, that location seems superior to Bucklin Beach. It is wide open lakefront, there is plenty of parking, and there is even a structure for storage.

Bucklin Beach is small and congested in the summer. And parking is often a problem. One of the great advantages of Little Lake Sunapee is its quiet atmosphere. We would be very unhappy to hear bullhorns early in the morning, especially since our summer season is so short. We are avid users of the lake for boating and fishing, and we would hate to be prevented from using the lake because a training session is underway.

Our biggest issue is early morning noise. Please ask the boat club what other venues they have explored and why Bucklin Beach is still a better fit. We'd like to understand their hours of operation and plans to mitigate early morning noise.

Thank you for including our comments at the meeting, and keep us informed as to the results.

Best regards, Cornelia Boyle and Gary Anderson

- From Ken & Laurie Jacques:

Hi Jessie-

Due to the fact that the public hearing for the proposed rowing club at Bucklin Beach is being held at 8:00 A.M. (**An extremely inconvenient time for those of us who work!!!!!!**) and we can not attend, I will share our thoughts with you.

The basic concept is great, we fully support the use of unmotorized boats on the lake. Our concern lies in two areas, the first being parking the second would be the noise early in the morning.

As you know parking is limited at Bucklin Beach the overflow filling up the Old Dump Road. Since we drive by there daily it is certainly a concern. Yes, we are cautious driving through there and warn our employees to drive slowly, but there is a lot of traffic on 114 and many of them drive to fast! The day may very well come when a child darts into the road and is hit, an accident none of us want to see.

As for the noise, the concern is that the rowers will be on the lake early and megaphones or bull horns may be used. Obviously, noise carries across the lake and no one living on the lake wants to wake up to 6 A.M. rowing instructors...especially our paying guests. As long as instruction was to be done on the beach I don't think the noise would be too bad.

You will hear more concerns I am sure and I do wonder if Pleasant Lake or Big Sunapee would provide better longer stretches to row on, but I guess that is for the rowers to figure out. Should the possibility of Twin Lake Village as a launching site come up, you can say that we will not entertain the idea due to the high usage by our own guests, lack of parking and lack of storage space. Ken and I will speak to anyone about the issue.

Again, I am sorry that Ken and I are unable to attend and in the future it would be nice to move public hearings to a time when us working folk can participate. Thank you for your time!

Ken & Laurie Jacques

- From David Gunn:

Hello Jessie;

I will not be back in NH until April 1, so I thought I would pass on my position on the rowing club proposal.

Three things come to mind:

First, Bucklin beach is quite crowded during [normal] peak times and during those periods I think there is some risks with the type of equipment used; on both sides.

Second, for the record I think rowing is a great sport and at many times of the day the lake is well suited to that use.

Third; a great concern that I have is that the rowing club be fully aware that ski boats towing wake borders these days put out significant wakes. Similarly, trick skiing is done at 17 mph where the tow boat wake is the largest.

Water skiing [now often wakeboarding] has been a fixture on Little Sunapee for many decades and the rowing club should take that into account. For serious skiers who want/need to practice the early hours of the day and the evenings are the 'quiet waters' times most often desired and historically used.

Thank you for your time,  
Regards,  
Dave Gunn

- From Ron Koron:

Jessie, I asked Little Sunapee Protective Association members (those I had email addresses), for comments about the Intertown Record's article. Attached are comments from a six members regarding the Rowing Club discussions with the Town. Not everyone responded to my request.

Each paragraph represents a homeowner.

You may want to consider these points in your discussions.

Ron Koron, President, Little Sunapee Protective Association

#### ROWING CLUB-Comments from lake property owners

Even though we have not read the article and are not rowers, X and I have no objection to the rowing club using Little Sunapee as their base. A little noise would not concern us. After all, this is a recreational lake and we already have boaters and fishermen who can be noisy at times and it doesn't seem to cause any undue stress.

As for the rowing club, my concern is more along the lines of parking. I don't know how many people/cars would be involved, but the beach does not have adequate parking as it is. The rowing activity that I have seen on the lake has always been quiet. Maybe a large group such as this would be noisier, but I wouldn't think it would be too much of an issue.

Bucklin Beach is already saturated with traffic. It is a small beach and very over used in the summer. Not only is there noise there until 9 pm, but young people party there from time to time until after midnight This is a residential area that looks more like a commercial area. Unlike Sunapee there is no control of out of town users and some kids even arrive by the bus load.

Sorry to be a spoil sport, but New London has ten miles of frontage on Lake Sunapee and there is nowhere to use it. Time has come to find a spot on Lake Sunapee where we can swim, put in a boat, etc. If the town can give out free kayaks and sailboats, it can find some room on Lake Sunapee. It can also build a bigger parking lot at Pleasant Lake so more people can use that town beach. Not every thing has to come to Bucklin Beach.

Think that traffic is a concern. The beach is used quite a lot in the evening for swimming and picnics. The article also mentioned that the coach would be using a bull horn to give instructions. Little Sunapee is a small lake especially when presumably would be only using the east half of the lake. Knowing how sound carries over water, I think that noise is a concern especially if they are using the lake early AM & later PM which are the most peaceful time on the lake. Regardless of whether people are awake in the evening, I would think that a bull horn over the water would generate considerable noise. My other concern would be the putting in of boats at a location other than the boat launch where there is coverage by Lake Hosts (inspection for milfoil). The indication from the article was that the club's boats would be stored at the beach. Those boats should not be a problem. I would be interested in knowing how often they would be bringing other boats & launching them at the beach. Skulls are very smooth and generally spotlessly clean when they have been inspected at the boat launch by the Lake Hosts, but I think it sets a bad example at a time when the LLSPA is spending a lot time and effort to educate people to inspect their boats and to use the boat launch.

I think overall the Little Sunapee Protective Assoc. position should be to encourage the increased use of Little Sunapee Lake for recreational activity. Here are some caveats which should be considered with regard to a "Rowing Club" at Bucklin Beach.

Capacity: The beach is often stretched to its maximum capacity with bathers and sun worshippers. The parking limitations, at times, present a real hazard due to the traffic on Rte 114. Would a Rowing Club add to this exposure and limitations and by how much?

What are the types of water craft the Club would want for access and egress? Would there be times scheduled for these activities? The beach should close at 9 PM. Who would see that this limit is observed?

Is there a better site on the Lake to consider for a Rowing Club activity?

The Camp Wallula beach might be adequate but it also has parking problems.

Could Colby Point or Twin Lake Villa sponsor this activity?

Could the drop-in point be at the western boat launch? This would provide for Lake Host inspections as well as increased lake usage on the west side of the lake. Again, parking could be a problem. Due consideration should be given to the possible impact of a Rowing Club on current

recreational activities such as water skiing, sunfish and other sailing craft, kayaks, canoes, fishing, etc.

Brad Cook kindly sent us a copy of your email to many lake front and far from the lake owners regarding the rowing club request. As lake front owners - Camp Wallula, and LLS association members, we hope we deserve the same courtesy of offering an opinion. Many restrictions have already been placed on the lake by disgruntled owners. The lake is there to enjoy. As tourist industry owners, we have monitored and worked to have a quiet and safe lake, yet offered fun and recreation to our guests. In the late 70's, many owners on the lake including ourselves, helped to sponsor the Little Sunapee Sailing Association which included Sunday races. Regattas comprising sometimes 70-100 boats were held. The sailing activities were run out of the Camp Wallula beach. Lake property owners and guests enjoyed these activities, and there were no problems. Later on, Twin Lake Villa took on the sailing races. We favor the continuance of healthy recreation, and trust that the NL Recreation Director will monitor associated activities.

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Chair Ballin closed the discussion and continued the public hearing to Wednesday, April 15 at 6:00 PM.

Andy Deegan, Conservation Commission Interview: At 9:20 AM, Chair Ballin welcomed Andrew Deegan and Les Norman, chair of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Deegan is a candidate for a vacant seat on the Conservation Commission. Chair Ballin asked him to tell them about himself and why he would like to be a part of that group. Mr. Deegan said he was a new resident of New London, having resided here for almost one year. He is an attorney and has been involved in the environment most of his life. His undergraduate degree is in wildlife biology and he is now working for the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust. He thinks this Commission fits into his level of knowledge and interest and he would like to serve the Town in this regard.

Mr. Norman said that Mr. Deegan has already attended four meetings of the Commission and has worked on the Clark Pond Trail. He has demonstrated, by his actions and words, that he is dedicated to the task. Chair Ballin asked if he understood what the Conservation Commission did and understands that the Town is under financial pressure and did not assign any money to the capital reserve this year. He asked what Mr. Deegan's view is on conserving land by municipality ownership. Mr. Deegan said he thought it was valuable to preserve the land that brought many people to this area. Ms. Helm wondered if in going forward with the Master Plan, what the Town should consider in balancing between conservation and economic development. Mr. Deegan said he thought it was important that in the Master Plan there be a priority of property to protect, noting that there are properties that we would all want to protect, whether it is coming into Town on Main Street to preserve that rural character or outlining several properties that would be up for rural conservation. He thought that if properties came up for protection, hopefully they would be donated. After that we would have to determine which properties were significant and whether they are for preserving wild life or trails.

Mr. Deegan said he is not anti-development and recognized the need to have commercial space, but also the need for open space for recreation. With the Master Plan and the work that the Conservation Commission has done with regard to conserved property, that will give the Town a good place to start. Ms. Helm asked if he had a sense of percentages between conservation and economic development. Mr. Deegan said that he believed the goal was 25% of the land in conservancy, and he thinks the fact that 15% is protected already is very noteworthy. Mr. Norman noted that we have no state land in New London as there is in neighboring towns. Mr. Norman said further that the land that is usually considered for conservation is not generally considered viable for economic development.

Chair Ballin said that he appreciated the fact that Mr. Deegan is interested in serving and it looks like a good fit. Mr. Kaplan moved that Mr. Deegan be appointed to the Conservation Commission. This was seconded by Ms. Helm. There being no further discussion, the vote was unanimous.

Josh Penick, property owner regarding sewer line: Mr. Penick presented a document that summarizes his problem regarding a blockage in his private sewer line at 30 S. Pleasant Street. The Department of Public Works was notified and it was discovered that an as-built sewer plan did not exist and that this line joins a larger, shared pipe and then attaches to the public sewer line on Barrett Street. This situation is not mentioned in the deed to either property and was not made known to them at the time they purchased the property. It will cost \$1700 to \$7500 to make the necessary repairs. He was coming before the Selectmen to inform them that because his deed and that of his neighbors did not have an easement for the sewer line, he will be filing a claim through his title insurance company addressing the lack of real estate disclosure when the property was purchase. He wanted the Selectmen to be aware that similar problems probably exist town-wide, and Jessie Levine agreed that there is a lack of as-built plans for most private, as well as public, sewer lines.

Chair Ballin thanked him for coming but thought that this was a private matter and did not think it needed to come before the Selectmen. He thanked Mr. Penick and wished him well in solving this problem.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the March 16, 2009 were amended on page 5, third paragraph, first line; the word “continuing” was changed to continue. With this change Mr. Kaplan moved to accept the Minutes. This was seconded by Ms. Helm. There being no discussion, the Minutes were approved as amended.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

CAC Meeting: March 28, 2009: Ms. Levine said that the notice for this meeting will go out today. She said that Richard Anderson and Hardy Hasenfuss have agreed to be appointed to this committee. Regarding the agenda for this meeting it was suggested that Representatives Foose and Kidder and Senator Odell be invited to attend and that regionalization and economic development might be good topics to consider. Ms. Levine said she would contact them to see their availability. Mr. Kaplan suggested discussing a re-cap of Town Meeting and also the possibility of moving the start of the fiscal year date. Ms. Levine suggested that with regard to the later topic this discussion should wait until she is able to give them the memo on this topic which will explore the impact of this change to make sure they are all on the same page, saying that this type of change would take at least two years to implement. Coffee will be provided, but no donuts. They will put out a cup again to help defray the cost.

Regionalization Opportunities: Ms. Levine said that this idea came out of the Municipal Advocacy Committee meeting, and Chair Ballin said it was suggested by the City Manager of Rochester and the Mayor of Lebanon. Chair Ballin is opening the discussion on the regionalization of services which we already do in New London with our sewer system, which is in combination with the town of Sunapee, and our assessing system which is in combination with Newbury, and Sunapee. If there are opportunities for efficiencies moving forward these should be explored.

Ms. Levine said that on Tuesday, Dennis Pavlicek of Newbury convened a meeting of the area managers of Sunapee, Andover, New London, Newbury, and Enfield to talk about how we could regionalize, primarily how we could share equipment. It was decided to go back to the individual department heads and have everyone put together an inventory of equipment and note what would be appropriate to share on a fee basis to help the sponsoring towns cover the cost. The down side is that businesses would think the towns would be undercutting them. This could continue to be discussed locally while the Municipal Advocacy Committee talks about it on a statewide level. Chair Ballin said that a committee has been formed to explore this topic but it will not start meeting till this summer. He said another area to think about with regard to this is recycling.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Board Appointment Process: Ms. Levine said just to re-cap, Sue Clough and Andy Deegan have been appointed to the Conservation Commission, completing the appointments to that Commission. Michele Holton accepted the position on the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission will elect whom they want to serve on the Planning Board to fill Dale Conly's seat. Ms. Helm will not be able to go to the Planning Board, and Mr. Ballin will be a proxy for her.

Economic Development Committee: Ms. Levine said she had not yet done anything with this yet. She wanted to ask whether they are starting to consider people's names, and asked if this is going to be brought up on Saturday? She asked how the Selectmen wanted to go about filling this committee. Chair Ballin said it depends on if there is a statutory issue involved which we will need to find out. If we would be simply looking for a group of interested volunteers that do not have a statutory charge, then we can throw it open and let the group convene and they can get back to the Selectmen with their ideas. If there are statutory guidelines to commission them, then we need to know what that process is. Mr. Kaplan recommended that the committee should include some bankers and realtors. Ms. Levine said it will be staffed by her and Peter Stanley. Chair Ballin thought it should also include representatives from the college and the hospital. Ms. Levine said she saw this committee as generating ideas for the vacant land in the Commercial Zone and some of the store fronts and exploring what the community can do to get those populated. It should not lobby the Planning Board to change the zoning. Chair Ballin said it was an opportunity to create information on the strengths of the Town and market to that. Mr. Doheny said it is more of a Master Plan for economic development utilizing current Planning Board requirements.

Zoning Administrator/Planner Balance: Ms. Levine reported that Ken McWilliams and the department heads met in February to discuss ways in which the Zoning Administrator would be used to assume some of the duties that are currently done by the Planner. In part, these included the change of occupancy process, change in use process and the certificate of occupancy. A plan was mapped out and communication lines were improved. She said that the memo that Mr. McWilliams then prepared for the Planning Board took her aback since it first of all suggested that there should be a meeting between the Planner, the Zoning Administrator, and the Planning Board Chair every time a decision is made by the Zoning Administrator. She thought this did not do a lot to save money and create efficiency which they had talked about. It also outlined specific criteria that the Zoning Administrator should follow in determining whether an applicant had to go to the Planning Board. The criteria are fine and do not appear to be unreasonable. However, she said that to add the new criteria at this point almost seems to be over-thinking a process that we have already proposed how it can be improved. She said she was concerned that this might now become too restrictive and that it will become inefficient.

Ms. Levine said that with the Selectmen's blessing, she will draft a response to this memo, noting the parts that she agrees with but also identifying the process that had already been agreed upon before it went to the Planning Board. She said she is not exactly sure where this is coming from, especially in regards to the use of the Planner's time, since there will be a reduction in the use of the Planner's time with more use of the Zoning Administrator.

Mr. Doheny said that in a classical environment you have a Zoning Administrator and a Building Inspector and they work in conjunction with each other, with the Zoning Administrator working in enforcement of the building codes. His view is that the Zoning Administrator should be bringing the relevant issues to the Selectmen weekly rather than the Planning Board monthly. Ms. Levine said that New London does not have a classical model and that when the Zoning Administrator position was created, it was decided that it was not solely code enforcement but was created to administer the zoning process from start to finish. Some of the holes that they found over the years in the zoning process were the certificate of occupancy, which is not strictly a building permit issues, but rather all of the department

heads signing off on the site plan. Currently, the only time a certificate of occupancy is used in New London is for site plan review, which is a Planning Board function. But, the change of use and the change of occupancy, which is the applicants coming into the Planning Board, have typically gone through the Planner which made sense when the planner was here more often, but that has changed and now the Zoning Administrator is the one getting the phone calls and he is the one who is available to the public. She thought that he should be reporting to the Planning Board since these are mostly planning applications and not building related. Chair Ballin said he thought the criteria should come from the Selectmen and not from a subcontractor to the Town.

#### **COMMITTEES MEETING & REPORTS:**

On-line GIS, March 17 demo: Ms. Levine said that the on-line GIS vendor, who has given a free trial to the three towns, gave a demo to New London, Newbury, and Sunapee managers and department heads to assess the program, which she thought was excellent. This is an on-line mapping system that links back to the assessing data. For example, a realtor could go in and do a search for all Capes that have sold in the past few years. She said she thought the assessors would ask that this be placed in next year's budget, but also said that it will replace some of the existing costs.

Municipal Advocacy Committee, March 20: Chair Ballin reported that there were two main topics discussed: the retirement system and the attempt by the State to push back those costs onto the municipalities, and the court system. The other issue that the Committee dealt with was the court systems and the regionalization of them. He said there will be talks in Concord next week in relation to this, but he was not sure of the date. He said that the one court that he thought would be fought for is the one in Colebrook which serves the rural northern part of the State.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Scenic By-ways Meeting, March 25: Ms. Levine handed out information regarding this meeting. This meeting is regarding the grant for publicizing the cultural aspect of the Lake Sunapee area to draw more attention to tourism. New London is part of this grant and this is the informational kick-off meeting.

Reverse Emergency Notification- demo March 26: Ms. Levine updated the Selectmen on her ongoing discussions with TDS. She thought that she was finally getting somewhere with TDS. She said she thought there would be a fee for producing the data base and probably a monthly fee if the Town wanted it updated. She said she would prefer to use the data from the phone companies because the Reverse Emergency Notification System data which comes from commercially purchased data is generated by credit reports and is incomplete. The other reason the Town should have this is because it is linked to the mapping system so specific areas of the Town can be notified in the event of an emergency, as in the case of the oil spill on Pleasant Lake. Ms. Levine said Amy Rankins is separately working with Fairpoint for the same information and is having better success than the conversations with TDS.

Employee Meeting- April 1 at noon at the Fire Station: Ms. Levine said she is putting together some talking point for Chair Ballin for that meeting. She noted that the Transfer Station will be closed from 12-2:00 PM so that those employees can attend. Ms. Levine said that she will have a sign put at the Transfer Station this Wednesday to alert residents to the change in the schedule for next week.

There being no other business, the motion was made by Mr. Kaplan to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Helm seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 AM

#### Application for use of Whipple Hall:

- Dartmouth Lake Sunapee Regional Town Clerk's Association – annual regional educational meeting – May 14, 2009 – 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Approved.

- SKIT program – Improv nights – Mondays 3/30 - 6/29/09, 7:00 – 9:00 PM – Approved.

Abatement for Wastewater:

- Harry Snow/Snow Building – 49 Newport Road (Map & Lot 072-041-000) wastewater abatement for 2008 due to summer usage of sprinkler system – Approved.

Other:

- Disbursement voucher week of 3-23-09 -- Approved.
- Elderly Exemption Applications (two) – Denied.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Colby  
Recording secretary