

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES**

**October 17, 2005**

**PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Robert Andrews, Recreation Director  
DJ & Bob Lavoie, New London residents  
Debbie Cross, Intertown Record  
Carolyn Dube, Argus Champion

Chair Kaplan opened the meeting at 8:00 AM.

Meeting Minutes: Mr. Lyon moved to approve the minutes of October 10. Second Ms. Clough and approved 3-0.

School District: The Selectmen briefly discussed their meeting last week with representatives of the School Board at which John O'Connor presented the school population projections. Mr. Lavoie said that there were errors in the methods used to arrive at the projection figures. Mr. Lyon said that the School Board does not need to be accurate, it needs to be safe. If that means building a school for 700 students that has an enrollment of 650, the cost is negligible and well-spent. However, building a school for 650 when space for 700 is needed would be a mistake and would add high costs (as happened with the high school). Mr. Lavoie reiterated that the methodology was erroneous, and Mr. Lyon replied that the demographic data available do not lend itself to better analysis. Chair Kaplan agreed that while the analysis could have been better, he does not fault the School Board's decision [to project a population of 700 students in 25 years].

Mountain Road Landfill: Ms. Levine said that a portion of the cover of the landfill on Mountain Road had slipped during the heavy rains of October 8-9. Richard Lee had notified the Department of Environmental Services, and she had notified the insurance company, the engineering firm that monitors the landfill, and the engineering firm that designed the cover. It is possible that FEMA funds will be available for the cost of repairs. She will report back after the engineers have made their inspections.

Newport/County Road Project: Ms. Levine said that the Sidewalk Committee had interviewed three engineering firms on Friday and had selected Clough, Harbour & Associates as the engineer to lead the conceptual design and public input phase of the project. The next step is to negotiate the contract price. Chair Kaplan asked about the schedule for public input, and Ms. Levine said that after the engineer conducts a survey and reviews existing conditions, they will begin the process by meeting with town officials and abutters, and will then hold a series of public meetings.

Master Plan: DJ Lavoie asked when the Master Plan workshops would begin. Ms. Clough said that the Master Plan has to be completed by 2008, so she would expect the Planning Board to begin the work in 2006 and hold public hearings in 2007.

Cross-Country Ski Trails: Ms. Levine said that John Schlosser would still like to use the cross-country ski trails for an informal ski club, and asked if the Selectmen would allow parking at the Town pit. After a brief discussion, the Selectmen said that without monitoring or permitted parking, they would rather that public did not use the Shepard Pit. Since the ski trails are accessible from the parking lot at the Low Plain, they preferred that lot to be used.

Chair Kaplan moved to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3(e) to discuss pending litigation. Roll call: Kaplan – yes; Clough – yes; Lyon – yes. Upon returning from non-public session, the Board of Selectmen continued the public meeting.

Public Hearing on Gifts of Personal Property: At 9:00 AM, the Selectmen were joined by Robert Andrews, Recreation Director. Chair Kaplan opened a public hearing pursuant to RSA 31:95-e to take comment on two gifts of personal property to the Town of New London.

Chair Kaplan asked for comments on a gift of a boat trailer, valued at about \$3500, from Read Clarke. Bob Andrews said that the trailer will enable all Sunfish sailboats to be stored in a safe and secure place at the Highway Department. In addition, the trailer could be used to haul boats for kayaking trips for the Adventure Camp, although that is not anticipated at this point. He expects that the trailer will be moved about twice a year, to bring the Sunfish boats to and from Bucklin Beach, and will act as storage during the winter months.

Chair Kaplan then referred to the gift of a paddleboat, worth about \$675, from Jeanie Plant. Bob Andrews described this as a boat in which two people could sit down and paddle, and there is room for passengers as well. This would give people an option of using a different, less active boat than the kayak or sailboat. The paddleboat will be tied to a mooring near the beach, as it cannot be dragged onto the shore. Ms. Clough asked if there would be restrictions as to where the boat could go. Mr. Andrews replied that there would be restrictions just as there are for the use of kayaks and sailboats. Users would have to sign in with the lifeguards and would have to know how to swim (the boats would be equipped with PFDs).

Chair Kaplan asked if there were any comments. There being none, Mr. Lyon moved to accept the two gifts. Second Ms. Clough and approved 3-0.

**Building Permits:**

- NONE

**Sign Permit Applications:**

- NONE

**Other Items for Signature:**

- Payroll & Disbursement Voucher for the week of October 17, 2005 – Approved

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Levine  
Town Administrator