

TOWN OF NEW LONDON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES – JULY 16, 2007

PRESENT:

Ruth I. Clough, Chairman Board of Selectmen  
Mark Kaplan, Selectman  
Larry Ballin, Selectman  
Jessie Levine, Town Administrator

Sue Clough opened the meeting at 7 p.m., and the Selectmen addressed nine areas of business during the meeting.

1. Meeting Minutes - July 9, 2007. Mark Kaplan moved to approve. Larry Ballin seconded. There was no further discussion on the motion, and it was unanimously approved, with Sue Clough abstaining.

2. Anna Parks Memorial at Elkins. The Selectmen received a copy of a letter dated June 26 and addressed to Jessie Levine regarding the Parks family's desire to have a plaque, stone or other memorial at the Elkins beach area, dedicated to the memory of Anna and Lincoln Parks and recognizing the contribution they made to New London, especially to Elkins. At this meeting, Selectmen were unanimously supportive of the idea, and suggestions included: a plaque on the large rock in front of the post office (if people reading it would not be in the roadway), or one on the side of the post office facing the beach or on the railing in front of the post office. Also under consideration: a bench with a memorial plaque, though Selectmen noted that right now, there is some problem with vandalism at the Beach, and they would not like the memorial to be vulnerable to that. Jessie Levine will solicit the family's input on these ideas. In addition, Larry Ballin suggested that the Elkins Beach be renamed "The Parks Park."

3. July 28 CAC Meeting. This meeting will be held at Tracy Library, and Selectmen agreed to open the following topics for discussion:

- o Review of how the Sewer Department's Flow Study smoke testing is going so far.
- o Update on the two new committees: Energy and Solid Waste.
- o Update on the Tracy Library renovations, for which the lowest bid came in at \$100,000 over the amount allocated. Jessie Levine will invite Library Director Sandra Licks to meet with the CAC on July 28.

In addition, she reported that she has spoken with Bob Bowers who informed her that the Library Trustees were meeting to consider a number of options on how to proceed including:

- o Returning to Foremost, and asking if there is anything that can be eliminated.
- o Determining if costs for any part of the project could be accomplished through fundraisers.
- o Determining if funds can be taken from other Library accounts without negative impact.

Her understanding is that they will probably not come to any final conclusions on how to proceed before this Wednesday's Budget Committee meeting, but should have a pretty good idea by the CIP meeting on July 30.

On a related note, Mark Kaplan observed that he has had recent opportunity to visit the new library in Southbury, CT, and suggested that Tracy Library representatives may want to make a field trip to take a look at that, and get some ideas that may be implemented at Tracy.

4. Sewer Department Flow Study. Jessie Levine reported that so far they have not found many illegal connections. The smoke study did indicate a "leak" somewhere at Millstone, Dunkin Donuts, and Tracy Library (an unused bathroom downstairs). No problems were found in this building or at the Police

Department building. Two Tracy Library employees did report feeling ill during and for some time after the smoke testing, but that would not have been due to the “smoke” but rather to the sewer gas that was pushed out. They have not yet done Hilltop, Seasons, the shopping center or hospital. There has been a high level of cooperation during the course of the study, and it should be completed by the end of next week. Selectmen Larry Ballin and Mark Kaplan have signed the settlement agreement with the Attorney General’s office.

Jessie Levine reported that the Georges Mills pump under repair is not back yet, and, although there have been a number of recent storm events, they have not had problems with the one that is in operation at the Georges Mills station. She clarified that by that she means that there have been no alarms or power outages caused by heavy flow during storm events, but they do not yet have the numbers showing whether or not there was a spike in the flow during those storm events.

Mark Kaplan asked if they have ever done a break down by season. In other words, would there more likely be a problem during seasons when the ground is already saturated, and fewer problems during dry summer season? Jessie Levine said the engineer ruled out the possibility that saturation is the problem during rain events. Spikes have occurred during dry summer seasons. Again, they do not yet know if there was a spike during the recent storm events, but they do know that they did not have any equipment problems.

She reported that Barb Vaughn and Town Office staff are doing an excellent job of keeping the Sewer Department billing current, and answering people’s concerns and questions. At this meeting, Selectmen received and reviewed copies of the correspondence with Janet Sidmore regarding billing for Lyon Brook.

5. Crockett’s Corner. Jessie Levine reported that a recent traffic study conducted by DOT showed that 85% of drivers (on Route 11) are going 55-56 mph in the 50 mph zone, and 85% are going 49–51 mph in the 35 mph zone. In other words, they are not slowing down for the intersection. DOT proposes for the short term, realigning the stripes so that the two lanes there become one, with a “bulge” for the left turn. Within a year, they plan to repave the whole thing.

She went on to say that in a recent meeting that she, Richard Lee, Jay Lyon, Peter Stanley and David Seastrand had with the State DOT, the State opened some discussion of putting a roundabout there, and even provided a rendering of what one would look like. The roundabout at that corner would be 125-foot in diameter (the one to go at the County/Newport Road intersection will be 110 feet), and she added that they have plenty of right-of-way at Crockett’s Corner. The hitch: New Hampshire’s ten-year plan is now delayed out to 35 years, and the State’s Main Street (State Route 114) work may be bumped off the list altogether at this point.

Here are some options that could be considered for going forward with a roundabout at Crocketts Corner:

- o Apply for the same type grant that was applied for at the County/Newport Road intersection. But, she noted they are not likely to get it for Crockett’s Corner because there is no pedestrian safety issue there.
- o Ask the State to include it in the resurfacing project, and offer to pay the difference (in cost between just resurfacing and resurfacing plus round-about). She noted that the Town still has money in the CIP for intersection improvement.
- o Submit a letter to the Director of Project Development requesting State aid funds for the project.

At this meeting, Selectmen noted that both Route 114 and Route 11 are State Roads, and opined that New London residents are much more concerned with needed improvements at the Pleasant Street/Main Street intersection. Sue Clough pointed out that as far as drivers are concerned, the Crockett's Corner intersection is more dangerous and the Pleasant Street intersection is more of an inconvenience. Larry Ballin added, but Pleasant and Main is a danger for pedestrians. Everyone agreed, but Jessie Levine noted that the next window for applying for a grant similar to the one used for the County/Newport Roads intersection and that could potentially be applied to the Pleasant and Main intersection, will not be until summer of 2008.

Larry Ballin went on to say that he feels the Crockett's Corner intersection should be the State's responsibility. Jessie Levine agreed that New London residents would also feel that way, but observed that New London residents do use that intersection, and she is not recommending that the Town pay for more than a portion of a roundabout or other improvement at Crockett's Corner.

In conclusion, Selectmen agreed that the Town needs to get the on-going project — the County/Newport Road intersection -- well underway before embarking on anything else. A letter of concern and interest in improvement at Crockett's Corner will be floated to the State, but the Town is not in a position to do anything more in that direction at least until October.

6. Volunteer Appointments. Selectmen discussed appointments to the regular Zoning Board member's seat vacated by Russ Cooper, as well as the remaining alternate position on that Board.

Sue Clough nominated Sue Andrews to the regular position, citing her experience with related issues acquired during her tenure on the Planning Board and her extensive knowledge of wetlands, run off and drainage issues. She nominated Doug Lyon for the alternate position.

Larry Ballin noted that the Planning and Zoning Boards are two very different entities, and added he felt that one idea behind this process was to bring in new blood to the boards. He nominated current alternate member Jeff Horton to the regular member's position. Sue Clough said that Sue Andrews is familiar with the *flow* of issues, that is, why people go from the Planning Board to the Zoning Board. She noted also that Sue Andrews would be unprejudiced and open to learning a new job.

Larry Ballin said he would nominate Jeff Horton to the regular Zoning Board position, Sue Andrews to the alternate position, and he said he felt that Doug Lyon has the perfect background and experience for the position of Deputy Treasurer.

Mark Kaplan recommended holding off on these appointments, as he would like to review the notes from the candidate interviews. Selectmen agreed to defer the appointments to the Zoning Board to the July 30 meeting, and agreed unanimously to appoint Doug Lyon as Deputy Treasurer. This appointment does not eliminate him from consideration for either of the two zoning board positions.

#### 7. Committee Reports.

- o Jessie Levine reported that about eight people attended the first organizational meeting of the Energy Committee. Two others have indicated that they will come to the next meeting. Chet Reynolds will serve as Chair, and Mark Vernon as Vice-chair.

About eight people attended the Solid Waste Committee meeting, but of those, three were there just to listen, not necessarily to become formal members. She said she has received inquiry regarding the duties of the Chair for this Committee, and she responded by saying that she felt it would be mostly to

provide guidance and impetus at the meetings, with little outside work necessary. Mark Kaplan noted that neither Richard Lee nor John Early was there, but should be there for the next meeting, and should be present when goals and how to carry out those goals are discussed—as they will be the persons implementing changes to the transfer station, and increases in recycling.

At this meeting, Selectmen agreed that these are both all-volunteer committees and do not require a formal appointment process, though Mark Kaplan did note that Town Meeting voted for the Energy Committee, and Selectmen ought to establish it. Sue Clough said that the Selectmen should at least make the charges to both these committees specific enough so that their tasks are do-able.

Jessie Levine said that the Energy Committee will be taking a look at ways the Town government can conserve, and what recommendations can be made to residents to conserve energy. Interestingly, there was not unanimous agreement at the meeting of the Energy Committee on the issue of global warming.

Larry Ballin said that the Solid Waste Committee sees as its objectives increasing recycling and to take a look at what changes are needed at the Transfer Station to accommodate that. He observed that there was little excitement about the idea of “pay-as-you-throw.” Mark Kaplan noted that Richard Lee and John Early have opined that they could handle as much as a 50% increase in recycling at the existing physical plant, with no changes being made.

Selectmen agreed to invite a representative from DES to the next meeting of the Solid Waste Committee. Sue Clough added that it would be interesting to have a public hearing on these ideas. Mark Kaplan agreed that should be done as soon as the Committee begins to think about changes.

- o Larry Ballin provided an update on Planning Board activities. The Board has hired a consultant engineer with expertise in Low Impact Development (LID) to review proposed revisions to regulations, and there will be a public hearing on those revisions in September or October. Sue Clough said she hopes they are moving along on the Master Planning process. Larry Ballin agreed, but noted that people are aware of upcoming regulation changes, and thus are submitting more applications now, and the Board is obliged to spend time on those.
- o Jessie Levine and Larry Ballin reported that the Personnel Subcommittee met just prior to this Selectmen’s meeting, and are working toward developing a policy that would be more merit based and at the discretion of the departments, but have not yet fixed specific numbers (for ranges and steps). Larry Ballin said the Subcommittee is not discussing what is past, but is looking at how to manage increases in the future.

Jessie Levine said the issue of HSAs keeps coming up, but the Town has looked into these, and found that right now the one offered by LGC is not a good option. She did add that she anticipates health care costs to go down this year as a result of LGC’s work on the pharmaceutical contract and a reduction in its administration costs.

8. Per NH RSA 91-A:3 II (a-h), Selectmen entered non-public session at 8:10 p.m., to discuss a litigation matter.

9. At 8:20 p.m., Selectmen reentered public session to sign the following items:

**Building Permits:**

- o Samuel B. Rowse, 47 Sunset Shores (Tax Map 103, Lot 024-000), to construct a two-story barn of concrete, steel and wood. Approved. Permit # 07-070.
- o Ann R. Loeffler Revocable Trust, 346 Village Road (Tax map 065, Lot 023-000), to demolish old garage and construct a new one, as well as a connector between garage and existing home. Approved. Permit # 07-071.
- o Robert and Sandra Schoff Living Trust, 1781 Little Sunapee Road (Tax Map 043, Lot 020-000), to add a second story to existing structure that will include one bedroom, and an unheated entryway to the northwest corner of the building. Denied. Needs a septic system permit.
- o New London Hospital Association Inc., 273 County Road (Tax Map 072, Lot 016-000), to install temporary construction trailer for site work subcontractor—BUR Construction, for office space and storage. Approved. Permit # 07-073.
- o Cate Family New Hampshire Realty Trust, 715 route 103A (Tax Map 103, Lot 002-000), to construct a new bathroom and an addition, to replace roof, porch and stairs of front entryway, and install two windows. Appr0ved. Permit #07-074.
- o Robert M. and Margaret A. Hallisey, 10 Overlook Terrace (Tax Map 110, Lot 011-000), to build a 14' x 16' sunroom off existing dining room. Approved. Permit #07-076.
- o Matthew T. Conway LLC, 374 Main Street (Tax Map 084, Lot 003-000), to construct a landing and stair off pre-existing bump-out on the northwest side of the building, to construct decks, stairs and landing on the rear of the building, and a second bathroom on the first floor. Approved. Permit #07-075.
- o West Revocable Trust, 17 Prescott Lane (Tax Map 073, Lot 019), to add on to the existing garage. Approved. Permit #07-055.
- o Jim Wheeler, 196 Hastings Landing Road (Tax Map 116, Lot 002-000), to repair/reconstruct an existing shed that was damaged by a fallen tree. Approved. Permit #07-077.

**Sign Permits:**

- o Wilmot Historical Society/Bicentennial Committee, a six-square foot temporary A-frame sign reading “Birth of a Town, July 22, 2 to 6 p.m. at Wilmot Town Hall.” Sign to be placed at Chamber’s Information Booth in New London. Approved.
- o New London Hospital, fifteen-square foot permanent sign, reading “New London Hospital Administration Office.” Sign to be at the Gallery. Approved.

**Other:**

- o Raffle permit for the New London Garden Club. The sale will take place at the New London Garden Club’s booth during Hospital Days, and will offer as prize a dried flower wreath. Approved.

- o Amendment to Construction Phase Engineering Contract with Underwood Engineers for work at the Georges Mills Pump Station.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah A. Denz  
Recording Secretary