

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES**

June 6, 2005

PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Debbie Cross, Intertown Record
Carolyn Dube, Argus Champion

Chair Kaplan called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM and noted that there were no scheduled visitors for today's meeting.

Meeting Minutes: Ms. Clough moved to approve the Selectmen's meeting minutes of May 23 and the Citizen's Advisory Committee minutes of June 4, 2005. Mr. Lyon seconded. Approved 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Snow Lane: Ms. Levine said that Harry Snow proposed the name of Snow Hill for the hammerhead off of Westside Drive. Department heads pointed out that there were already a number of roads with the word "hill" in the name, and in addition the historic name of that geographic location is Davis Hill or Prescott Hill. Ms. Levine said that Harry Snow agreed to the alternative name of Snow Lane. The Board of Selectmen approved the proposed name of Snow Lane. Amy Rankins will notify all appropriate agencies and utilities of the new name, and the Selectmen's Office has already assigned a new street number to a home being built on that road.

Signs at Information Booth: Ms. Levine said that last year, the Board of Selectmen discussed changing the regulations for signage at the Information Booth (Little Common) to limit the number of signs or length of time that signs could be placed on that property. She handed out copies of the current regulations, which allow non-profit organizations to erect signs one week prior to the event being advertised and removed within 24 hours after the event. The Wilmot Farmer's Market holds its market all summer long, and has asked for permission to keep the sign up all summer.

Ms. Clough said that she has been concerned about the amount of signage in front of the Booth. Mr. Lyon asked Ms. Levine if she has received any other complaints, and she replied that she had not. Ms. Clough suggested that the signage be monitored over the summer. Chair Kaplan said that the guidelines seem clear and make sense. After some discussion, the Selectmen agreed not to change the current regulations. Ms. Clough said that she does not want to restrict the Information Booth to only New London organizations, when there are so many organizations in the area that do good for the entire community. Events such as the Wilmot Farmer's Market should take down the sign the day after the event and erect it again the following day.

Meeting Schedule: The Board of Selectmen added the following dates to their meeting schedule:

- Monday, July 11 at 8:00 AM
- Monday, July 25 at 8:00 AM
- Monday, August 8 at 8:00 AM
- Monday, August 22 at 8:00 AM
- Monday, August 29 at 8:00 AM

The Selectmen discussed the date for a non-resident taxpayer's meeting, and decided that two dates would be preferable in order to be available for both the July and August groups. The Selectmen decided that July 11 and August 22 at 9:00 AM would be appropriate, since most summer residents are not working during the day, and evening meetings have not improved attendance. Ms. Levine said that the Citizen's Advisory Meeting on July 16 at 7:30 AM was scheduled as the mid-summer meeting. There is no CAC meeting in August.

OLD BUSINESS:

Joint Board: Ms. Levine reported that the Joint Board overseeing the joint assessor position had narrowed down the pool of candidates to two, and would have a second interview with each of them over lunch later in the week. Amy Rankins, Land Use and Assessing Coordinator, and her counterparts from Newbury and Sunapee will join the second interviews.

Snow violation: Ms. Levine said that she and Zoning Administrator Peter Stanley had met with Harry Snow and his attorney, David Cole, on Tuesday morning, May 31. The two will return to meet with the Selectmen on Monday at 8:00 PM, following the public hearing on the skateboard ordinance. Ms. Levine said that although Harry Snow denied that the material on his property relates to his business, he has removed it in good faith. Ms. Levine said that Mr. Cole and Michael Feeney had responded to the issues regarding the relationship of the common land to the Snowcrest subdivision, which Peter Stanley is investigating further. Mr. Snow also plans to hire a wetlands engineer to determine whether and where wetlands filling occurred.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Skateboard Ordinance: Chair Kaplan said that at their meeting on Saturday, the Citizen's Advisory Committee had discussed the proposed skateboard ordinance. He said that most in the room seemed negative about having skateboards on the sidewalk because they could interfere with pedestrian use of the sidewalks. He said that there were concerns that people with baby carriages and the elderly would not be able to easily move out of the way of skateboards. He said that in response to the safety issue raised by Chief Seastrand, the Selectmen had proposed to move skateboards out of the street, but perhaps the result would be even more dangerous.

Mr. Lyon said that there were a variety of opinions expressed at the CAC meeting. He said that what was helpful was that the discussion highlighted that there are two issues involved: long boards and short boards. He said that even if the Town provided skateboard parks, that does not answer the needs of longboarders. He said that one CAC member suggested that the long boards were the new teen outlaw activity, so the passing of an ordinance may not have an effect on the problem. Ms. Levine said that Chief Seastrand hopes that the \$25 fine would have an effect and would spread the word about the Town's concerns about the safety of the activity.

Mr. Lyon said that one suggestion was to close certain roads at certain times of the day to allow people to use the road. He said that this obviously raises some liability questions, and wondered whether it would even be effective. Ms. Clough said that we should not forget that some people use the long boards as a

means of transportation. Mr. Lyon said that a resident on Gould Road had said that the long boarders are actually pretty to watch because of their sweeping style, although they take up the whole road. He said that someone suggested putting a sign up on Gould Road stating something like "Use Caution: Long boarders may be using this road." Ms. Clough said that she would have the same concerns as with the "Children at Play" signs, that they imply that the town condones the activity.

Mr. Lyon said that the discussion about skateboarding has been interesting, and he looks forward to the public hearing on June 13. He said that no one seems to have the solution to long boarding, whereas short boarding may be solved by the construction of a park. Chair Kaplan said that the question is whether what was drafted will work and whether the hearing should still be held. Mr. Lyon said that the hearing would allow for more public input; a number of people were concerned about the use on sidewalks and others said that they have not seen skateboarding problems and questioned the need for an ordinance at all. Mr. Lyon said that Chief Seastrand should come prepared to answer questions about the need for the ordinance, including the number and locations of incidents, the number of accidents, etc.

Chair Kaplan asked Ms. Levine if skateboard ordinances had been passed in other towns. Ms. Levine said that she had asked other managers for sample ordinances, and most related to skateboard parks, not to public roads. The only sample ordinance she received was from the City of Franklin.

Mr. Lyon said that this has been a good way to approach the ordinance. He said that the Selectmen proposed an ordinance and now the public has an opportunity to respond. He encouraged the Selectmen to let the process play out, and the other two Selectmen agreed.

Main Street Parking: The Board of Selectmen briefly discussed the parking ordinance passed in November 1999 that prohibited parking on Main Street overnight. Some members of the Citizen's Advisory Committee thought that the ordinance should be eliminated, while others thought that it should be kept, and one person suggested that it be extended to the entire town. Mr. Lyon said that some people wondered why the ordinance had been passed at all; it had been done to keep Colby-Sawyer College students from bringing their cars to campus when parking was not available.

There being no further public business, Chair Kaplan moved to convene a non-public meeting to discuss personnel issues pursuant to RSA 91:A-3 II (a). Roll call vote: Kaplan – yes; Clough – yes; Lyon – yes.

Upon returning to public session, the Board of Selectmen signed the following items:

SIGNATURES:

Building Permits:

- David and Sue Ellen Andrews, 114 Turkey Hill Run (Map 51, Lot 25), permit to remove existing deck and construct new deck, screened in, with hot tub and windows on two sides – Approved (Permit 05-051)
- Michael Pheffer, 144 Hominy Pot Road (Map 132, Lot 003-001), permit to add 8 x 12 pre-fab storage shed wood with asphalt shingles – Approved (Permit 05-054)
- Robert and Mary Sawyer, 231 Pleasant Street (Map 74, Lot 8), permit to add shed to rear of detached garage for storage and temporary animal shelter (two llamas) – Approved (Permit 05-055)
- James Smith, 667 County Road (Map 082, Lot 006), permit for construction of a garage/shop 38' x 40' – Approved (Permit 05-052)

- Rob and Susan Tappan, Hall Farm Road (Map 076, Lot 10), permit for extension – Approved (Permit 04-063)

Sign Permits:

- New London Bandstand Committee, permit for temporary sandwich board sign to be displayed at the New London Information Booth (6/24–8/26; 6/24, 7/1, 7/8, 7/15, 7/22, 8/12, 8/19, 8/26) - Approved
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, permit for temporary sandwich board sign to be displayed at the New London Information Booth (6/26–7/3) – Approved
- Wilmot Farmers' Market for temporary sandwich board sign at New London Information Book from Monday-Saturday, June 20-October 7 – Approved
- Tracy Memorial Library, permit for temporary sign at 304 Main Street for book sale on June 17-18, 2005 - Approved

Other Items for Signature:

- Disbursement and Payroll Vouchers for the week of May 30 and June 6, 2005
- Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber, Matthew Morse (Map 037, Lot 08), Lake Shore Drive – Approved
- Application for Use of Town Office Conference Rooms by Meredith Bird Miller, for Toddler Kindermusik (New London Recreation Dept) on June 8, 2005 from 5:00 – 6:45 PM – Approved
- Application for Tax Exemption from Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Association – Approved
- Application for Abatement from Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Association for 2004 tax year – Approved
- New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank advanced refunding agreement for bonds issued in 1999 (one for \$250,000 and one for \$1,000,000) – Approved
- Abatement, Miriam Carpenter (Map 123, Lot 02) – Approved
- Abatement, Howard Davis III (Map 115, Lot 01) – Approved
- Abatement, Kreisler Family Trust LLC (Map 135, Lot 02) – Approved
- Abatement, Muriel Deacon (Map 68, Lot 03) – Approved
- Abatement, Muriel Deacon (Map 68, Lot 02) – Approved
- Abatement, Lee Family Trust, 549 Wilmot Center Road (Map 52, Lot 15) – Approved
- Abatement, Amy Putnam Revocable Trust, 98 Pike Brook Road (Map 135, Lot 8) – Approved
- Abatement, 684 Burpee Hill Road (Map 56, Lot 5) – Approved
- Application for Use of the New London Town Commons by Red Hat Society on June 22 from noon – 2:30 PM – Approved

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- Application for Use of Whipple Memorial Town Hall by New London Barn Playhouse for rehearsals on dates in June – Approved
- Application for Use of Whipple Memorial Town Hall by KARMA Citizens Group on Wednesday, June 8 from 6:30-9:30 PM – Approved

There being no further business, the Board of Selectmen voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Levine
Town Administrator