

TOWN OF NEW LONDON  
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 6, 2007

PRESENT:

Larry Ballin (Selectman), Peter Bianchi, Sue Clough (Board of Selectmen, Chair), Rip Cross, Mike Doheny, Jack Harrod, Karen Hogle, Howard Hoke, Marilyn Kidder, D.J. Lavoie, Bob Lavoie, Richard Lee (Public Works Director), Sue Little, Harmon Lewis, Bob MacMichael, Joe McCarthy, Peter Messer, Dave Payne, Noel Weinstein.

Chair Clough opened the meeting at 7:32 AM.

1. Public Works Department Update – Chair Clough introduced Richard Lee, Public Works Director. Mr. Lee highlighted the Wastewater Department flow study, which consisted of three concentrations: smoke testing, house-to-house inspections and dye testing. He stated that smoke testing had revealed 89 areas that need to be addressed, most of which have been addressed already, but some will need more extensive work. Mr. Lee added that many of the 89 areas of concern are leaky manhole joints and storm drains. During the house-to-house inspections, Flow Assessments, Inc. was able to visit roughly 90% of the homes that are hooked up to the system.

Mr. Harrod asked what the plan of action is for the homes that could not be inspected. Mr. Lee stated that he will need to talk to the Board of Selectmen about what will happen next; he assumes that there will be a letter sent out to those who were not inspected.

Mr. Lavoie stated that Flow Assessments was unable to find some of the manholes; does the Town have any plans to find them? Mr. Lee stated that about 99% of the manholes had been found, but some no longer exist. The Town has hired a Colby-Sawyer College intern to GPS the wastewater lines and manholes. He will then create a comprehensive map of the wastewater system which can be updated by the Public Works Department.

Chair Clough stated that the Board of Selectmen is trying to keep the wastewater budget down and are also creating a wastewater capital improvements plan to help defer future costs. She continued to add that Sunapee has discussed starting a flow study as they seem to have the same situation.

2. Roundabout – Harmon Lewis asked what was going on with the roundabout project. Chair Clough stated that the re-bids will be going out on October 14 and must be returned by November 14. Mr. Ballin added that the hope of the re-bidding process is to get bids that are closer to the Town appropriation for the project.

There was brief discussion about the possibility of the project being scaled back to help with the cost, the need for the water project and why the two projects were bid together.

3. Energy Committee – Jack Harrod stated that Jessie Levine had told him that all of the Public Works Department equipment is now running on bio-diesel. Mr. Lee agreed stating that all of the diesel equipment has been running on bio-diesel since last week.

Mr. Harrod asked if the Fire Department would start using bio-diesel as well. Mr. Lee stated that the Fire Department has no choice as they get their fuel from the same tank down at the Public Works Department. There was brief discussion regarding how many towns use bio-diesel and whether or not it is efficient.

4. Sidewalks – Dave Payne asked how far the Town plans on going with their sidewalks. Mr. Lee stated that the Town had put together a “wish-list” as to where they would like to see sidewalks installed; it included County Road to Parkside Road, Pleasant Street to Job Seamans Acres and a small strip in front of the Barn Playhouse. We are currently getting ready to install the sidewalk on Main Street, unfortunately, the State has come back to

us stating that we need twice the drainage than first thought, so we will only be able to finish the sidewalk down to McSwiney's office and then will continue down to Hayes Road in 2008.

5. Bucklin Beach – Harmon Lewis asked if the Town could create a one-way drive through the Bucklin Beach parking lot. He stated that the entrance to the parking lot is small and is highly congested in the summer months. If the Town had the entrance where it currently sits and then exit onto Route 114 it may be safer for everyone. Chair Clough stated that the Board of Selectmen would talk with Mr. Lee about this possibility.

6. Park & Ride – Chair Clough explained to the committee that the State has proposed to expand the Exit 12 Park-and-Ride from 45 parking spots to and estimated 200. There was brief discussion about the trees, wetlands and lack of security. It was stated that the New London Police Department frequents the Park & Ride through out the day and night.

7. New London Hospital – Mr. Lee stated that the Hospital has successfully installed their porous concrete. He stated that he had visited the site and the project manager had showed him how the concrete works. They took a 2.5 gallon bucket of water and dumped it onto the concrete; it instantly disappeared. This will help with the runoff associated with parking lots.

8. Gravel Roads – Mr. Lee stated that he and the Board of Selectmen are still deciding where to go with this project. Mr. Ballin stated that if the Town decided to follow through and pave all of the gravel roads it would be a costly project and if it was so decided it would have to go through the budgeting process as well. There was brief discussion about what roads would be best to pave and which should remain gravel and to possibilities of fabric being placed on those that would like to remain gravel.

9. Recycling Center and Brush/Metal Disposal Area – Rip Cross asked if there was any way there could be a bin or one-ton at the Transfer Station to dispose of small miscellaneous items that need to go to the Brush/Metal Disposal Area. Mr. Lee stated that Jessie Levine had discussed this idea with him and they are looking into several possibilities. There was brief discussion about the definition of small, miscellaneous objects; bagging the objects; and different ideas of how to accomplish this idea.

10. Planning Board/Master Plan – Mr. Ballin stated that there has not been a strong sign-up for the Master Plan Work Shops. He encouraged all to attend.

11. Elkins Beach – Mr. Lewis stated that he had talked to Mr. Denning who stated that the Town is planning on installing a drain at Elkins Beach; will this be done this fall? Mr. Lee stated that yes, it will be finished before the winter.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m. The next meeting of the CAC will be November 3 in the Sydney Crook Conference Room in the Old Colby Academy Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelsie M. Lee  
Recording Secretary