

TOWN OF NEW LONDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 11, 2007

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Mark Kaplan, Selectman

ALSO PRESENT:

Deirdre Sheerr-Gross, Resident
Debbie Cross, *InterTown Record*
Philip Stake, *Argus Champion*

Sue Clough called the meeting to order at 8 a.m. The Selectmen addressed nine areas of business during this meeting.

1. Sewer Department-Flow/Infiltration Study—(This study will serve as part of the mitigation agreement with the Attorney General relative to the April 2006 Georges Mills spill. At its April 30, 2007 meeting, the Board of Selectmen signed the contract with Underwood Engineers to conduct the study.)

At this meeting, Jessie Levine reported that she, Richard Lee and Underwood will meet this week to finalize details for start up. The study itself will include smoke testing throughout the entire sewer system, some dye-testing and some door-to-door testing, and it is anticipated that it will last six to eight weeks. She will be sending a letter of information to residents on the sewer system, as well as providing information to the general public.

On a related subject, she reported that they have “lost” one of the two main pumps at the Georges Mills Station and are now operating on one pump. In response to Selectmen’s questions, she said she was not sure of its age, but repairs to it will cost \$12,000. In response to Sue Clough’s question, she confirmed that there is a third pump there that is available for backup. It is not fully off line yet, but it must be turned on manually.

In response to Sue Clough’s further question, she said the cost of a new pump would be \$25,000 to \$30,000. Sue Clough suggested some consideration be given to purchasing a new one, and using the one that is about to be repaired as the third or back-up pump. Jessie Levine said that the CIP Committee did discuss that. She reminded everyone that, though Town meeting did approve putting \$96,000 in the capital reserve for sewer, that will be collected over two billing cycles. So there is some money in the sewer department coffers now, but it’s not all in yet. She added that a further complication is that the Georges Mills pumps are different than those used at the main plant. Sue Clough asked if they could rent a pump. No.

Sue Clough asked if they will be seeing reduced flow in summer as the college students are gone. Jessie Levine said not much; the amount of flow reduction resulting from the students leaving is pretty much offset by summer residents returning.

She said she brought the broken pump problem up at this meeting just to keep Selectmen informed that this is going on. Sue Clough agreed, but added that she feels strongly that they should consider a new

pump. One of the reasons Selectmen took over management of the sewer system, is to get it, including the Georges Mills station, in tip-top condition. She said they should do everything they can toward that objective.

2. Deputy Treasurer—Jessie Levine reported that Russ Cooper will be relocating, and has resigned his position as New London's Deputy Treasurer, effective the 15th. This is an annually appointed position with a modest stipend. The Deputy's responsibility is to fill in for the Treasurer a few times during the year as necessary, and the position carries the same rights and authorities as the Treasurer's. She added that though the position does not involve investment or other type of decision making, it would be best filled by someone with a background in finance. Doug Lyon has expressed an interest in filling this position, and has submitted a volunteer application form. Both Selectmen at this meeting agreed that he would be the ideal candidate for this position, but also agreed that the position should be advertised and the same process followed as has been followed for other Board volunteers.

3. Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting Saturday June 16—Sue Clough advised that she will be attending the LGC's Seminar for Selectmen in Concord on that day. At this meeting, she and Larry Ballin agreed that the meeting could touch upon the following topics:

- o The volunteer appointment process, how it has gone so far.
- o Status of the round-about. Jessie Levine said that the State has approved the plan to rebid this on August 1 with a deadline for bids on August 23, and the date set for awarding the bid is August 27 (Selectmen's meeting). That gives contractors 22 days to submit bids; that's the length of time recommended by the State. She added that the State will still cover its 80% share of costs that come in \$50,000 over the estimate. Beyond that amount, it will approve additional costs (its 80% share, that is) on a one by one basis. She reported that State engineers agree that by putting this out in August, there will be more competition for the work, and likely more bids, hopefully lower bids. She added that everyone reviewed the estimates for this job, and found them to be accurate, even when calculating in 10% inflation. Clearly the timing was the cause of these bids coming in over estimate.
- o Continuation of last month's discussion on the school funding issue, now that the proposed constitutional amendment has been killed.
- o The Cook land gift. There is some discussion of the Conservation Commission hosting a special trail walk day to thank the Cooks and to celebrate this gift.
- o New London's vendor and alcohol policies.

4. Minutes – June 4, 2007—Sue Clough corrected the spelling of Carol Cantor's name on page one, and Larry Ballin added an "a" to the "nd" in the seventh item under Building Permits on page nine. Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the amended minutes.

5. Landfill Reconstruction Project—Jessie Levine reported that they have found that the drain at the bottom of the slope there is 12-feet deep, rather than 6-feet deep as originally thought, and they will need a different approach with regard to the drainage. Richard Lee has recommended closing off the existing drainage, and putting a new one in on top of that. Latulippe Construction's estimate for the additional work is \$9768. The Town has a \$250,000 bond for the project, but this is a change order and does require recommendation by the Board of Selectmen. In response to question from the Selectmen, she said yes, DES is involved in this. In addition, the Town has paid for engineering oversight. Sue Clough asked how long this work will take. Jessie Levine said a couple of months. They do want the slope established for grass growing season. At this meeting, both Selectmen recommended going forward with the necessary change.

6. Whipple Memorial Hall—Jessie Levine reminded Selectmen that they have agreed to complete this work in phases. They have already done the demolition, and this year they hope to restore the floor, the evidence room and the work out room. They are working with Chris Lizotte's design.

7. Selectmen signed the following items:

Building Permits:

- Harry M. Snow, Westside Drive (Map 055, Lot 012 -013), permit to construct a new four bedroom home with attached two car garage, front entry porch, 14' x 12' deck and side entry porch and full walk out basement – Approved (Permit 07-049)
- Rod Reyelt, 159 Parkside Road (Map 072, Lot 002), permit to lift roof on ell to provide space for closet – Approved (Permit 07-050)
- Dana and Jean Darling, 44 Littlefield Lane (Map 074, Lot 016), permit to build small roof over entry door on route side of house approximately 3' x 6' gable style – Approved (Permit 07-051)
- Judith A. Curtis, 385 Seamans Road (Map 086, Lot 002), permit to add a 3' deep x 6' wide two door trash shed to sidewall of existing garage and a 10' x 12' deck off screen porch – Approved (Permit 07-054)
- West Revocable Trust, 17 Prescott Lane (Map 073, Lot 019), permit for various additions and renovations – Denied (Permit 07-055), per Article V, C, 2, does not meet 15' side yard requirement

Sign Permits:

- Temporary Sign Permit Application for St. Andrews Church for a 6' square sandwich board sign to be placed at the Information Booth indicating "Saint Andrew's Summer Fair" on Saturday, July 1, 2007 from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Temporary Sign Permit Application for Community Garden at Tracy Memorial Library for a 6' square sandwich board sign to be placed at the Information Booth indicating "Garden Party, Sunday June 24, 2007 from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM" – Approved
- Temporary Sign Permit Application for Carlton Bradford for a 6' square sandwich board sign to be placed at the Information Booth indicating "Shaw Brothers Concert Benefit Sutton Historical Society on June 18, 2007 at 7:00 PM at Meeting House in South Sutton - Approved

Other Items for Signature:

- Disbursement & Payroll Vouchers for the week of June 11, 2007 – Approved
- Contract Agreement to reappoint Linda Hardy as Tax Collector - Approved
- Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber for David Kidder, 34 Blueberry Lane (Map 036, Lot 016) - Approved
- Application for Use of the New London Town Commons by David DiLorenzo, Andrew Root, and Brady Baxter for a Benefit Concert on Saturday, June 16, 2007 fro 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM with a rain date of Sunday, June 17, 2007 from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Approved

Abatement Recommendation:

- Barry and Gretchen Fougere, 1835 Little Sunapee Road (Map 043, Lot 023 and Lot 24) - Approved

8. **Deirdre Sheerr-Gross** has volunteered to serve as an alternate Planning Board member, and she met with the Board of Selectmen at this meeting to discuss her interest. She touched upon her background as an architect, and said she is most interested in serving on the Land Use Subcommittee of the Master Plan. In response to question from the Selectmen, she clarified that her interest in the Planning Board is not limited to Master Plan work, but she would also like to contribute to the day by day decisions. She has observed over the years the changes that have occurred in New London, and is cognizant of people's desire to keep the small village feel. She referred to the residents' opinion survey taken prior to the last Master Plan update process, and noted that she has kept an eye on zoning board activities, and changes in local regulations. Sue Clough agreed that the Master Plan is really a vision, but then has to be integrated into the regulations for both the immediate future, and for the long term. Larry Ballin added that a Visioning session for the Master Plan subcommittees has been scheduled with Ken McWilliams for July 19 at 6 p.m.

Larry Ballin asked if her professional commitments might require that she recuse herself from Planning Board deliberations frequently. Deirdre Sheerr-Gross said her work is focused primarily on single family residences. As a Zoning Board member, she found that she did recuse herself often, but feels that will not be the case with the Planning Board.

Larry Ballin mentioned the Planning Board's "grinding" schedule. Deirdre Sheerr-Gross said she is aware that the Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, as well as at some subcommittee meetings in between. She said Tuesdays are the days she is most likely to be in Town, but acknowledged that she does travel and may miss some of those. For that reason, she is applying for the alternate's position rather than that of a regular member.

Larry Ballin said the concept of having alternates is new for the Planning Board, and so far (two meetings) has worked out well. Alternates participate in discussions, but vote only when they are filling in for a regular member. Sue Clough added that Selectmen also see the alternate positions as possible training ground. The Selectmen are trying to respond to residents' concerns about term limits, as well as maintain strong and viable Boards.

She asked about attendance at seminars and workshops. Deirdre Sheerr-Gross said she would be very interested in attending any of those that she can.

Larry Ballin moved to appoint Deirdre Sheerr-Gross to the position of alternate Planning Board member. Sue Clough seconded. No further discussion. Motion unanimously approved.

9. Per RSA 91-A:3 II (a), the Selectmen entered non-public session at 9:30 a.m. to discuss a number of personnel issues. Roll call vote: Ballin – yes; Clough – yes.

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Selectmen reentered public session at 10:15, and having no further business before them, adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah A. Denz
Recording Secretary