



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES June 30, 2009

PRESENT:

Larry Ballin, Chair
Mark Kaplan, Selectman
Tina Helm, Selectman
Jessie Levine, Town Administrator
Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary

OTHER MEETING ATTENDEES: None.

Chair Ballin called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

Application for Building Permits:

- Barbara Sisk Troxell, 357 Forest Acres Road (Map & Lot 118-020-000) temporary storage POD – Permit # 09-041 (amended) – Approved.
- The New London Hospital Association, 273 County Road (Map & Lot 072-016-000, 072-017-000, 059-004-000) project not due to be fully completed until 9/2009 – trailers still required on site – Permit #'s 07-058 & 07-073 & 07-080 – (extensions) – Approved.
- Camp Wallula, Inc. 684 Little Sunapee Road (Map & Lot 033-016-000) perform required site work for sub division – Permit #09-053 – Approved.
- Robert Foose, 55 Twin Lake Villa Road (Map & Lot 020-011-000) demolish old home, rebuild new 4 bedroom home – Permit #09-054 – Approved.
- Rae Ann Gremel Rev. Trust, 1540 Little Sunapee Road (Map & Lot 030-006-000) add timber steps w/gravel – Permit #09-055 – Approved.
- Colby Sawyer College, 541 Main Street (Map & Lot 085-033-000) convert common areas in Lawson & Danforth dorms to accommodate 52 students – Permit #09-056 – Approved.
- Josh & Cherry Whipple, 519 County Road (Map & Lot 082-034-000) finish porch, replace windows and add new door – Permit # 09-057 – Approved.
- Daniel & Lisa Carlin, 111 Morgan Hill Road (Map & Lot 046-003-000) remove 2 dormers, demo garage, rebuild wint 4 foot higher – Permit #09-058 – Approved.
- The WFK Ice House Foundation, Inc. 91 Pleasant Street (Map & Lot 073-082-000) move old building from Elkins to Ice house property – Permit #09-059 – Approved.
- Linda & Barry Shultz, 316 Elkins Road (Map & Lot 077-039-000) demolish existing home – Permit #09-060 – Approved.

Application for Tax Abatement:

- Stanley Richards Trust/Stanley Richards, Trustee, 75 Fieldstone Lane (Map & Lot 093-009-000) correction of erroneous physical data - \$2362.05 – Approved.
- Kearsarge Community Services Inc. 249 County Road, 1 East (Map & Lot 059-004-101) transferred to New London Hospital – charitable use - \$2660.16 – Approved.
- Kearsarge Community Services Inc. 249 County Road, 2 East (Map & Lot 059-004-102) transferred to New London Hospital – charitable use - \$1525.56 – Approved.

- Kearsarge Community Services Inc. 249 County Road, 3 East (Map & Lot 059-004-103) transferred to New London Hospital – charitable use - \$870.69 – Approved.
- Kearsarge Community Services Inc. 249 County Road, 4 East (Map & Lot 059-004-104) transferred to New London Hospital – charitable use - \$2059.86 – Approved.
- Kearsarge Community Services Inc. 249 County Road, 6 East (Map & Lot 059-004-106) transferred to New London Hospital – charitable use - \$2165.76 – Approved.
- New London Hospital Association, 273 County Road, 7 East (Map & Lot 059-004-107) transferred to New London Hospital – charitable use - \$2767.68 – Approved.
- New London Hospital Association, 273 County Road, 8 East (Map & Lot 059-004-108) transferred to New London Hospital – charitable use - \$3437.19 – Approved.
- New London Hospital Association, 273 County Road, (Map & Lot 059-004-001) building demolished - \$1861.13 – Approved.
- New London Hospital Association, 273 County Road, (Map & Lot 059-004-002) building demolished - \$1577.69 – Approved.
- New London Hospital Association, 273 County Road, (Map & Lot 059-004-003) building demolished - \$1473.42 – Approved.
- New London Hospital Association, 273 County Road, (Map & Lot 059-004-004) building demolished - \$1857.06 – Approved.
- New London Hospital Association, 273 County Road, (Map & Lot 059-004-005) building demolished - \$1860.32 – Approved.
- New London Hospital Association, 273 County Road, (Map & Lot 059-004-006) building demolished - \$2767.68 – Approved.
- New London Hospital Association, 273 County Road, (Map & Lot 059-004-008) building demolished - \$1861.95 – Approved.

Application for Temporary and/or Permanent Sign Permit:

- Temporary: Philanthropic Education Organization, sign at Info Booth, July 18 – 8:00 am to 1:00 pm – Approved.
- Temporary: Ladies Benevolent Society of Elkins Summer Bake Sale – August 1, 2009 10:00 am – 12:00 pm- Approved.
- Temporary: LSRVNA – Renaissance Shoppe Sale – July 11, 2009 8:00 am – 4:00 pm – Approved.
- Temporary: Our Lady of Fatima – Attic Treasure sale – July 18, 2009 – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm – Approved.
- Temporary: New London Farmer’s Market – Alexa Carlin – sign to be posted weekly Tuesday-Friday July 1 through Sept 25, 2009 at Information Booth & skating rink – Approved.
- Permanent: Concord Food Cooperative, Inc. – 52 Newport Road, (Map & Lot 059-033-000) wording on sign: KEARSARGE COOPERATIVE GROCER – Approved.

Other:

- Disbursement voucher week of 6-29-09 - Approved.
- 2 Petitions & Pole Licenses, one on Squires Lane and one on Red Brook Road – Approved.
- Unlicensed Dog Warrant - Approved.
- Our Lady of Fatima Parish Holiday Raffle Permit – drawing is in November – Approved.

A. MEETING MINUTES: Chair Ballin asked if there were any amendments to the minutes from the June 16, 2009 meeting. Tina Helm asked that on Page 4, the word “old” should be inserted before the word “pumps” to indicate which pumps were being discussed. Chair Ballin requested that on page 2, line 4, the sentence should be updated to read “There was a need for intervention because of the deteriorating condition of *some* of the properties and now they *would like* some attention paid.” Chair Ballin asked if there were any further amendments to the minutes. There being none, he asked for a motion.

IT WAS MOVED, Tina Helm, AND SECONDED, Mark Kaplan, to approve the minutes of June 16, 2009, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. NEW BUSINESS:

State budget impacts: Jessie Levine said that at Larry Ballin’s request, she sent an e-mail to the Selectmen and Budget Committee that summarized the impact of the state budget on New London. She said that NHMA had provided a spreadsheet that made the analysis easier. As we enter the budget season, she wondered what the reaction would be for the budget process but also thought they should start publicizing the local impact of the budget either by doing a letter to the editor or have the legislative delegation come in to talk about it. Tina Helm suggested writing a letter to the editor with a listing of future dates of budget meetings, with a tone that would encourage the public to attend.

Ms. Levine asked if the Selectmen would consider doing a citizen survey to help figure out the public’s budget priorities. Mr. Ballin said that he did not want to do a survey at this time because the Board has the capacity to figure out what the appropriate cuts would be. He believed that opening it up to the public would offer too many variables on what to cut and keep and how to go about it all. Mr. Kaplan suggested bringing in the legislative delegation to see if they agree/disagree with the budget decisions, and to what extent. He felt that it was a political issue and he wants to have the people who represent the town understand what the problems were and see if they agree. If they do agree that there is a problem with the budget, then they can go to the public to see how they feel. Mr. Kaplan said that the impact of what the representatives have done and what has been passed has not helped the town and he felt that they should tell them this. Mr. Ballin suggested inviting them in to a meeting to talk. Ms. Helm agreed with Mr. Kaplan, but she has felt that in the past, the meetings where the representatives attend were very political and their messages “packaged.” She thought perhaps they could put their concerns in a letter to them. Ms. Helm also thought a short survey might work and wondered about the cost. Ms. Levine said that if the survey was sent by mail, the cost would be that of regular postage. If the survey was conducted online, it would be about \$200 to renew the subscription to Survey Monkey. She added that a short survey wouldn’t really give enough information and would be hard to rely on. Ms. Helm said that she was trying to be responsive to people who have indicated that they find it hard to get to meetings and thought a survey would be one way to get those people’s input.

Ms. Levine suggested writing a letter to the representatives describing the impact of the budget on the town, as well as a letter to the editor explaining the same, making it clear where the budget impacts came from and encouraging public participation in the process of creating a budget. Ms. Helm said that she’d like to be open and encouraging to the public to give input, so it doesn’t come across that the Selectmen think they have all the answers. Mr. Kaplan said that he was concerned that for 6-12 months the Town worked on the budget and cut money in a lot of places and then the State comes along and makes the situation more difficult by imposing further costs. He said that it isn’t the budget process, or the fact that people did or did not come to the budget planning meetings. What the problem is, he said, is the State’s lack of responsibility to figure out its own budget. When the State comes up short on funds, they ask the towns to pay for its budget downfalls by taxing the property owners. He said that people understand that they have to pay town and state taxes, but they should be aware that the State did not live up to its responsibilities and so now the taxpayers are being asked to pay the price. He went on to say that the

issue of gambling in New Hampshire wasn't passed even though the majority of the selectmen at the joint selectmen's meeting seemed to be okay with it. He said that the State is asking for more and more money from the people and are not giving them a chance to raise it in ways other than taxation.

Chair Ballin said that perhaps the town needs to show more muscle in Concord with more people attending to show that they are really dissatisfied with the current situation. He said the vote in Concord could have been worse, but that it still wasn't that great. He said that he wants to continue to be part of the process. He believes that the whole budget was flawed and that it sounded like the court would throw out much of the revenue and cause them to start over with a new plan. This may cause them to become a more responsible body and come up with a source of revenue that would work. Chair Ballin said that he would rather work with them on the budget than to just complain about it. Ms. Helm mentioned that she had had a dialogue of emails with Senator Bob Odell and felt that he was generally trying to do the right thing. Ms. Levine suggested writing the letter to the editor without blaming specifically but broadly say that the results of the state budget at this point is \$90,000 in 2009 and \$120,000 in 2010. Chair Ballin asked if a letter could be enclosed with the tax bills to let people know about the budget in NH, and Ms. Levine said they could do that.

Ms. Levine shared that the Municipal Advisory Committee would meet on Thursday morning to discuss suing about the Retirement System changes, as they are passing along the state's liability to the towns.

Tina repeated that it would be best to work with the State on the budget, but also to work with townspeople. She asked that they be provided with some dates of meetings of when budget meetings would be held so that they could be involved. Jessie agreed to draft some wording for the letter to the editor and to the representatives and pass it along to the board for review.

PSNH Easement at DPW: Ms. Levine shared that she, along with Richard Lee (Public Works Director), Peter Stanley (Zoning Administrator), and Jay Lyon (Fire Chief) met last week with representatives of PSNH and their contractor to discuss the PSNH substation at the Public Works property. Ms. Levine said that in order for PSNH to access their substation, they must cross over town property. Similarly, the Town has stored materials on PSNH property for some time. She said there was never a formal easement put in place and they are now working on negotiating this at the direction of the Planning Board. This issue came up because PSNH is expanding their substation and are taking over space on their land that the town used to use. They are looking towards creating permanent access to the town and to PSNH for both parts of the land. Ms. Levine said that she would consult with Town Counsel and that she just wanted to let the Selectmen know that it was happening.

Sobriety Checkpoints: Ms. Levine noted that Police Chief Dave Seastrand was on vacation this week but that she had been approached by Ms. Helm to talk about the sobriety checkpoints at this meeting. She recommended discussing the subject with Mr. Seastrand present, but offered some facts about the number of stops and arrests. The Selectmen agreed that they would like a little information on the subject at this time and would like to follow up with the Chief.

Ms. Levine stated that the New London Police Department, in conjunction with other local departments and state police, held a sobriety checkpoint on June 20 at the Gallery between the hours of 9:00 PM and 2:00 AM. There was some concern raised about the location and that it was unfair and improper to do a checkpoint outside of the Hospital's gala. Ms. Levine reminded the Selectmen that this checkpoint was done using one of the federal grants that the Selectmen approved a few months ago. The dates for conducting the checkpoint were set at the time the grants were applied for, and there were two spots in New London that made the most sense to conduct the checkpoint because they were the primary routes out of town: Route 11 near Crockett's Corner, and Newport Road (the Gallery made sense because of the

traffic flow). Ms. Levine noted that the Intertown Record had printed the notice of the upcoming checkpoints.

Ms. Levine shared that all of the costs associated with the checkpoint were paid for by the federal grant with the exception of \$54 for gas for the State Police mobile unit. There were five New London officers present, two state police, two observers from other towns, and one officer each from Bradford, Sunapee, and Sutton. During the checkpoint, there were four stations, so only four vehicles could be checked at a time. The cars could not be detained for more than three minutes if there was no suspicion of alcohol or other substance. The drivers without suspicion of alcohol consumption were given a survey to fill out and sent on their way. It was reported that most of cars were there for approximately 30 seconds. Sobriety tests were only conducted if there was suspicion of intoxication. During the checkpoint, about 100 cars were seen although many more cars had passed by because only four cars could be stopped at one time. By the end of the checkpoint, five arrests were made. One arrest involved someone who was transporting drugs, and four were charged with DUI. Ms. Levine said that it is highly likely that other intoxicated drivers went through the checkpoint but were not stopped because the stations were full at that time.

Ms. Levine said that overall, the checkpoint was seen as a success because it educated the public and took people off the road who should not have been driving. She said that she supported the police in this matter. She shared that the feedback from the surveys given to those drivers who had been stopped has been predominantly positive. Chair Ballin suggested waiting to have Chief Seastrand here before getting in to any further details of the operation. Ms. Helm said that after the checkpoint had been conducted, she was barraged with calls and took a very neutral line saying that she needed to hear the facts before making any comments. She said that it was a preventative program supported by the Town and the Selectmen and that she felt it was important to get people who have had too much to drink off the road.

Ms. Helm felt that she needed more information before being able to talk to people about it. She said that she is now confident that the Hospital was not targeted and it was a coincidence. Chair Ballin said that he had heard the checkpoint was set up at the roundabout. There were other rumors going around as to where the checkpoint was set up. The Selectmen decided that they would like to have more discussion on the subject when an officer could attend a meeting and explain all the details.

C. OLD/PENDING BUSINESS:

Construction Projects:

Roundabout: Ms. Levine said she has still been after Edmunds to get grass growing and weeds removed. She also notified them that they need to replace some shrubs at Hubert's that have died.

Crockett's Corner Intersection: Ms. Levine shared that Edmunds won the bid. She said that there was a pre-construction meeting at the Fire Station on June 24 and Edmunds was ramping up to start immediately and are looking for the site where they can place their equipment. She said that they hope to be at the intersection by mid-July and have a completion date of October 1, 2009. They plan to apply the final coat of pavement the following spring.

D. COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REPORTS

Report on NHMMA Conference, June 18-19, 2009: Ms. Levine said that this was a good conference. She attended a workshop at the conference focused on performance measurement and approaches to manage and encourage performance improvement.

Joint Sunapee Sewer Commission meeting, June 25, 2009: Chair Ballin said that all of the board members and Ms. Levine attended the meeting. They felt that it was a good discussion about the phasing of the project. Chair Ballin said that they did some contractual work, which was good. Both towns were concerned that this would not be a one-year process. Ms. Levine said she would meet with Richard Lee, Heather Weinstein, Holly Leonard, and Dave Bailey to review the flows to adjust the apportionment for 2009-2010. Our current share is 70% but Ms. Levine hopes New London's contribution has slowed in the last year.

Planning Board Meeting, June 23, 2009: Tina Helm reported on the recent Planning Board meeting.

- There was a subdivision proposal for a property on Burpee Hill.
- The Concord Coop Market, which is going into the former Oliver Wight building, applied for a waiver of the site plan review, as there would be no change of use. This was approved. The market will hopefully be open by mid-July.
- Marilyn Kidder came to represent the Ice House Corporation asking that they be allowed to move the old information booth from Bob MacMichael's house to the current Ice House site.
- Colby-Sawyer came to the Planning Board with a final site plan review for utilities and a final site plan for additional housing. Lawson and Danforth halls would have some common rooms transformed into approximately 52 more spots for students.
- There was a final site plan review for David Arnold who had too much fill deposited on his land on Main Street. The final resolution was for Peter Stanley and Richard Lee to work with Mr. Arnold to fix the situation. One abutter of Mr. Arnold came to share some comments.
- A representative from the Springfield/New London Water Precinct came with a plan to be signed for an easement on Colby Point that had never been recorded on their deed. The PB decided to gather more information on the subject before signing the plan.
- Camp Wallula – Major subdivision was complete and all documents had been filed.
- CIP representatives from the PB were chosen: Emma Crane and Michael Doheny.
- It was announced that a public hearing would be planned for July 28 on proposed changes for the process of site plan regulation improvements.

Economic Development Committee, June 26, 2009: Chair Ballin noted that Michael Doheny was not present at the meeting, so it was Janet Hutchens, Gary Markoff, Rob Bryant and himself. They discussed taxes, tax rates, tax revenue, and projections looking out 16 years. Chair Ballin tried to guide the meeting towards positive things and how to market it as such. He said they talked about the excellence in the town's school system and medical facilities. The next meeting is Friday, July 24 at noon. Ms. Levine suggested that for the July meeting he should suggest considering a budget for the committee for next year including printing, web, marketing, recording secretary, etc.

Mr. Kaplan said that there were three main employers in town: New London Hospital, Colby Sawyer College, and the Town itself. He suggested looking at the number of employees over the last eight years, as well as the payroll. This information would tell people who are interested, what kind of town they may be entering into. He noted that New London has a large hospital, a college, and a town structure and administration that are up-to-date and professional.

Chair Ballin said that another thing discussed at the meeting was how much responsibility they had to try to secure a tenant for the Stahlman building and what could be offered for incentives. Chair Ballin said that they are trying to get some branding for the town and to show off what the town has and what there is to capture. He noted that Concord and Hanover are strong markets and we are in between them. He believes that there is growth potential.

CAC Meeting, June 27, 2009: Mr. Ballin reported that Jerry Frew, Dan Wolf and Mark Christensen sat in on behalf of the School District to talk to the committee. Mr. Kaplan noted that there was a question raised about the paving of Tracy Road and why it had to be done, as the committee member felt it was not in need of repair and had been paved within the last 7-8 years. Ms. Levine noted that the road was shimmed during the last decade but that it was losing shape and needed to be ground and paved before it fell apart completely. She said that Richard Lee reported that once the project was underway, it was more apparent that the road needed a lot of work. With all the paving projects that have been done this year, the DPW was able to save \$30/ton by waiting one year to have the work done.

Mr. Kaplan noted that people commonly complain about the condition of Route 114, but they do not realize that the road does not belong to the town. He said that at a meeting last year, he recalls that the state had implied that it would fix the road if the town could come up with half of the cost. Ms. Levine said that she pursued this suggestion but the State could not come up with its half of the money.

Chair Ballin said that the CAC meeting included nice conversation and was well-received. He said that when the school board presents its budget they will try to show what is federally required that is paid versus what is actually spent on education. Chair Ballin also noted that the representatives from the school came out with their tentative plans for the old middle school building. Ms. Levine said that they need to get the Water Precinct on board with the project. She said that whenever a building is updated in the town, the Water Precinct adds requirements to their systems to enhance the infrastructure. Chair Ballin said that this was done to the Hospital and to the College. The Town is requiring the building to be sprinkled but the Water Precinct is requiring them to put in a loop from Pleasant Street instead of tying into the system from Pressey Court. Chair Ballin said that Water Precinct is expanding its system on the backs of the client and pushing for a volume of water that is ridiculous.

Joint Assessing Board, June 30, 2009: Ms. Levine said that the last meeting of the Joint Assessing Board had been a quick meeting, with little to report. However, they asked Norm Bernaiche to write a memo to the Boards of Selectmen on market conditions caused by the shoreland protection act. They felt like there needed to be a response for people who thought there would be mass abatements for those owning properties on the water.

E. UPCOMING MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

CIP Committee meetings, July 6 & 8, 2009 at 6:00 PM: The Board agreed that they would most likely all be present to these meetings.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

- Ms. Helm said that she would not be at the meeting on July 14, 2009 when Chief Seastrand would come to talk about the checkpoint. She will be away from July 7-15 and asked for a replacement for the Planning Board Master Plan workshop meeting on July 14. Chair Ballin said he would try to go.
- Ms. Levine said that Saturday's LGC meeting appointed Maura Carroll as Interim Executive Director upon John Andrews's retirement in Sept. The interim position would be 12-18 months. Ms. Carroll is currently the LGC's general counsel and head of NHMA. Ms. Levine will be away from July 9-10 at the LGC Board of Directors' Retreat in Portsmouth.
- Ms. Helm said that she attended the New Hampshire Lake's Conference at Colby-Sawyer this past Friday. She said that it was noted that she was there as a Selectmen to represent New London. She noted that there was still some concern regarding Bucklin Beach and the fact that dogs are being walked on the beach. Also, the gates are not being closed at night. Ms. Levine said that Chad Denning

and Chief Seastrand agreed that the Police Department would lock the gates and bathrooms at night and unlock them in the morning.

Chair Ballin asked if there were any further discussion for the meeting. There being none, he asked for a motion.

IT WAS MOVED, Larry Ballin, AND SECONDED, Tina Helm, to go into non-public pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss a possible employee disciplinary action. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Upon returning to public session, the Board of Selectmen adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
New London Planning Board/BOS