

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES**

**March 28, 2005**

**PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Robert Odell, NH Senator, District 8  
Robert and DJ Lavoie, New London residents  
Lawrence Rupp, New London resident  
Sandy Lebeau, New London resident  
Larry Ballin, chair, Zoning Board of Adjustment  
Karen Ebel, chair, Planning Board  
Leslie Norman, chair, Conservation Commission  
Dale Conly, Conservation Commission representative to Planning Board  
Peter Stanley, Alternate, Conservation Commission  
Brian Prescott, Zoning Board of Adjustment  
Mark Wendling, New London property owner  
Debbie Cross, Intertown Record  
Carolyn Dube, Argus Champion

Chair Kaplan called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Senator Bob Odell: Chair Kaplan recognized Senator Bob Odell and thanked him for joining the Selectmen this morning. Senator Odell said that he makes a point of meeting with the communities he represents at the midpoint of the legislative session. He said that the relationship he has built with the new governor is good and solid, and sets a positive environment. The state budget is the biggest issue before them now, and it will not come to the Senate until April 15. He said that many support programs that are on the chopping block, and hearings will begin this week. School funding is also an issue; Governor Lynch's proposal eliminates the statewide property tax (SWPT) and sends aid to communities that need it the most. Senator Odell has supported the governor's plan, which might include a provision to use a small cigarette tax increase to make up the \$30 million formerly contributed by donor communities. Senator Odell said that as the education bills are discussed and vetted, he would be happy to return to meet with the Selectmen again.

Mr. Lyon said that the governor's revenue estimates had been questioned, and asked whether Senator Odell agrees with those estimates. Senator Odell said that revenues from the meals & rooms tax have gone up every year, and there is no reason to assume that they will not continue to increase. He attributed that information to Stanley Arnold, former commissioner of the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA), whose opinion he respects. He said that there are always uncertainties, but thinks these estimates come close. Mr. Lyon questioned the argument for lower estimates, and Senator Odell replied that the uncertainty of the economy is one of them. Many revenues, such as the land transfer tax, are real estate driven, and an increase in interest rates could change the pattern of real estate purchasing. He said that the legislators will hear from the DRA on Wednesday, and that they have to be optimists.

Ms. Clough asked Senator Odell to explain the bill that he has sponsored to expand the veteran's credit program. She said that at Town Meeting, voters approved increasing the veteran's credit to \$200, but not to the \$500 allowed by state law. She said that during the discussions, questions arose regarding people who are being called to serve now and who would be considered a veteran. Senator Odell said that his bill would increase the number of veterans statewide by 8000 by making eligible those who served going back to 1992. He said that although that sounds like a high number, we are losing 1800 veterans a year. Furthermore, those veterans should have been added over time, had the legislature been keeping up with the Department of Defense's changing definitions of conflicts. His proposed change would allow state law to keep up with the DOD's definitions. DJ Lavoie said that she is curious about the philosophy behind the state's original adoption of the veteran's credit. Senator Odell said that the discussion goes back to his childhood, when the legislature wanted to recognize those who had made sacrifices to go off to war. In New Hampshire, the authority was given by the state to the local communities. Today, some towns give a \$50 credit while others have approved the full \$500 credit.

Ms. Clough asked for Senator Odell's opinion on the Portsmouth Coalition's education funding bill, cosponsored by Rep. Randy Foose. Senator Odell said that the big issue is how much the state wants to be responsible for funding local education. He said that many bills have been proposed, and all of the plans come back to the fundamental: do we want to use the SWPT to fund education? He said that the SWPT funding is a charade that sends local money to Concord and pretends that the state is providing the funding. The governor proposes a modest increase in the cigarette tax to replace the \$30 million that has been provided by donor towns. New Hampshire still has among the lowest cigarette prices in the region and in the nation. On the distribution side, it is unfair that some youngsters live in towns with only \$300,000 in equalized value per student, while New London has \$1.5M in equalized value per student. No one has criticized the concept of supporting the students in need, but there has been concern about towns that use the funds for purposes other than education. He said that the governor will veto any funding proposal that relies on the SWPT, and he believes the governor to be a man of his word.

Mr. Lyon said that this is really an issue of constitutionality, saying that the Claremont decision said that the state has the obligation to provide an adequate education. He asked Senator Odell if he is saying that the state should not pay for education. Senator Odell said that some schools are lagging behind others, and he would like to bring all schools up to a higher point. Mr. Lyon said that it sounds like a new argument for fairness without a state funding mechanism. Senator Odell agreed, and added that even the SWPT was not a new tax but reallocated local funds. He said that the new chief justice is a breath of fresh air, and seems to have a different respect and appreciation for the independence of the legislature. He said that the state has a responsibility to communities with the least amount of resources, such as Claremont.

DJ Lavoie said that New London has several independent nurse practitioners, and asked Senator Odell if he was aware of SB170, which proposes that nurse practitioners would have to be affiliated with a physician. Senator Odell said that he is not aware of that legislation; over 1200 bills are proposed every year, some de minimus and some of a more important nature, such as this one. Ms. Lavoie said that if the bill passes, it may have a negative impact for New London, which has four or five nurse practitioners who are active in the health care community.

Mr. Kaplan asked about the status of the property tax exemption on telephone poles. Senator Odell said that the legislature has spent four years on poles and conduits, arising out of a deal made years ago with telephone companies. Poles owned by PSNH can be taxed, but those owned by telephone companies cannot. He said that the issue relates to wireless telephone companies vs. landlines, and he has told the phone companies that he will work with them this year but then they will need to solve the problem. He said that the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) and the phone companies have been on opposite sides of this problem and trying to answer the question of who would pay and how much the tax

would be. He said that if the property exemption were removed, the cost of property taxes would be passed onto the consumer. In rural areas such as Ackworth, where landlines are the only option, the results would be terrible for seniors. Ms. Levine asked if the property owners aren't already paying those costs by subsidizing the property taxes from which the for-profit telephone companies are excused. She added that Senator Odell said that after this year, the telephone companies will be sent away to resolve the problem themselves, but the exemption will remain until 2010. Senator Odell said that the problem is also tied into the Internet tax; the state has to review its policy on communications tax, which will be a challenge given the revenue projections.

Mr. Kaplan asked Senator Odell to comment on the ATV bill that reduces the protection radius around water supplies. Senator Odell said that he is no expert on the situation at Gile Forest, but said that the commissioner of the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) has said that he has no current plans for ATV trails in Gile. Even if plans came forward, the coarse and fine filter process would take a long time and have plenty of public input. He understands that the wellhead distance was put into law by mistake, and now that it's there, opponents of ATVs can see the value of keeping it in law. The recent bill is to lower the distance to the originally intended setback. Senator Odell said that there is a bill to study the state parks, especially the funding sources and deferred maintenance.

Ms. Levine said that HB90 was proposed to repeal RSA 287-G, a law that exempted private driving facilities from state law that authorized local governments to regulate racetracks. The NHMA has supported HB90 because it would restore the local community's authority, and she hopes Senator Odell will support the bill when it comes before the senate. Senator Odell said that the challenge is to figure out when the state should get involved and when it should not, and this has arisen for affordable housing issues and gun clubs. Ms. Levine said that she agrees that there are some occasions in which the state should become involved, but suggested that the state has a long history of giving local land use regulatory authority to the towns.

Mr. Lyon said that the new proposals for education funding seem to recognize the importance of per capita income as criteria for determining aid to towns, yet the SWPT does not rely on a property owner's ability to pay. He asked if, philosophically, that made sense in the long run in New Hampshire. Senator Odell said that there is value to having diversity of revenue and to recognize differing abilities to pay. He said that NH voters have repeatedly shown that they are not interested in a sales or income tax, the former because of our reliance on out-of-state dollars. He said that Senator D'Allesandro has reintroduced slot machines at racetracks, which would bring in an estimated \$200M per year and would solve the funding problems for the short-term. However, NH can't be there politically. Some day, he said, someone will come into office who will not want to run for reelection and will commit to a review of all revenue sources.

Mr. Lyon said that from the Selectmen's point of view, having gone through the revaluation over the past two years, some can afford their property taxes and some cannot. New London is seeing the social impact of the property tax, where the lakefront is increasingly becoming owned by out-of-staters. He added that there is a huge administrative overhead associated with the property tax. Senator Odell agreed that there have been changes to the fiber and fabric of this state, and when Interstate 93 doubles in size, there will be significant pressure on the southern part of the state and up here as well.

Ms. Levine said that she is concerned about a provision in Rep. Asselin's education funding bill that exempts primary homes from the statewide property tax, pushing all of those taxes onto second homes. She thinks that would even further harm towns like New London, in which out-of-state property owners already feel disenfranchised and underrepresented. Senator Odell said that the bill concerns him too, from a business standpoint because of its reliance on the business taxes. He said that bill has been set

aside for now. Senator Odell said that the politics reveal the "anyone but me" approach to taxes; there is always a huge effort to have the other guy pay these costs.

Ms. Clough asked if there has been any discussion about changing the gubernatorial term to four years. Senator Odell said that there is no discussion; after the last two years, many were relieved at the two-year term.

Senator Odell thanked the Selectmen for their time, and offered to meet with them at any time. He departed at 8:45 AM.

Meeting Minutes: Mr. Lyon moved to approve the minutes of March 21. Ms. Clough seconded; approved 3-0.

Lawrence Rupp: Chair Kaplan recognized Lawrence Rupp, who had delivered a letter to the Selectmen at the beginning of the meeting asking for background on the Town's 1989 contract to perform drainage work on Burpee Lane (now Squires Lane). Chair Kaplan asked Mr. Rupp if he had any comments other than the letter, and Mr. Rupp stated that he had none at this time, although he has been encouraged by the comments in the local newspapers. Mr. Lyon stated that any documents relating to town business are public, but said that it is not a question of access but as to whether any of the contract documents exist. Ms. Levine said that it's possible that the old financial records are in the building next to the Transfer Station, where many of those older files are kept. Mr. Lyon said that if it exists, the Selectmen would be happy to make it available.

Citizen's Advisory Committee: Ms. Levine said that the CAC is meeting this Saturday, April 2, and said that the Selectmen planned to discuss the appointment process and the proposed veterans' fund with the members. Chair Kaplan suggested that Bob Foote be invited to the CAC meeting, since the veterans' fund was his proposal following Town Meeting. Ms. Levine said that Bruce King is on the CAC agenda for April 30. Ms. Clough suggested that Senator Odell be invited to a future CAC meeting.

Board Appointment Process: At 9:00 AM, the Selectmen were joined by members of the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Zoning Board of Adjustment. Chair Kaplan welcomed all to the meeting to deliberate the board appointment process. He said that some committee members' terms are ending, and the Selectmen have to decide whether to reappoint or not reappoint these members. He said that the Selectmen have to balance having experience on the boards and the potential for calcification. They do not want to lose experienced people, but they want to be able to put new blood on the boards as well. He said that he hopes current board members could help the Selectmen come to a decision.

Larry Ballin, chair of the ZBA, asked if there had been any hue and cry from the populace on this issue in the past 12 months. He recalled that last year this question came up following the petitions on the zoning administrator position, but his sense was that it had settled down. He asked if anything had changed to bring this issue back to the forefront.

Chair Kaplan said that there had been no recent hue and cry, but the philosophy was still there. If someone sits on a board for three years, should the Selectmen then replace that person to give another person a chance? If someone serves for two or three terms and still wants to serve, at what point should they be asked to move on? Ms. Clough said that a process was drafted last year, and the Selectmen interviewed interested volunteers and did some placement. Last year, the question was whether the process was open or due for a change. The issue has not come up in the past year, but Ms. Clough said that she feels guilty at least on an intellectual level and thinks that term limits on some boards might be appropriate. However, she said that the discussion was not finished last year.

Mr. Ballin said that speaking for the ZBA, he would expect that if there had been interest in serving, there would have been more spectators and participation from outsiders at their meetings. The ZBA did not

have one attendee who did not have a personal interest in the matters at hand. He said that unless the Selectmen think that the boards are not doing an adequate job, he would raise an objection to term limits and allow the natural progress of boards to occur. He said that he would hate to lose experienced members. Ms. Clough said that she appreciates that and understands the need for depth of knowledge.

Karen Ebel, chair of the Planning Board, said that she had a lot of thoughts on the topic. She called Town Planner Ken McWilliams last week and asked how other towns handled this question. Ken said that it hasn't come up in other towns because they do not have an overabundance of volunteers. New London is unusual in that volunteers want to remain involved. Ms. Ebel said that she understands the argument for fresh blood, but thinks that in this increasingly complicated development world, experience goes a long way.

Ms. Ebel said that when the Selectmen assess people for reappointment, they need a transparent process. She likes the idea of bringing people in to interview and assess the quality of new applicants vs. current members. She said that it is important to see if people are out-of-step with the town and if litigation has occurred based on the board's decisions. She said that the Planning Board had a new member last year in Jeff Hollinger, and Celeste Cook is in the second year of her term. Dale Conly was also appointed in the past few years and is just into his second term. Ms. Ebel acknowledged that she has been a member for a long time. She said that replacement for replacement's sake is not a wise course, and suggested that the Selectmen use the Citizen's Advisory Committee to get people involved. Then, people who are on the CAC could be moved on to town boards when positions open up, and by moving off the CAC they would allow others to be placed on that committee. She said that just because someone is interested in serving does not mean that someone currently serving should be replaced. If the Selectmen think that there is stagnancy on the boards, they should review every board every year and avoid making a blanket policy.

Ms. Ebel suggested that the Selectmen appoint alternates to the Planning Board, which is allowed by state law and used for the Zoning Board. She said that Ms. Levine is an alternate on the Springfield Planning Board. However, the main reason for having alternates is to have a quorum for meetings, and the New London Planning Board rarely has a quorum problem.

Les Norman, chair of the Conservation Commission, said that the Conservation Commission is different because most of the CC's work is done outside of their meetings. The CC has taken a different approach to alternates; their wisdom is in their alternates and not with the calcified members. He said that natural rotation on the commission does take place, and noted with sadness Wayne Warriner's recent passing.

Peter Stanley, an alternate on the Conservation Commission, said that he had attempted to become a member of the CC years before he was appointed. The Selectmen at the time did not appoint him, but he attended the CC meetings, which are open to the public, and volunteered where he could. He was later appointed by a different Board of Selectmen. The Fire Department requires potential members to participate before they are recommended for the department, to make sure they will fit in and work out. He said that there is nothing that excludes people from attending and participating; if they want power, then that's another issue. But if people would just like to participate, they can do so. He said that he attended Budget Committee meetings when he returned to New London, and is amazed at the influence people can have simply by attending and participating. He questioned the idea that one must be appointed to a board to be involved.

Dale Conly, the Conservation Commission representative to the Planning Board, said that he was a neophyte when he joined the Planning Board. He understands the ambivalence about having new blood, and was a faculty member of a school that wanted a balance of experienced strength and an injection of vigor from new people. He does not want to embarrass anyone, but when he has seen what Karen Ebel contributes through hours of work as Planning Board chair, and by encouraging people to speak at meetings even when they shouldn't. He said that losing the experience of someone like Ms. Ebel would

not be good for the town. He said that volunteers do not get a lot of encouragement, and it is the individual commitment of people who want to serve. These volunteers are giving of themselves and would like reinforcement at some point. It is difficult to ask them to move off after nine years of service. He couldn't imagine the Conservation Commission without Laura Alexander or Ruth White; their contribution has been fantastic.

Mr. Lyon said that this has been an interesting discussion, and part of what is going on is an attempt to deal with the succession issue. Some people argue that long-standing veterans concentrates authority and excludes fresh blood, and he said that no matter how valuable someone is, when he or she steps off a board, the board continues to function. Mr. Norman said that he was thrown into the chair of the Conservation Commission because no one was prepared to move into that role when Sue Andrews left. He said that the boards need better succession planning.

Ms. Clough said that she would expect a rotating chair to help that, and the Selectmen will try to appoint people who could be chair. She added that this is a philosophical, not personal issue, on which the Selectmen wanted more conversation. She said that successors do need to be trained; the Selectmen were embarrassed at Town Meeting by not having the Road Agent, and they learned the hard way about spreading the breadth of knowledge.

Mr. Norman said that one of the roles of the chair is to winnow out what to discuss with the full CC; anyone can learn how to chair a meeting, but there is a certain amount of routine work that the chair must perform.

Ms. Ebel said that the Planning Board used to rotate the chair position, and then Laurie DiClerico chaired for a while. When she stepped down, Ms. Ebel accepted the chair position. She said that she has no burning desire to continue as chair, and every year she asks others to step up but no one has wanted to. She said that it behooves the Selectmen to look at people who could become chair, and Ms. Clough agreed.

Ms. Ebel said that Larry Ballin would probably agree that after one term, members are just barely getting their feet on the ground. After two terms, the members are becoming more effective. During the recent Granger hearing, she was glad that a number of members of the Planning Board had cut their teeth on earlier sensitive subdivisions such as Fenwood. She understands what people are concerned about and thinks that it would be hard for new members to do that. The feedback that she has received since the Granger hearing has been positive; one woman even changed her mind about term limits because she saw the value of having experience on the board. Ms. Ebel said that she does not envy the Selectmen's position, but said that they cannot go with platitudes of kicking people off because of stagnation but should exercise judgment on whether to reappoint or replace current members.

DJ Lavoie said that she is not personally interested in joining a board, but noted that Peter Stanley's comments about attending meetings and participating are valid. She said that attendance helps build experience and people do get heard. However, how do people advance on to boards? Citizens are interested in becoming involved, and it is not engrained into the society of New London. The opportunity to volunteer is out there and the invitation to come and get involved. She is not sure why more people don't do it, but suggested that the Selectmen should embrace people who are interested. Have the chairs invite them to their meetings. Experience is valuable, but if one never gets on the board, how can they get that experience? She said that the Selectmen have to keep going forward.

Ms. Ebel said that is why the CAC is a great option. DJ Lavoie said that some people might be interested in more than the CAC, and they should be encouraged to get involved with all boards. Bob Lavoie said that the CAC is limited as to the number of new appointees, and asked how everyone could fit onto the CAC. Mr. Lyon said that there is turnover on the CAC, but there have been no recent appointments

because the CAC grew to 40 people and the group was too large. The Selectmen were allowing some attrition to occur before appointing additional members. Mr. Lavoie said that the Selectmen made an effort to advertise volunteerism and generate an interest for volunteers, but then people want to be reappointed to their positions and there are no opportunities for volunteering. He suggested that the Selectmen should not advertise unless there are real vacancies.

Ms. Clough said that she is interested in the concept of alternates on the Planning Board; if they had to come to the board meetings as non-voting members, they could still get good training. She noted the use of ZBA alternates, but said that one problem is that if the hearings go on for month after month, it could be difficult when alternates sit in on one meeting. Ms. Ebel said that the Planning Board is taking steps towards the next round of the Master Plan, and it will need community involvement for that process. She said that the Master Plan revision is the cutting edge for the future of the town, and it would be a great opportunity for people to participate. She said that also, the Planning Board uses subcommittees to deal with subdivisions before the board, and members of the community can be a part of those meetings.

Mr. Stanley said that if the Planning Board is full of new people, then the only person doing any planning would be the town planner. It would be a mistake to have one person's guidance for the town and to have all judgment going to the town planner. It is important to have depth to the Planning Board.

Brian Prescott said that he has been on the ZBA for 18 years and never knocked on anyone's door to get reappointed. He has volunteered on the ZBA to serve the town in a low profile manner; it is a great board to be on if you own your own business, and he has loved serving as a native. However, he knows that he would be the first to go [if there were term limits], and he suggested that the limit be set at least three terms because sometimes the ZBA only meets a few times a year.

Mark Wendling said that he is an intermittent resident of New London, and has found that he can participate as much as he chooses to. He reads the local papers to get ideas of what's going on, and has attended ZBA and Planning Board meetings without invitation. He said that it is incumbent on an individual to find out what's going on in town, and anyone can do that. He agrees that if he had a comment to make, it would be heard.

Ms. Ebel said that from the perspective of volunteers, the Selectmen should be careful about their treatment of people who feel like they're getting kicked in the teeth just because they have been around for awhile. If there is a general satisfaction with a board, then it is a kick in the teeth to be asked to step down. She said that we are dealing with humans who have devoted their time and energy and, for the most part, have done a satisfactory job. She said that the Selectmen should look at the people who are up for reappointment and decide if they are happy with their performance.

Mr. Norman said that when he arrived in town, he was fortunate that Adventures in Learning ran a class on local governance, which was a great way to find out about the town. Ms. Ebel said that she spoke at that class, and Mr. Norman approached her afterwards to find out how to get involved.

Mr. Lavoie said that if the Selectmen set a policy on term limits, such as two-terms, they should publicize what that policy is. Ms. Clough said that they have never set an outright policy; this is a new process because of the increase in interest. Mr. Lavoie said that it is good to formulate policy. It is difficult to tell people that their services are no longer required, but this could be mitigated if they know from the outset that they are not appointed for life.

Mr. Ballin asked how much interest had been generated by the publicity. Ms. Levine said that she received one interest form from Town Meeting, one from the Town Report, and a few from the Link mailing earlier in the year. She still had 12 applicants from last year who were not placed.

Ms. Clough said that it is difficult to put limits on people who have served for so long. Chair Kaplan said that he finds that the boards are approachable, and people can get on boards and committees if they step forward. He noted Mr. Stanley's example of the Conservation Commission, and said that when he came to town in 1976, there were 2100 residents. Today, that has doubled, and it could double again in the next 20 years. The Selectmen need to give a tremendous amount of thoughtful thinking as to where we're going. Chair Kaplan thanked everyone for being here to provide input.

Ms. Ebel asked how the Selectmen feel about term limits as elected officials, and how long they have to serve before feeling well grounded. Chair Kaplan said that he has no feelings on term limits for elected officials; he can be voted out when people want, and that's okay with him. Ms. Clough said that it takes more than one term to learn the language and know what's going on. Mr. Lyon agreed that by the end of the second term, you are starting to get it; Ms. Clough said that is not a good time to then step off a board. Ms. Ebel said that this is especially important as issues get more complicated, and suggested that the third term could be the most effective, so maybe a four-term limit would be appropriate. Mr. Ballin said that New London has a history of affirmation of the work of the Board of Selectmen, Budget Committee, etc., most people believe that the work has been done and if they say we need it, we probably do. He said that he gets compliments from people who say "I wouldn't want to be in your shoes." He would hesitate to break the mold without reason.

Ms. Clough said that it would be a good idea to review the effectiveness of the boards and the person who is up for reappointment and his or her objectivity and ability to follow rules and regulations. Mr. Prescott urged the Selectmen not to do term limits, or they could end up with no one. Mr. Ballin said that he is in favor of having revolving chairs. Ms. Ebel agreed that other members duck the job, but that chairs are reelected because the members think that they are doing a good job and don't have to vote if they don't think the chair is doing a good job.

Mr. Lavoie said that it sounds like term limits are inappropriate, but when a term ends, that person should be considered alongside the value of having a new view on the board. Ms. Clough said that is what the Selectmen have been attempting to do. Ms. Ebel said that is good, and she does not mean to rigidly say that someone has to be on the CAC before being appointed to something else, but if they are interested, the CAC is a good place.

Ms. Clough said that this Board of Selectmen may not exist forever, but they would like to set up a process that would work for any Board of Selectmen and the Town as it goes forward. Mr. Lyon said that almost 300 people have signed up for the e-mail list, which indicates a greater interest in town affairs.

Chair Kaplan thanked everyone for coming, and they departed at 10:10 AM.

Ms. Levine asked if the Selectmen still wanted to interview people who wanted to be reappointed and the interested applicants who they have not yet met, and the Selectmen confirmed that they want to do so. Chair Kaplan said that he likes the idea of having alternates on the Planning Board, and Ms. Clough agreed. Ms. Levine suggested that alternates should attend the meetings for continuity. Mr. Lyon said that he liked Mr. Stanley's comments about getting involved, and is more and more inclined away from term limits. The difference between public boards and non-profits is that anyone can come to a public meeting, while not everyone can participate in private corporate or non-profit board meetings.

Chair Kaplan said that they should meet with interested folks and go from there.

Balsam Acres: Chair Kaplan asked Ms. Levine to schedule a meeting with Mr. Rupp and the Gibsons and Richard Lee. Ms. Levine said that she will see if they are available on April 18 or 25, as the Selectmen will be interviewing candidates on April 4 and there is no meeting on April 11.

There being no further business, Chair Kaplan moved to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3(c), to discuss a matter that may be harmful to the reputation of someone other than a member of this board. Roll call vote: Kaplan – yes; Clough – yes; Lyon – yes.

Upon returning from non-public session, the Selectmen signed documents.

**SIGNATURES:**

**Building Permits:**

- Kevin & Christine Donovan, 512 Brookside Drive (Map 121, Lot 11), permit to build attached carriage house addition – Approved (Permit 05-022)
- Kevin & Christine Donovan, 512 Brookside Drive (Map 121, Lot 11), permit for attached accessory dwelling unit – Approved (ADU Permit 003)

**Sign Permits:**

- NONE

**Other Items for Signature:**

- Disbursement Voucher for the week of March 28, 2005
- Elderly Exemptions
- Abatements:
  - William and Judy Scoble, 929 Main Street (Map 109, Lot 3), for \$438,800
  - David and Jane Heald, 488 Lakeshore Drive (Map 37, Lot 12), for \$470,600
  - Leroy-Johnson, Inc., 353 Main Street (Map 84, Lot 89), for \$940,400
- Pole License Agreement with PSNH for six poles on Burnt Hill Road
- Audit Abatement form in the amount of \$3,500 due to incorrect warrant amount in May 2004 – Approved
- Application for Use of Whipple Memorial Town Hall by Northeast Shakespeare Ensemble (NESE), for dates during the month of August – Approved
- Reappointment of Richard E. Lee as Road Agent - Approved

There being no further business, the Board of Selectmen voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Levine  
Town Administrator