

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES**

**October 16, 2006**

**PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Chad Denning, Recreation Director  
DJ Lavoie, New London resident  
Lisa Cunningham, Comcast  
Carolyn Dube, Argus Champion  
Debbie Cross, Intertown Record

Chair Lyon called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. The Board of Selectmen reviewed a letter from Michael Todd that had just arrived by facsimile shortly before the meeting. The letter was in response to the Board of Selectmen's request for an update on the zoning violation on the Alexander property on Wilmot Center Road. Mr. Todd said that his client would file his application with the Zoning Board of Adjustment within two weeks of today's date.

Meeting Minutes: Ms. Clough moved to approve the minutes of October 9, 2006. Second Mr. Kaplan and approved 3-0.

Milfoil Funds: Ms. Levine referred to a letter from the Lake Sunapee Protective Association requesting a contribution of \$5,000 from the Town's Milfoil Prevention Fund. Ms. Levine said that the Conservation Commission reviewed the request at their meeting on September 20, 2006, and recommended approval. Mr. Kaplan moved to approve the contribution to LSPA, seconded by Chair Lyon and approved 3-0. Ms. Clough said that the LSPA is very concerned about the presence of milfoil and other stuff in the lake, especially given that the recent sewer spill is in the same area of the lake as the milfoil. Ms. Levine said she and the other managers are meeting with the LSPA on Thursday to discuss the condition of the lake and how the towns can work together for the lake's benefit.

Street Lighting: Ms. Levine summarized the street lighting project after speaking with PSNH representatives last week. Ms. Levine said she had faxed PSNH the lighting inventory in June (PSNH asked for the Town's recommendations to be handwritten on PSNH's inventory, rather than using the printed inventory prepared by the Street Lighting Committee). In September, PSNH's representatives conducted a field review of the inventory and had a few questions for the Town, particularly because they located lights that were not on the Town's inventory or should not have been. Those questions have been resolved, and the Town will also remove lights from its inventory that should be paid by private owners, such as the Lake Sunapee Country Club and the Hannaford's Shopping Center. Ms. Levine said that the field representative quoted a price of \$28,000 for the conversion, which would have been \$14,000 under budget. However, the customer service representative later quoted a price of \$37,000, which included the unrealized depreciation of the fixtures that were being removed. This is slightly under budget, but not as much as originally thought.

Ms. Levine said that once PSNH receives the Town's pre-payment, they will order the equipment needed for conversion. That equipment will take 4-6 weeks to arrive, at which point PSNH will begin to schedule the conversion. It is hopeful that the conversion can take place before the end of the year, and it will take approximately two weeks if PSNH staff can dedicate time to the conversion and are not called away for emergencies. Ms. Levine said another cost savings for the Town will be to provide its own police detail where needed, rather than paying PSNH for the expense. Ms. Levine asked PSNH to make arrangements directly with the Police Department once PSNH knows its schedule.

CAC Meeting: Ms. Levine said that she has spoken to Read Clarke, and he and other business owners will attend the Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting on October 28 to discuss their concerns about small businesses in New London.

Reverse 911: Ms. Levine said that she has two appointments scheduled to investigate Reverse 911. One is with TDS and a vendor from Concord, NH, on October 19, and a second is a web-streamed demonstration from the original Reverse 911 vendor, which will take place at the Fire Station on October 25. Ms. Clough recommended that LSPA be invited to the demonstration. Ms. Levine said that the managers from Sunapee and Newbury will join, and Ms. Clough suggested that the other towns in the School District could also be engaged in the discussion about Reverse 911.

Solid Waste: Ms. Levine referred to literature she had gathered comparing landfills to incinerators for the disposal of household solid waste. She said she was unable to find conclusive scientific articles, but there seemed to be opinions on both sides. Ms. Levine said that incinerators may appear to eliminate trash, but they generate ash that is also buried in landfills, though at a much-reduced volume. Chair Lyon said that regardless of the final solution for the disposal of trash, it has to be long-term, and the longer the better. Ms. Levine said she would be meeting tomorrow with a representative of Casella, who wants to revisit its proposal to the Town.

Chair Lyon asked if there had been consideration given to the disposal of household hazardous waste, and asked if there is a way that the Town can more regularly collect hazardous waste. Ms. Levine said that she does not believe it can be stored at the Transfer Station or elsewhere, which is why there are special collections of hazardous waste. Chair Lyon said there should be a mechanism to get rid of literally everything that residents have, not only because of convenience but for the health and well-being of residents. He posed that if the Town does not provide an avenue for proper disposal, residents will find their own way to rid themselves of unwanted items. He suggested piggy-backing the Town's disposal on that of larger municipalities, much like Colby-Sawyer College piggy-backs on Dartmouth's contracts for the disposal of laboratory waste. He suggested that the discussion of waste be broadened, and Ms. Levine agreed that this should be taken up by the Solid Waste Committee, when formed.

Winter Cross-Country Ski Program: At 8:50 AM, the Selectmen were joined by Recreation Director Chad Denning to continue the discussion regarding the cross-country ski program. Ms. Clough asked Mr. Denning to update the Selectmen on any communication he had had with John Schlosser and John Chiarella since last week. Mr. Denning said that both have indicated that they would like the Board of Selectmen to make a decision soon, and that the decision should be fair. Chair Lyon asked Mr. Denning what he would like the Selectmen to do, and Mr. Denning said he would love to get involved with Nordic activity in New London; he is in awe of the beauty of the Nordic trails, and it would be a detriment to the Town if the opportunity to cross-country ski went away. He would have loved to see the original proposal succeed, and lamented that the discussion became political. He said he does not want to lose sight of the ultimate goal: to encourage New London residents to get outside and cross-country ski this winter.

Mr. Kaplan asked why, if the Town planned to spend money on cross-country skiing, it didn't develop its own trails on Town property. Ms. Levine said there are very few trails on Town property, although they

would like to develop more public trails in conjunction with the Outing Club and Knights Hill Nature Park. This will take the next year to develop properly. Mr. Denning said he had walked the Outing Club property with Sumner Woodward, and will meet shortly with Fred Sladen regarding Knights Hill. He would like to see that come to fruition, but would still like a more immediate plan. He sees the trails at the Outing Club and Knights Hill as beginner trails that could serve as a location to teach kids from the schools.

Ms. Levine said she thinks the proposal sent at the end of September is fair to both organizations and encourages residents to take advantage of the natural resources. She does not think it should be characterized as the Town wanting to throw money at cross-country skiing, but as trying to provide another recreational opportunity. Chair Lyon said the Selectmen are asked what they can do for area merchants, and this seems like one way to encourage more people to take advantage of local businesses and outsiders to come to New London for recreation. He said he is not concerned about political fallout, since he sees this as a small amount of money to encourage participation. He is willing to go with the proposal to pay for 50% of the seasonal ski pass, as it seems like a modest amount of money. He likes the idea of encouraging outdoor activity.

Ms. Clough said it is similar to the skating rink, which the Town is investing in for the public benefit. That is also public expenditure on private land, and benefits both the public and the New London Inn. Mr. Denning said he was amazed at the former venues for outdoor recreation that Mr. Woodward showed him at the Outing Club. There are all of these old resources that are not used – the skating rink at the Outing Club, King Ridge, Northeast Slopes. Over time, Mr. Denning said, he would like to bring back these choice opportunities, and his singular goal is to get people out of their houses in the winter.

DJ Lavoie asked where the Lyon Brook Trail fits into the Town's plans. Mr. Denning said that in the future, it would most likely link to the trails at the Outing Club, though Ms. Levine noted it would be difficult to have the ski trail cross South Pleasant Street.

Chair Lyon moved to approve the second proposal that offered to subsidize 50% of New London residents' season pass to one or both of the cross-country ski organizations, and to direct Mr. Denning and Ms. Levine to work out the details. Ms. Clough seconded the motion and added that she wanted to be firm in what the proposal consisted of. Ms. Levine agreed to draft a contract for both organizations that summarized the terms of the offering. DJ Lavoie asked if both had to agree in order to participate, and Ms. Levine said that the offer is available for either of them, but neither has to participate. Ms. Levine referred to a question raised by John Chiarella regarding Dexter's Inn the ownership of Norsk. She said that in her opinion, ownership is not an issue, but the location is. The proposal would involve the trails accessible from New London, but not in Sunapee. Ms. Clough added that this would be a one-year deal only, and would be reviewed at the year end. The motion was approved 3-0.

Ms. Clough said that the agreement has to be clear that if Norsk does not open in New London, then the proposal would not be extended to Sunapee. Ms. Levine said she has remaining concerns about the need for site plan review if parking is held at locations in New London other than the Town Pit or the Country Club. The Selectmen agreed to cross that bridge when necessary.

Planning Board Update: Ms. Clough reported that the Kidders met with the Planning Board on Tuesday to review the parking arrangement at the former Jiffy Mart. The Planning Board waived a full site plan review, but approved the addition of one parking space contingent on the removal of the pumps and a landscaping plan that would include curbing and enclosing the area formerly occupied by the pumps. The plan would have to be approved by the Department Heads.

Chair Lyon noted that the Comcast representative was not expected until 10:00, and it is 9:20 AM. Ms. Levine suggested addressing the non-public items prior to the meeting with Comcast. Chair Lyon then

moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel matter, pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a), and pending litigation pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (e). Second Ms. Clough and roll call vote: Lyon – yes; Clough – yes; Kaplan – yes.

Upon returning from non-public session, the Board of Selectmen continued its public meeting.

Comcast: The Board of Selectmen were joined at 10:00 AM by Lisa Cunningham, a representative of Comcast. Chair Lyon welcomed Ms. Cunningham and said she had been invited by the Selectmen to discuss Comcast's plans upon taking over the network from Adelphia, and in particular to address the situation regarding adequate staffing for customer service.

Ms. Cunningham said that the date of transfer from Adelphia to Comcast was July 31, 2006, and that is the first date that Comcast could take any action locally due to antitrust laws. At that point, Comcast was managing the customer service lines, although due to staffing shortages they had subcontracted a large portion of it. Comcast will use the same customer service number that Adelphia used. On August 1, Comcast began its integration plans with a goal of full conversion in early November. In the meantime, Comcast will not drop calls for service. They are actively recruiting technicians to work in their Lebanon and Springfield, Vermont offices and plan to be fully-staffed soon. Comcast is also adding new regional call centers in Chelmsford, Mass., and Manchester, NH, so that there is local access to assistance. She also said there is a new technical operations manager, Bob Goldthwaite, who lives in Bow and will work out of the Lebanon office.

Ms. Cunningham showed the Board of Selectmen the "strand map" that lays out the cable network in New London, and identified a few locations where new installations were going in. Chair Lyon said the Board of Selectmen want all residents to have access to service, and gave the example of Burnt Hill Road, where homes are being built beyond the end of the cable run. He asked Ms. Cunningham to look at existing non-covered areas with a goal of expansion. Ms. Cunningham said any new E911 addresses should be sent to Bob Goldthwaite's attention in Lebanon. He should be the principal contact for build-out and technical questions.

Chair Lyon asked about Comcast's plan for switching over the e-mail service. Ms. Cunningham replied that adelphia.net customers have been contacted once or twice regarding the e-mail change and informed that there will be a slow migration to comcast.net, with a long period of time during which e-mail will be forwarded from Adelphia to Comcast.

Ms. Levine referred to her former ability to use Groupmail to communicate with residents, which was disabled due to Adelphia's spam filters. She asked whether Comcast would be able to provide a workaround, and Ms. Cunningham referred Ms. Levine to John Parpalardo or Tom Paluzzi, although she did not have a contact number for either person. She said Comcast intends to offer small business products.

Chair Lyon asked Ms. Cunningham about her background, and she explained that she was an employee of Adelphia in Vermont who is transitioning to Comcast. Ms. Levine asked if she is the contact for franchise negotiation, and Ms. Cunningham replied in the affirmative. The franchise expires in February 2008, and Ms. Cunningham said the contract can be renegotiated on the Town's schedule.

Ms. Cunningham said the name change will take place in November, and there will not be significant program changes to the television offerings, at least not immediately. She said Comcast channel 8 will replace channel 74, and there will be additional digital and HD channels, with the biggest change being the offering of video-on-demand for digital customers. Chair Lyon said he received the most complaints about the lack of access to WGBH Channel 2 out of Boston and the WB channel. Ms. Cunningham will look into the question of why those are not offered.

Ms. Cunningham invited the Selectmen to an open house and demonstration in Lebanon in early December to meet senior Comcast management. The Selectmen thanked her for coming, and she departed at 10:45 AM.

**Building Permits:**

- Michael and Catherine Christopher, 434 Sugarhouse Road (Map 022, Lot 007), permit to construct a two-car 26' x 30' garage to be built near their current driveway – Approved (Permit 06-132)
- New London SC, LLC, 277 Newport Road (Map 059, Lot 008), permit to install one LP gas tank 12' x 38' x 6" pad and a generator 4' x 8' x 3' pad. Also, a 5' x 8' wheel chair ramp at the sidewalk area (Permit 06-133)
- Lake Sunapee Country Club Inc., 289 Country Club Lane (Map 146, Lot 001), permit for renovation of the existing restrooms and Sarazen Room dining area. New construction of the Sarazen dining area addition and front entrance – Approved (Permit 06-134)

**Sign Permit Applications:**

- Temporary Sign Permit Application for the New London Outing Club for a 6' sandwich board sign indicating "Ski and Skate Sale on November 4, 2006 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM with drop off on November 3, 2006 from 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM in the Kearsarge Regional Middle School" – Approved
- Temporary Sign Permit Application for the First Baptist Church, 461 Main Street, for a 6' sandwich board sign to be placed at the Information Booth indicating a "Holiday Fair on Saturday, November 18, 2006 from 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM - Approved

**Other Items for Signature:**

- Disbursement & Payroll Voucher for the week of October 16, 2006 – Approved
- Warrant for State of New Hampshire General Election to be held on November 7, 2006 - Approved
- Application for Use of the Sydney L. Crook Conference Room by Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust for Tuesday, December 5, 2006 from 8:30-10:00 AM for a subcommittee work session – Approved

There being no further business, the Board of Selectmen adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie W. Levine  
Town Administrator