

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES**

**April 18, 2005**

**PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Terry Dancy, New London's representative to Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition  
Debbie Cross, Intertown Record  
Carolyn Dube, Argus Champion

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

Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition: Chair Kaplan recognized Terry Dancy, New London's representative to the Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition, and thanked him for joining the Selectmen this morning. Mr. Dancy said that he had asked for time on the agenda so that he could report on the progress of the Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition (SAWC), a coalition of the six towns that surround Lake Sunapee. At its last meeting, the SAWC focused on how to communicate with the public about the coalition's activities, which are primarily advisory in nature. A group is working on a mission statement, which currently reads: "To raise community awareness of important issues concerning the Lake Sunapee watershed and surrounding areas, to formulate clear guidelines for responsible, long-term stewardship of the water resources in those areas, and to promote cooperation among Sunapee watershed towns in using those guidelines for the implementation of programs effective in addressing the salient issues to the common benefit of the area communities." The group has also established a website (currently found at <http://home.earthlink.net/~sunapeewatershed/>).

Mr. Dancy reported that SAWC meets on the first Thursday of every month at the Ivey Science Center at Colby-Sawyer College. The March meeting included a presentation on the quantitative evaluation of watersheds, which allows one to determine whether a watershed is threatened, in need of protection, or in need of restoration. The April meeting focused on how SAWC should set priorities in its work. The meetings are facilitated by the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Region Planning Commission (UVLSRPC), which has received two years of grant funding to assist the coalition (see the write-up in the UVLSRPC's most recent printed newsletter).

Mr. Dancy said that so far, his experience on the coalition has been "quite entertaining." The Board of Selectmen thanked him for the update and for serving on the coalition. Ms. Clough asked if Mr. Dancy needed anything from the Selectmen, and he replied that at some point, the coalition will want to meet with the Selectmen from the six member towns to review short-term

and long-term objections. He said that he encourages the public to attend the coalition's meetings.

Meeting Minutes: Mr. Kaplan made a correction to page 4 of the minutes. The minutes stated "Chair Kaplan said that Richard Lee's experience and opinion are valid, but he is concerned that he is not independent enough." Mr. Kaplan asked to insert the words "to Mr. Rupp or Gibsons" at the end of the sentence. Ms. Clough moved to approve the minutes of April 4, 2005, as amended. Second Mr. Lyon and approved 3-0. Ms. Clough suggested that the Board of Selectmen's minutes containing a record of the Selectmen's interviews of proposed board members be kept in a file for use by future Boards of Selectmen.

Office Assistant: Ms. Levine said that she and Amy Rankins had interviewed seven applicants for the part-time office assistant position, out of approximately 25 resumes that they had received. They had offered the position to Diane Legendre of Sunapee, who will start work on Tuesday, April 19. Diane will work from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The additional staff allows the Town Offices to open at 8:00 AM and remain open throughout the day. Linda Hardy has agreed to the same hours for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office.

Mr. Kaplan asked whether Police Chief David Seastrand was making progress filling the open positions at the Police Department. Ms. Levine said that the Police Department had interviewed candidates for the Administrative Assistant position on Saturday, and she had not spoken to Chief Seastrand yet about the results of those interviews. She said that the Chief has "a few irons in the fire" for filling the open police officer and dispatch positions.

Draft Link: Ms. Levine distributed a draft *Quicklink*, and asked the Selectmen to review it and let her know if they had any changes or comments. She will submit the final copy to the Shopper on Wednesday for printing the following week.

Draft Appointment Process: Ms. Levine referred to the draft appointment process prepared by Mr. Lyon. Chair Kaplan said that he had reviewed the draft and thought that it was very good. The Selectmen discussed some changes to the process, and asked Ms. Levine to distribute the updated draft to board chairs and give them an opportunity to review it. Chair Kaplan said that he would also like to invite board chairs to return to a Selectmen's meeting to discuss the implementation of the appointment process, including the use of alternates, attendance at meetings, etc.

Elkins Post Office: Ms. Levine said that she met with Kendra West-Senor, postmaster of the Elkins Post Office, to review interior and exterior renovations that Ms. West-Senor wanted to make. They include removing interior walls and relocating post office boxes, replacing plumbing fixtures, replacing the front porch and ramp, and adding a concrete loading dock off the side of the building. Ms. Levine said that the newly-negotiated five-year lease did not include these expenditures, and she advised Ms. West-Senor that she would have to talk to the Board of Selectmen and the Post office about funding the renovations. Ms. Levine said that she would be concerned about too much of an investment in the building if the Town hoped to relocate the post office at a later time. The Selectmen asked Ms. Levine to contact the facilities manager at the Post Office to determine whether the Post Office would pay for the renovations.

Community Center: Ms. Levine said that Fred Downey is scheduled to meet with the Selectmen on April 25 to discuss the transfer of land from the town to the Kearsarge Area Community Center. She said that in addition to the conditions approved by Town Meeting, there are two other conditions that remain on the table: free skating open to the public, as suggested by Noel Weinstein, and maintaining a wetland buffer between the community center and Bittersweet. Ms. Levine said that she will circulate a draft deed before Monday's meeting.

NH/VT Solid Waste: Chair Kaplan reported that on Thursday, April 14, he and Don McGuinness had attended a joint meeting of the NH/VT Solid Waste Project in Claremont. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss plans to move in the direction of terminating the project when the contract expires in 2007. Vermont had already voted to dissolve the project in 2007, and New Hampshire did the same on Thursday. A transition committee is being formed to implement the procedures to dissolve the project, which will include discussions with the towns of Newport and Claremont regarding the project's property in those towns. New London will also have to consider how it will dispose of its trash when the project ends in 2007. Among the possibilities is creating a new joint district with Sunapee, Grantham, Springfield, and other neighboring towns, and negotiating a new disposal contract with Wheelabrator.

Chair Kaplan said that oddly enough, the project representatives who have tried to shut down the operation in the past voted against the dissolution of the project. He attributed their motivation to the fact that they would no longer have a platform to object to the operation of the incinerator in Claremont.

Planning Board Report: Chair Kaplan reported on the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Planning Board. He had attended because Ms. Clough was unavailable. He said that the Planning Board waived site plan review for Chris Broom's proposed addition at the back of Village Green, and waived site plan review for New London Inn's conversion of a guestroom to a gift shop for Inn guests. The Planning Board discussed the calculation of density for subdivisions that cross two zone districts, and decided that if developers want to preserve the density for each district, then they could subdivide along district boundaries. Otherwise, the more stringent density would apply.

Chair Kaplan said that the board also discussed paper subdivisions: subdivisions that were approved some time ago but were never developed, leaving the Planning Board with the authority to revoke the subdivision and require the subdivision to conform to current zoning requirements. The Planning Board decided to leave the issue alone for now. Ms. Clough said that she is uncomfortable with that decision, and thinks that the Town is doing property owners a disservice by not alerting them to the law regarding revocation of subdivisions. Chair Kaplan said that he would be concerned that any action by the Planning Board would cause immediate construction by the developers. Ms. Levine said that in that event, the Planning Board has the authority to intervene. Mr. Lyon stated that developments should be required to conform to current zoning that was approved by the voters of the town. He believes that the voters expressed their will by approving a change in density, and the Planning Board should not disregard the will of the voters.

The discussion concluded with no action being taken.

Colby-Sawyer Presentation: Ms. Levine referred to an invitation from the Colby-Sawyer College Community and Environmental Studies Department to attend a presentation on the Kearsarge-Sunapee region's conservation and land protection activities. The students' research project collaborated with the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust and the regional towns to identify the "most ecologically important lands." The presentation is on Monday, May 9 at 7:00 PM in Room 201 of the Ivey Science Center. More information is available at [www.colby-sawyer.edu/news/archive/pr122.html](http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/news/archive/pr122.html).

Prescriptive Easements: Chair Kaplan referred to page 26 of the most recent Town & City magazine published by the Local Government Center. That page included a report on a recent Supreme Court decision regarding the Town of Wolfeboro's prescriptive right to flow water out of a dam onto an abutting property. Ms. Levine said that she had printed the court's opinion, and distributed it to the Selectmen.

## **SIGNATURES:**

### **Building Permits:**

- Nicholas Brodich, 138 Old Coach Road, (Map 123, Lot 015), permit to add a ¾ bath in the garage – Approved (Amendment and extension to permit 04-053)
- David Chambers, 42 Hillcrest Drive, (Map 078, Lot 026), permit to construct a playhouse – Approved (Permit 05-023)
- Victor Anderson, 658 Bog Hill Road, (Map 129, Lot 030), permit to install a 5' walkway ramp – Approved (Permit 05-024)
- Katherine M. Wilson Trust, Bunker Road, (Map 062, Lot 017), permit to erect a 24' x 30' garage on slab – Approved (Permit 05-025)
- Richard & Rosalie Denise, 21 White Pine Lane, (Map 105, Lot 007), permit to install wood floors, gas fireplace, new windows, re-do two baths, finish basement, office & general purpose room – Approved (Permit 05-028)
- Raymond & Susan Chacho, 21 Quail Run, (Map 109, Lot 021), permit to push out laundry room by three feet, remodel kitchen with new cabinets – Approved (Permit 05-027)
- B. Neal & Ann Harris, 548 Burpee Hill Road, (Map 057, Lot 006), permit to add a pantry/laundry area, garage and upstairs bedroom – Approved (Permit 05-028)

### **Sign Permits:**

- New London Hospital, 273 County Road (Map 084, Lot 014) permit for a temporary sign 2' x 3' for Hospital Days – Approved

### **Other Items for Signature:**

- Disbursement and Payroll Voucher for the week of April 18, 2005
- Current Use application for Steven & Judy Belden (Map 042, Lot 034) – Approved.

- Appointment Cards for Peter Stanley (UVLSRPC representative, term expires 2006); Terence Dancy (UVLSRPC representative, term expires 2006); Lawrence Ballin (Zoning Board of Adjustment, term expires 2008); Laurids Lauridsen III (Fire Ward, term expires 2008); Jeff Hollinger (Planning Board, term expires 2008); Emma Crane (Conservation Commission, term expires 2008)
- Yield Tax Warrant in the amount of \$3,230.68 – Approved
- Application for Use of the New London Town Commons by New London Hospital for Hospital Days, August 4-6, 2005 – Approved
- Application for Use of the Town Office Conference Room by New London Hospital for Hospital Days, August 4-6, 2005 – Approved
- Veteran's Credit applications

There being no further business, the Board of Selectmen voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Levine  
Town Administrator