



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

PRESENT:

Mark Kaplan, Chair, Board of Selectman

Larry Ballin, Selectman

Jessie Levine, Town Administrator

Bob and D.J. Lavoie, Residents

Debbie Cross, *InterTown Record*

Lauren Gifford, *Valley News*

Selectmen met at 7:45 a.m. to sign the following items.

Applications for Building Permits:

- Molly & Susanna Myers, 667 Bunker Road (Map & Lot 076-041-000) install foundation under existing structure – Permit #08-122 – Approved.
- Lisa Halttunen, 29 Farwell Lane (Map & Lot 070-002-000) clapboard over T1-11 garage – Permit #08-123 – Approved.
- Robert & Jill Carr, 29 Boulder Point (Map & Lot 115-002-000) build stairway from deck to ground contained w/in existing footprint of deck - Permit #08-124 – Approved.
- Elizabeth Cacciola, 120 Hemlock Lane (Map & Lot 089-008-000) install 12x16 shed, prep. building pad – Permit #08-125 – Approved.
- Gary & Joyce Lineberry, 413 Andover Road (Map & Lot 098-010-000) After-the-fact permit for pre fab screened yard gazebo – set in gravel – Permit #08-126 – Approved.
- Extension – Janet Royle, 195 Tracy Road (Map & Lot 118-002-000) 16 x 36 addition, bedroom & bath – Permit #07-126 – Approved.

Request for Tax Exempt Status (Selectmen approved 9/22/08)

- New London Barn Playhouse, Inc.
- Kearsarge Area Council on Aging, Inc.
- Colby Sawyer College
- Elkins Chapel Society, Inc.
- First Baptist Church
- New London Historical Society
- Kearsarge Community Presbyterian Church
- Masonic Association of King Solomon's Lodge #14

- Ladies Benevolent Society of Elkins
- New England Forestry Foundation, Inc.
- New London Hospital
- New London Outing Club
- Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester (Our Lady of Fatima Church)
- St. Andrews Church
- Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Affiliates
- WFK Ice House Foundation, Inc.

Application for Tax Abatement:

- Based on the settlement between Town of New London & Colby-Sawyer College, an abatement is due in the amount of \$111,852.09 for the 2007 tax year. – Approved.
- Colby-Sawyer College, abatement reflecting remaining interest on 2007 tax lien in the amount of \$4,094.14 – Approved.

Applications for use of Town Commons:

- Team Sununu – strawberry shortcake social – October 12, 2008 – 2:00 to 4:00 PM – approved.
- New London Garden Club, Antique Show - July 22 – July 27, 2009 – set up begins 7/22 and take down will be 7/27 by noon. -- Approved

Applications for use of Bandstand:

- New London Garden Club, Antique Show - July 22 – July 27, 2009 – bandstand will only be used as a dealer space and/or headquarters – Approved.

Application for use of Sydney Crook Room:

- Adventures in Learning, Thursdays 9:15-11:45 AM, January 22 - March 12, 2008 - Approved.
- Adventures in Learning, Wednesdays 1:15 – 3:45 PM, January 28 - February 11, 2008 – Approved.
- Duplicate Bridge – Mondays 12:00-5:00 pm – June 1 - October 5, 2009 -- Approved.

Application for Sewer Connection:

- Robert & Caroline Newkirk, Jr. (Edmunds Road, Map & Lot 095-037-000) sewer hook up – Approved.

Application for Temporary Sign Permit:

- Lake Sunapee VNA – Renaissance Shoppe – put sign up on Chamber of Commerce lot, sandwich board – Fall Sale – Oct. 11th, 8-4 – Approved.

Other:

- Disbursement & payroll voucher week of 9/26/08 - Approved.

- Tracy Library's Annual Volunteer Party on 9/30/08 – request for public possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages, pursuant to Section 4 of the Town Ordinance. – Approved.
- State of NH, DRA, Community Services Div. Annual City/Town Financial Report – Approved.
- Appointment Card for Richard Kelley, new part time patrolman – Approved.

At 8 a.m., Mark Kaplan opened the meeting for regular business.

Minutes-September 15, 2008

Larry Ballin moved to approve. Mark Kaplan seconded. No further discussion. Motion unanimously approved.

Board of Selectmen Resignation and Replacement: Chair Kaplan announced the resignation of Brian Prescott from the Board of Selectmen. Prior to the meeting, Selectmen received copies of NH RSA 669:61 and 669:63, which outline the replacement process. Jessie Levine said this appointment would be until the next Town elections in March 2009, at which time, the appointee could run for the balance of the full term if he or she chooses. She reminded Selectmen that the last time the Board was required to fill an unanticipated vacancy mid-term, they discussed nominations in non-public session, and conducted interviews in public session. She said there are no immediately pressing issues before the Board so they do have a little time. Selectmen agreed to take this under advisement, and to see what names may come forward. In response to Bob Lavoie's question, both Selectmen said they feel they will be able to find compromises should any disagreements arise in the interim.

Tracy Library Volunteer Party-September 30: Selectmen received the letter from Library Director Sandra Licks requesting permission to serve wine at this party, and stating that the Library agrees to the conditions specified in Section 4 of the Town ordinance. Selectmen signed the permit allowing the Library to serve wine.

Safe Routes to Schools: Municipal Agreement: Selectmen signed the agreement with the State, stipulating that the Town will follow State and Federal procedures in accepting this grant and carrying out the specified work. Jessie Levine clarified that because the Town is going to do the work itself, it will not be required to comply with the Davis-Bacon Act, which requires contractors to comply with federal wage requirements.

She explained that the grant will allow the town to install sidewalks in two locations where they have long been planned—that is Pleasant Street from Job Seamans Acres to the school entrance, and on Parkside from Main Street across from the front school driveway down to the Outing Club. It is a \$200,000 project, and the grant will cover half of that—that is, 75% of the cost for the Pleasant Street section, and 25% of the cost for the Parkside section.

D.J. and Bob Lavoie said they have observed many pedestrians including kids on South Pleasant Street. They expressed concern about the danger of this section of road because of its steepness, the difficulty vehicles have in making a left out of Barrett, and because it is the location of the town garage, and many large trucks use it. Jessie Levine said the grant is only for school routes, but the section described by the Lavoies is not included in a list compiled by the sidewalk committee a few years ago. She said it can be revisited.

Pine Hill Ski Club: Annual Trail Form Renewal: Jessie Levine explained that this is the usual annual form authorizing Pine Hill to cross Town property with its ski trails, and do maintenance and grooming of those trails. She emphasized that it has nothing to do with parking at the pit, or other uses. The ski club

must send this form to every property owner whose land is crossed by the trails. Selectmen signed the form.

Roundabout: Jessie Levine reported that at the last construction meeting, they discussed again the problem of work stops and starts. Though the crews are not here today, they will return tomorrow and be here for the rest of the week working on curbs, and the inside circle. She reported that on Tuesday evening at 8 p.m., there will be a test run for the hospital's MRI vehicle. She reported also that she is working on designing and getting prices for a color insert in an upcoming *Kearsarge Shopper*. Larry Ballin said he has no objections to that, but doesn't know whether or not it will make a difference. He opined that people will get used to the roundabout with experience. Jessie Levine said her concern is that if the Town does not do some educating, it will be blamed if something goes wrong. Mark Kaplan agreed, saying that some educational publicity will at least do no harm.

Crockett's Corner: The State will hold a public meeting to discuss proposed improvements to this intersection as well as its proposed paving project on Route 11 from Exit 11 to the Andover line. The meeting will be at Whipple at 7 p.m. on October 15.

Kearsarge Community Center: Larry Ballin said this project is still going forward. The group has strengthened its organization, appointed a Board of Directors, and upgraded its procedures. Meetings are noticed and minuted now. He said here had been some discussion regarding how many representatives from the Town should sit on that Board of Directors. The ratio of the Town's anticipated contribution to the capital costs would indicate three, but after some discussion, it was agreed that two would be appropriate, and he and Jessie Levine were appointed. He added that fundraising in these economic times is difficult. Mark Kaplan clarified that the anticipated start up cost for this project is \$3.5-million, and the Selectmen have agreed to support an article on the March warrant asking voters to approve a bond for \$1.5-million of that only if the KCC group has succeeded in raising the balance of \$2-million. Bob Lavoie asked how much has been pledged at this point. Larry Ballin said that information has not been released. They are now doing "quiet fundraising." D.J. Lavoie asked if Larry Ballin's and Jessie Levine's sitting on the Board of Directors would be a conflict of interest. Jessie Levine said the KCC Board will have to follow the same public processes required of any other entity—planning, zoning, etc., and won't have any advantage as a result of her and Larry's positions—though she agreed that there is some potential for there to be the perception of conflict, and they will address that if and when it arises.

Elkins Charette: Jessie Levine said that Dave Sousa has received the GIS records, and is still working on this. She asked Selectmen if she should begin to solicit quotes for a study on the feasibility of a hydro dam there. She said that Jud Donaghy was mentioned to her as someone who may have some expertise in the area. He is an Elkins resident. Mark Kaplan suggested the Town find out if something like that is even possible there, then go on to the next step of commissioning a study. Questions that need to be answered fairly early on in the process are: How much would a hydro dam cost to build, and how much energy would one generate? Larry Ballin said there must be someone at State level who could provide some initial consultation. He agreed that right now, the Town just wants to know the feasibility of such a project, and what the pay back would be.

Bob Lavoie asked if the Elkins charette generated any kind of report. Jessie Levine said the results of the charette were primarily artistic. The purpose was to come up with a vision. Larry Ballin said it is a kind of mini-master plan.

Planning Board Report: Larry Ballin reported that at last week's meeting, they addressed the bond issue for phase 2 of the new dental building on Newport Road, and held a preliminary hearing for proposed development of Wallula across from Bucklin Beach. He reminded the meeting that these owners have a relevant agreement with the Town dating back to 1991.

He said that the next master planning session will be October 14. D. J. Lavoie asked about the results of the survey. Larry Ballin said they have received only about 230 so far, and they'd hoped for at least a 10% response—that would be 400. He will suggest that the deadline be extended. Everyone agreed that doing these on-line is long and cumbersome. D.J. Lavoie said she took some hard copies to Hilltop and to COA, and she has heard suggestions that they be left at the Library and at Hannaford. At this meeting, Selectmen and Jessie Levine felt that leaving them at Hannaford might not be effective because they can only be filled out by residents, but agreed to leave some at the library. Jessie Levine pointed out that surveys that are filled out in hard copy form rather than on line must then be input into the computer by office staff in order for their results to be tabulated into the total.

Budget Committee: Jessie Levine reported that Noel Weinstein has rescheduled some of the department tours. At last week's meeting, they mostly discussed procedures rather than the budget itself. She said that at the October 2 meeting, the committee will meet with fire department, library and recreation.

Bob Lavoie referred to the discussion of hiring a facilities assessor. Jessie Levine said Peter Stanley is organizing a group of volunteers to look into this idea. Selectmen agreed that the Town really need some facilities management planning. For years it relied on custodial services to notify them when something was wrong, and often it was too late to address it expeditiously. Mark Kaplan said for older buildings as the library, they need someone with not only engineering and architecture expertise but someone with knowledge of preservation as well. Bob Lavoie said the idea would be to put that input into the budget process. Larry Ballin agreed, they need to construct a deferred maintenance program and a strategy for putting money aside for it.

Intersection Progress: Larry Ballin referred to a letter received from Erle Blanchard regarding his driveway on County Road. Jessie Levine said the contractors, Richard Lee and Erle Blanchard will meet tomorrow to resolve the problem of the Blanchard's driveway. It is a concrete driveway, and at some point in curbing, road construction or water line work, about eight feet of it was removed (five feet beyond the right of way). The questions are who is responsible for restoring that, and at what level of quality.

Academy Building: Jessie Levine reported that the exterior painting of this building will begin probably Friday of this week—depending on weather, and will continue next week—again depending on weather. During that work, parts of the parking lot will be closed, and people may park on the street or in the church parking lot.

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At 9:30 a.m., Larry Ballin moved to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A: (a) in order to discuss a tuition reimbursement application and personnel evaluation.

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At 9:40 a.m., Selectmen reentered public session, and having no further business before them, adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah A. Denz
Recording Secretary