



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Conservation Commission MEETING MINUTES of October 19, 2016 8:30 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Brown (Chair), Michael Gelcius, Andrew Deegan, Mark Vernon, Dan Allen, Ruth White, Tim Paradis, Michael Kennedy and Maggie Ford.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Laura Alexander (excused), Shawn Costello

STAFF PRESENT: Lucy St. John (Planning & Zoning Administrator)

OTHERS PRESENT: John Doyle (MPPA), Catherine Bardier (Director of Wellness & Community Heath at NL Hospital), Pat Deragon (abutter), Raymond Deragon (abutter), Carolyn Fraley (abutter), Roger Rodewald (Riverside Ecological Designs), Doug Adamian (owner/applicant), Ted Barton, Scott Blewitt,

Call to Order: Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

Roll Call: Chair Brown called the roll.

Approval of Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Dan Allen) AND SECONDED (Michael Kennedy) to approve the minutes of September 21, 2016 as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trail Patch Program

Ms. White explained how the program works. Normally in May or October patches are presented to all those who have completed the hiking challenge (25.9 miles) in the greater Kearsarge area and pictures are taken. This year no one was able to attend the meeting, therefore, their patches will be mailed to them.

Hikers that met the challenge are:

Emily Earnshaw
Justin Baina
Laurie Schire
Kimberly Tuthill

Kerri Mulhern
Kelly Sorenson
Tom Coverdale

Messer Pond Proposal

John Doyle, president of Messer Pond Protection Association gave a report explaining the watershed basin infiltration plan. They are in the process of submitting a grant to the state to address the storm water runoff issues on County Road that are effecting the pond. Most of the work will be in the right of way along the road. They are seeking a letter of support from the committee to send with the grant.

In 2010, NH Department of Environment S, declared the pond impaired in the areas of aquatic use: phosphorus, chlorophyll and ph. The report from 2015 reflects that it is still slightly bad.

DES suggested they have a water shed plan to understand what the issues are to address them before they get to a tipping point. Using their recommendations guidelines on how to manage the project and for their accepted analysis methods. The engineer put together a model of the water shed. Using that model water sampling and empirical data they adjusted their model. All of the plans and water shed model is on their website: www.messerpond.org.

Since the plan was accepted in March 2016, DES has been monitoring the progress towards the plan. This was also presented to the Planning Board. A group of associations (Pleasant Lake, Lake Sunapee, Little Lake Sunapee, and Murray Pond) gathered and had a meeting to address the issues as a group. They have been meeting with the Town Administrator, Town Planner and DW Director all through this process to keep them updating. There will be an outreach program to talk with residents about setbacks from streams.

A description of the plan was handed out. The program talks to using the right of way to install roadside buffers and potentially a detention basin to catch the water filter before it goes into the County Road stream.

The pre-proposal will be submitted Friday and should have feedback, if it has been accepted, in about three weeks. The final proposal is due in January. At that time, they will come back to the board with an update.

Board Questions

- ✓ What will the mechanism used to block the pollutants look like
- ✓ Will there be planting
- ✓ On Forest Acre side there is run-off, are you working with residents to have them mitigate runoff

Motion

IT WAS MOVED (Michael Gelcius) AND SECONDED (Maggie Ford) to write a letter of support to be submitted with the Messer Pond grant proposal. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Power Line /Hospital Trail

Mr. Vernon gave an update. Eversource, the Hospital and the Town have finally, after two years, have signed legal documents to allow for the trail to be constructed. Letters to abutters describing the project were sent out. With the trail located in town, many people could walk to the trail vs driving. Parking options were discussed.

Abutter Concerns

Pat Deragon – She said they are the only house that the trail would go behind. No concerns about the trail itself but want to know where the trail comes off of the power line for privacy. She does have a concern with parking. The street is very busy. Another concern, will there be any effects when they have to sell their home with a trail behind it. She made copies of a map. She suggested parking further down the road.

Ray Deragon – He didn't understand why the parking is located where it is because all the trail heads come together by Lyon Brook. He talked to Richard Lee about expanding the parking at that location vs where it is now.

Mr. Paradis said by taking in all these facts recommendations can be made. People could use other parking areas in the vicinity of the trail; such as the Hospital or Shopping Center where Lyon Brook Trail starts. He hasn't seen more than two cars parked at the Lyon Brook Trail on Parkside. Will the Hospital trail increase the need for more parking?

Mr. Vernon stated that the parking can be moved further down Parkside Road and that the trail can be relocated so that it is further from Deragon's back property line; he will discuss with Ms. Bardier the possibility of moving the trail over. It makes sense to keep the trail on the periphery because the Hospital could develop this parcel.

Catherine Bardier's role with the hospital is for wellness and community health. The three pillars they are focused on is healthy eating, active living and stress reductions. She is very excited about getting the project going.

Planning & Zoning Administrator's Report – Lucy St. John

Ms. St. John gave an update of the applications for today. Revisions were made since the meeting and the new plans, received today, are available. This application will go before the PB on November 1st. The board is working on updating the zoning amendments.

Wetlands/Shoreland Applications

- **Shoreland Permit Application for Adamian, Douglas and Pamela (formerly Constable-Eakin and Folberth).** Located at 412 Forest Acres Road. Tax Map 118-005-000. Project description: To add an addition, a driveway with a culvert, enlarge the parking area, install a shed, create a boulder wall and level out the fill in an area behind the house. Predevelopment impervious 15%, post development impervious 24%. Plan prepared by Roger Rodewald of Riverside Ecological Designs. Town received September 22, 2016.

Roger Rodewald presented the application. The proposal includes creating a rain garden that will have a drainage trench. This plot is located on the downside of the road. They are working with Richard Lee on the culvert.

Ms. St. John asked if the total impervious area will be less than 20%. Are there wetlands or jurisdictional wetlands. Are the wetlands shown for state requirements? Are there any other requirements needed? And why doesn't the plans have a stamp.

Mr. Adamian said that John Sisten, certified wetland scientist from Beaver Tracts, flagged the land and said he it is not attached to any significant wetlands area.

Mr. Rodewald said that they are not doing anything to the wetlands nor intruding and are not required by the state to put a stamp on it. However, if the Town wishes to have it stamped he will get it.

Board Questions

- ✓ What is the surface of the proposed driveway
- ✓ Is the proposed culvert completely under ground
- ✓ Concerns with the catch basin over flowing into Messer Pond
- ✓ Is crushed stone considered impervious
- ✓ Did you share the given plans with the Messer Pond Association since they are doing work there

Colby-Sawyer Environmental Group Project

Emily Lopez and Torh Hinneh came to the meeting to share their project on "Resiliency of the Campus" and to find out more about the layout of the Town.

It is a community based research project that involves the food systems on the Colby campus and New London. In 2007, they signed a climate action plan with Second Nature to reduce carbon admissions. The group is hoping to sign another action plan called Resiliency. Second Nature's definition of resilience is the capacity to withstand disturbance built and have the ability to adapt and reorganize while maintaining structure, function and feedback. The project is for a year. The group's goal is to be able to help the school and community with suggestions on resiliency.

Chair referenced the CC website for them to look over and to email any questions. He suggested they stay for the rest of the meeting.

Ms. St John said she would be happy to meet with them to discuss the topic more. She then excused herself from the meeting at 9:25pm.

Easements and Land Acquisitions

- *Clark Lookout Land & Trail* – Chair said on September 26, 2016 the transfer of ownership was pasted over and the deed was recorded. Just recently, Peter Stanley mowed a good portion of the land. In the spring they will need to trim down the over growth to maintain the view.

He and Richard Lee have looked over the site and noticed that about half way down the trail is a big depression and a little further down, the root systems are protruding making the trail hard to drive over. Adding filler will be needed to smooth it out along with a culvert for drainage. It would cost about \$5000 to fix. Currently, the gate width would make it difficult for trucks to get through. The little access road that leads to route 3A could be used. Parking at the Park & Ride, to access that trail, is preferred by many people and helps minimize parking off of Davis Hill Road. The police would be able to help monitor the campfire activity and help divert undesirable activities too. Blue stone would be used as a filler. This stone was put of the Davis trail and is upholding well. Putting a gate there seems reasonable.

The board discussed the benefits of having a gate and what funds to use to fund the project. There were discussions about what would be needed to make a trail handicap accessible.

Chair asked Mr. Blewitt for his input. Mr. Blewitt agreed with the needed improvements. He said by attending his next meeting they could talk to the Recreation Commission about their plans.

Chair made a motion.

IT WAS MOVED (Michael Gelcius) AND SECONDED (Dan Allen) to approach to get up to \$8,000 from the Mary Haddad Fund for the improvement of the Clark Trail. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair referenced to the RSA that is posted there which speaks to needing a permit for camping and having campfires on Town land.

Mr. Vernon asked about getting a stewardship plan with emphasis on wildlife and habitat. Chair Brown suggested that Mr. Vernon should contact Tim Fleury .

Mr. Paradis shared that he finished the draft for the press release for Clark and passed around a few copies.

- *Low Plain* - The bridge has been completed. Tree Farm signs will be going up today.
- *Desirable Land List* – Chair asked for volunteers to form a subcommittee to help with acquiring trail agreements with land owners who have trails on their property. A copy of the updated list was sent out. Ms. Ford and Mr. Deegan agreed to work on composing a letter that will accompany a trail agreement. The board discussed different ways to address the land owners.
- *Phillips Memorial Reserve* – Chair gave an update of the vandalism of the locks on the gate and the right of way issues. After talking with Chief Andersen, new locks were put on and he delivered the keys.
- *Low Plain Stewardship Project* – Chair gave an update to Leo Maslan's progress. To enhance the wildlife portion of the plan, he is working with the Ruffle Rose Society and a Fish and Game biologist.

Trail, Maps and Projects

- *Trail Head Maps* – The board discussed how many maps they have and need. A few more frames are left to make to house them.
- *Low Plain* – Mr. Gelcius gave a report of the repairs that were finished and needed replacement of some signs. Two Tree Farm Certification Signs will be posted today.
- *Vicinity Maps* – The board discussed the cost of the maps and other companies that could have better offers.

Other Business

- Scott Blewitt asked for help getting the KCC trail ready for the haunted walk on Monday, October 31st. There is a maple tree that is down blocking the trail that needs to be removed and boards crossing the creek that need replacing. He also said he was told that Cricenti Bog needed maintenance.
- The Municipal Matters Newsletter posted an article and a picture of the Powerline Trail project. Chair encouraged all to join the email listing or pick up a copy at the front desk in order to view the article.
- NH Sustainable Forest Initiative Annual Meeting – Chair spoke about how the meeting of Saturday, September 23 at Colby-Sawyer was impressive. At least a hundred people attended, including twenty students from Colby. American Tree Farm certificates were handed out to Colby for the Kelsey Forest Project and for Low Plain. Much gratitude goes out to Leo Maslan and Tim Fluery for all the work they did to accomplish this goal.
- NH SFI – The event for October 29th at 8:15am. Certificates will be presented.
- Mr. Allen asked for funds for identification tags for Clark Pond Trail. The funds were granted.
- NH Association of Conservation Commissioners annual meeting is on Saturday, November 12th at Pembroke Academy.
- Conservation Chair Round Table Meeting is on Thursday, October 20th.
- Sarah Scheuch sent a note and picture of the children of the middle school tree project.
- LSPA work shop is tentatively scheduled for the November 7th. The topic is on watershed concerns.
- Easement Monitoring – Jeff Troxell has started.

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 8:30am.

Motion to Adjourn

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Vernon) AND SECONDED (Andrew Deegan) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:44am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Richtmyer, Recording Secretary
Town of New London