



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Minutes of the November 18, 2015 Conservation Commission Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Brown (Chair), Laura Alexander (Vice-Chair), Ruth White, Mark Vernon, Michael Gelcius, Dan Allan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jane McMurrich, Tim Paradis, Andrew Deegan

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Scott Blewitt

Call to Order: Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Roll Call: Chair Brown called the roll. The meeting had been properly noticed.

Approval of Minutes:

IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Ruth White) to approve the minutes of October 21, 2015, as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Permit Applications & Summary Sheets

- **81 Lighthouse View Road, owner Michael Craven.** TM 126-009-000. Replacement of dock. Request for signatures for expedited review.

Motion

IT WAS MOVED (Michael Gelcius) AND SECONDED (Dan Allan) to approve the application for Michael Craven. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **293 Lamson Lane, owners Tim & Lucinda Carlson.** TM 062-008-000. Stream Relocation:
 - ✓ To divert stream from under garage to the other side of property, using a junction box.
 - ✓ The board sees no concerns.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tree-cutting Applications

- **Nancy Dahm. Property located at 110 Murray Pond Road.** Tax Map 045-005-000. Approved to remove part of one tree subject to review by the Conservation Commission.
 - ✓ The board reviewed the application with Ms. St. John and found no concerns.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Robert Ruggles. Property located at 823 Bunker Road.** Tax Map 077-004-000. Approved as presented by the Planning Board.
- **Raoul (formerly Carr). Property located at 29 Boulder Point Road.** Tax Map 115-002-000. Discussion continued to the December 1st meeting. Site visit scheduled for Monday, Nov 30, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

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

Ms. St. John gave a brief update. The Planning Board is continuing discussion for Zoning Amendments. The next session is scheduled is for Tuesday, December 1, 2015. The board will be going over Shoreland Provisions. There was substantial amount of information at the November 3rd meeting. The Tree-cutting permit process is being reviewed. She advised the board to review the Planning Board minutes for the details.

Chair Brown asked Mr. Blewitt why he was in attendance. Mr. Blewitt said he was asked to be at the meeting by David Cleveland regarding the Kidder/Cleveland/Clough properties and that his request was not specific. Mr. Cleveland was not in attendance. Chair Brown said the board was planning to have a nonpublic meeting because the information being discussed would not be beneficial to disclose now. Mr. Blewitt would like to talk and share information.

➤ **Solar Power Systems – Solar Energy Systems Exemption**

Chair Brown commented that as of date, New London does not have a policy regarding any alternative energy in terms of property evaluation and taxation. Recordings of equipment and its value are taken during visits to properties by the Assessors and noted on the property cards. However it is not calculated into the tax rate, at this time. There is a RSA 72.44 Section 72.61 for Solar Energy System Exception. Considering this; a warrant article needs to be issued and passed. Then the voters will vote to have a policy, regarding these systems, to not be taxed. Definition of solar energy system: In the subdivision, solar energy system means a system which utilizes solar energy to heat or cool an interior of a building, heat water for use in a building which includes one or more collectors or storage containers. Also means a system which provides electricity for a building by the use of solar panels.

Motion

IT WAS MOVED (Chair Brown) AND SECONDED (Laura Alexander) to vote to proceed with getting more information. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- *Clark Lookout* – the gate remains locked and this is in direct violation of the Town's right of way easement since 2014. Since that time, we have been told that the forest is dangerous. We had a professional forester evaluate the forest and he said it is no more dangerous than any other forest. If the board is going to proceed, a vote needs to be taken for the next step; have an attorney write a letter stating the violation. The delay has been for the owner to acquiesce to opening the gates.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY to go forward and start the process.

Trail Maps/ Updates

- *Lyon Brook /Hospital Trail* – Still waiting on a draft agreement from Eversource. They want to figure out what they want to do in the right of way before they draft an agreement.

- Lyon Brook Trail South – Between Brookside and Pleasant St., section of the board walk, which was put back, needs to be looked over to make sure its walkable.
- Trail Adopter List – Lost a few people, however, gained three people to help with the trails except the Ausbon Cordenly trails. Dan recorded and updated the adopter and blazing sheet. Need an Adopter report request form to help communicate. Incorporate specific dates and have emails.
- Merrimack County Workers – Need to find someone to coordinate with the crew.
- Diversion Program – Volunteer basis program for young people who need to do community service. Need to reconnect with the contact.
- Receptacles for dog disposal bags need to be refilled and signs needs to be posted for them. Four receptacles will be added to other dog walking trails.

Other Business

- ✓ The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held on December 16, 2015.

Motion to Enter Nonpublic Session

IT WAS MOVED (Michael Gelcius) AND SECONDED (Mark Vernon) to enter the Nonpublic session for RSA 91- A:3, II(d) Consideration of acquisition sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.

Roll Call: Chair Brown called the roll. Mark Vernon - Yes, Michael Gelcius – Yes, Ruth White - Yes, Dan Allan - Yes, Andrew Deegan – Yes

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Entered nonpublic session at 9:29 am.

Public session reconvened at 10:41am.

Motion to Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:47am

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Richtmyer, Recording Secretary
Town of New London