



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes of the April 20, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Brown (Chair), Laura Alexander, Mark Vernon, Ruth White, Michael Gelcius, Andrew Deegan, Jane McMurrich, Dan Allen, Tim Paradis

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

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

OTHERS PRESENT: David Cook, Ms. Kimberly Hallquist (Town Administrator)

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

Roll Call: Chair Brown called the roll.

Approval of Minutes:

IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Mark Vernon) to approve the minutes of March 16, 2016, as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. David Cook gave an update of his trail bridges

Chair Brown welcomed David Cook to the meeting and asked what he would like to talk about.

Mr. Cook gave an update of his trail bridges. Three bridges were built last year and he anticipates on building three more this year, starting the second week of May, timber permitting. He expressed his gratefulness for Tom Coverdale's hard work last year. He asked the board to go on a walk about on his trails so to update the website's trail map. Mr. Vernon agreed to go.

Chair Brown suggested he make an outline of services/work needed and to get it to Mr. Vernon.

Mr. Cook asked to add to the list: Two or four Trees have grown and are blocking the view. He would like them to be cut down soon. He has help to get it done.

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

Ms. St. John gave a brief update. She informed the board about an email that was sent out for a scheduled site walk, however, the dates will be revised. In the future, when site walks are needed, the Planning Board and Conservation should work together to have one site walk. A recommendation is needed from this board for the following applications.

Tree Cutting Applications:

Elise Rockart and Joan & Donald Lamson, property located at 736 Pleasant and 51 Lamson Lane (Tax Map 049-010-000 and 049-012-000). Proposal to remove seven tree within the stream site buffer; one ash, one pine, grey birch, four aspen. All trees are greater than four inches in diameter. The trees marked will be cut and all debris will be removed from the site. Stumps will remain.

Chair asked if there was a point chart or plan of what was to be cut.

Ms. St. John said yes. However, some of them are in the shoreline but the rest are in the streams. There are no point systems for cutting within the streams overlay or the wetland overlay. The ordinance refers to cutting certain trees, but the point systems only applies to the shoreland overlay district. They do have the trees marked. There are pictures and a diagram with percentages and points.

Mr. Vernon said agreed that a site walk is needed.

Sub-Committee Review

Mr. Gelcuis gave a review about the meeting that was held on March 24th. He volunteered to be the chair of the board. Those attended were Jane McMurrich, Andrew Deegan, Mark Vernon, Kim Hallquist and Ms. St. John. They talked about the process of stream lining the application reviews and how they were going to expedite the information to the rest of the CC board on a weekly basis after they reviewed the materials.

More discussions about the process was worked out. Ms. St. John explained that the email correspondence needs to be about whether or not a meeting needs to be held and when to schedule it, that is all. Otherwise it would be considered a meeting. And any comments are to be made to DES the sub-committee would have to come before the full board.

Mr. Gelcuis said that if it is agreed upon, meetings will begin as soon as needed and will implement that plan.

Chair advised them to talk with Ms. Hallquist first.

Ms. Hallquist joined the meeting momentarily and gave the Board counsel on the Right to Know Law, what constitutes a quorum and how much time needs to be given to post a meeting.

Easements and Land Acquisitions

- *Pleasant Street* – Chair Brown gave a brief about how the process was moving forward. There have been some delays with the preparations of the deed, which will be going to town counsel for research and then close. The environmental study is completed however, it cannot be issued until they receive a copy of the draft deed.
- *Clark Lookout Expansion Project* – No survey work has not been done. The easement language is still being negotiated.
- *Hospital Trail* – All three attorneys are in agreement and they decided the Hospital would draft the agreement. And the Eversorce needs to agree.

Trail Maps/ Updates

- *Trail Patch Program* – The cards need to be updated and printed. Discussions on how to get the program restarted was exchanged.
- *Clark Pond* – The board is grateful for the intern who worked on the brochure for the hike. New posts were made by recycling the old posts from the KCC Story Walk.
- *Trail Maps* – Ms. White voiced that the trails that have brochures need to be less busy, to just have the trail and mileage. Also, to have laminated copies posted at the trails that have displays. Mr. Paradis suggested that having these maps on the web site as well for those who use their phones. A dispenser for the maps was purchased for the front lobby at the Town Office. And the Information Booth will have maps available too.

- *Trail Adopter List* – A message has been sent out to all on the list. At this time, there have been only a few responses.
- *Trail Worker List* – Needs to be reviewed and updated. One person is already working on the trails already this year, however, more workers are needed.
- *Low Plain* – The area is flooded. Material is needed for a board walk, as well as filler. The driveway needs work too. Leo Maslin has agreed to head the stewardship program project. He studied the forestry plan and thought it was well done; just need to add a few things. He would like to schedule a detail walk. The beaver dams are being monitored and are running smoothly. The tree farm project application will be completed soon by Mr. Maslin. On the front page of the Forest Society web site is information about the benefits of a forest harvest; i.e. improving wildlife habitat.
- *Pleasant Street East* – Once ownership is given, a walk about should be done in order to start making trails.
- *Kidder-Cleveland-Clough Trail* – Extending the trail to Morgan Hill Road was hashed over, and it was agreed to contact the new landowner.
- Phillips – Income is an issue. Thinning for bird habitat won't help, as was thought.

Other Business

- ✓ Seedlings have been gifted to plant. The Commission was very excited about where to plant them and put stakes in when planted to make it visible. A supplier would be needed to make signs to mark the plants.
- ✓ Wildlife Action Plan Seminar – Mr. Vernon shared his experience with attending the seminar last week. Facts about threatened species; their habitat and actions to take to promote the species are listed on the website.
- ✓ Community Service - *Benefits of Thinning the Forestry* – Article is on the front page of the Forest Society about the benefits of a forest harvest that benefits wildlife.
- ✓ The Town nursery needs to be worked on too.

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission would be held on May 18, 2016 at 8:30am.

Motion to Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:10am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Richtmyer, Recording Secretary
Town of New London