



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## PLANNING BOARD CIP SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### CIP Subcommittee Organizational Meeting Wednesday, April 29, 2015 1:30 PM Sydney Crook Conference Room Town Office

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** William Dietrich (PB Subcommittee Chair); Michele Holton (PB Secretary); Bill Berger (former Budget Committee member) and Phyllis Piotrow (Budget Committee for Robert Prohl)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Robert Prohl (member of the Budget Committee) and John Tilley (former PB member).

**STAFF:** Lucy St. John, Planning and Zoning Administrator; and Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator (arrived 2:25 pm).

**Call to Order:** Committee Chair Dietrich called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

**Overview:** Subcommittee Chair, Bill Dietrich provided a brief overview of the 2014 Planning Board CIP process. Last year there was a big shift in the thinking and development of the CIP document. He referred to the current (5 pages only) CIP FY 2016-FY 2012 adopted by the Planning Board on November 18, 2014. This document includes three major recommendations of the Planning Board; discusses other Long-Range Planning Issues and the need for a study group (which is why this subcommittee was formed). He noted that the Subcommittee was established at the March 24, 2015 Planning Board meeting.

Members of the subcommittee were provided minutes of the August 26, 2014; September 9, 2014; September 23, 2014; September 24, 2014; October 9, 2014; October 14, 2014; October 16, 2014 CIP Site Visit; October 23, 2014; October 28, 2014; November 18, 2014; and March 24, 2015 Planning Board minutes.

**Introduction of the Subcommittee Members:** Each member provided a brief overview of their professional/educational and or volunteer experiences on various committees over the years in New London and in other locations.

**Appointment of Co-Chair:** Chair Dietrich suggested we wait until the next meeting to appoint a co-chair as two members are absent today.

**Future Meeting Dates:** Discussed meeting every two weeks. Next meeting set for Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am, same location. It was noted that morning meetings were preferred.

**Final Report:** Discussed having a report to the Planning Board by August 31, 2015 (not September 15, 2015).

## General Comments

### Bill Dietrich:

- ✓ Noted that this subcommittee won't be able to address every issue, but the purpose is to look at the input already received during the 2014 process, and discuss how to approach and develop ideas, and implementation avenues for such projects. Commented that new ideas will surface that were not discussed during the 2014 CIP discussion.
- ✓ He provided a brief overview of the relationship of the Master Plan (2011) and the CIP document. He noted that the current Master Plan is quite voluminous and cumbersome, over 200+ pages. He noted that the Planning Board may be looking at updating the Master Plan, and in the meantime this subcommittee might prepare a more practical working document, maybe highlighting implementation ideas in 10-15 pages.
- ✓ The purpose is for the Town to have a vision and implementation plan on how to address infrastructure improvement, changes in demographics, engage in addressing real community planning issues. For example does the Town want or need a community center, and how should it address resource protection and water needs of the future.
- ✓ It will be very important to solicit public input (public hearing) into this long-range planning process.
- ✓ New London is a bedroom community to the Upper Valley and Concord.
- ✓ Some people like the town the way it is, and other want and know changes are inevitable.
- ✓ Has a build-out analysis been done for the Town?
- ✓ Does the College have a Master Plan?
- ✓ What kinds of jobs do we have and don't have in town? The economic climate maybe changing what we need to do.
- ✓ Lack of employment opportunities, much of the Town's employment is dependent on the College and Hospital, is that viable and how does this impact the tax base.
- ✓ Parking issues at Whipple Hall, Police Dept.
- ✓ Need to be realistic about budgetary issues, but the CIP should not be driven by the budget.

### Bill Berger:

- ✓ Is this committee about funding/budgeting issue?
- ✓ How "blue sky" is this process going to be?
- ✓ Need more young people.
- ✓ Some people start with home businesses and expand.
- ✓ Community Center- Town needs to be a major funder.
- ✓ Role of various recreational facilities and organization such as KCOA and the Outing Club.
- ✓ How does the tax-exempt status of some properties affect the Town?

### Michelle Holton:

- ✓ Commented that the Master Plan is dreadful.
- ✓ Commented about Dispatch and how this is being addressed.
- ✓ Do we really want to be a senior town, and how do we change this?
- ✓ The discussion of the community center caused a lots of hard feelings. Reflected on the importance of the community center she attended as a child, and with her family. Community centers provide an opportunities for intergenerational interaction, this is important and needed.
- ✓ Need community meeting room space.
- ✓ When the Middle School moved out of Town, this caused a lot of businesses to leave, this definitely had an effect on New London. When the Middle School was discussed, statement were

made to make people believe New London would be paying most of the cost, and people believed it.

- ✓ Need to bring back a vital Main Street.
- ✓ Need to stop the in-fighting and address the community needs. The Town isn't what it used to be, need to rebuilt community spirit and educate the public of the issues facing the Town.

Phyllis Piotrow:

- ✓ Suggested a two-page Vision be developed on where the Town is or wants to be headed.
- ✓ Suggested projects be organized by needs and issues for example – recreation, education, community organizations. Suggest that the committee does not approach this from a building use perspective, but rather think about as what are the recreational needs of the community, what are the public safety issues and really address long-range planning issues. She suggested looking at the 1941 building and the space around it and how best to utilize this space to plan for the future.
- ✓ Commented that the Master Plan Summary statement is dreadful.
- ✓ Commented that the TDS building is quite unattractive and Main Street is vital to the community. Commented that the Dispatch issues is close to be being decided.
- ✓ Want to attract young families.
- ✓ Education cost.
- ✓ Do we want to be a community of just older residents?
- ✓ Recreation deserves more support, and currently the Budget Committee isn't supportive of recreation related cost. Consider recreation based economy as an industry. Recreation and tourism is important to the town.
- ✓ Need a community center.
- ✓ Need Town wide- Wi-Fi.
- ✓ Need to address affordable housing, land is expensive.
- ✓ Having a school in town is important to the community vitality, this could even be a private school such as the Royal Academy.
- ✓ Need enthusiasm for long-range planning.
- ✓ Asked about the Town's relationship with Colby- Sawyer College and the need for on-going discussion and a collaborative relationship.
- ✓ The Planning Board needs to be the positive voice.
- ✓ Need more exciting ideas and discussion, need community enthusiasm.

Lucy St. John:

- ✓ Suggested that Town look at the role of the College and the need for infrastructure including safety improvement such as sidewalks on Seamans Road and other locations.
- ✓ What are the recreational resources in the Towns, is there playground space for young family?
- ✓ The Planning Board need to review current zoning provisions and how this impact development opportunities (for example why a lot with sewer and water need to be so large).
- ✓ Does the Town want a community center or public safety complex?
- ✓ Development of future water source. Protection and development of the water infrastructure is going to be a major issue.
- ✓ Demographic of the Town- current and future, and how this impacts the Town and addressing long-range planning issues- recreation, transportation, land use patterns and etc.

Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator:

- ✓ Need to identify what services and facilities the Town wants to have.

- ✓ Planning Board should take the lead if they believe the Town needs a community center or other facilities, and look at long-range planning issues.
- ✓ What is good planning and how is it beneficial to the goals of the community?
- ✓ What if Colby- Sawyer College or the New London Hospital were not in town, how would this affect Town, how would the Town look and how would the Town change. Colby- Sawyer College is the #1 tax payer. Noted the Town has a good relationship with the College.
- ✓ Need to look at Town Facilities such as Transfer Station and other facilities. Are the current facilities adequate to meet the needs now and in the future?

**Summary:-**

- ✓ What are the common threads, needs to address long-range community planning issues and what the Town wants to be.
- ✓ Core issues- Community vitality, community enthusiasm, community cohesiveness and community input are needed and important to the process.
- ✓ Staff will prepare a table or some way to visualize the various projects suggested to date for the next meeting, and organize it into categories such as – Recreation, Public Safety, Education, Infrastructure, Facilities, Water Resources Related and etc.
- ✓ Noted this is not an easy task.
- ✓ Need a plan of what we have, want we want for future and how to get there.

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled for Friday, May 15 at 9:00 a.m. same location.

**Motion to Adjourn** by Michelle Holton, seconded by Phyllis Piotrow. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy A. St. John, AICP  
Planning and Zoning Administrator  
Town of New London