



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON PLANNING BOARD
CIP SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

CIP Subcommittee Meeting
Sydney Crook Conference Room
Town Office, 2nd Floor
Friday, June 12, 2015
9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Dietrich (PB Subcommittee Chair), Michele Holton (PB Secretary), John Tilley, Bill Berger and Rob Prohl.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHER PRESENT: Bill Helm (Planning Board Chair), Tim Paradise (Planning Board), Paul Gorman (Planning Board), Casey Buiso (Recreation Commission), Lyndsey Lund (Recreation Commission) and Kimberly Hallquist (New London Town Administrator, in back of room for another meeting, dual meetings occurring), and other unnamed persons attending the bid opening at the back of the room.

Call to Order: Subcommittee Chair Dietrich called the meeting to order at 9 A.M.

Overview:

Chair Dietrich provide a brief overview of the last year's CIP process, noting the Planning Board made three (3) primary recommendations, and identified several other projects. He explained the CIP process is an evolving, continuous process and public input is important. Provided a brief overview of the recent site tours of town facilities and the Water Precinct.

General Discussion:

Water Precinct: Discussed that the subcommittee would like to meet with Water Precinct, referring to the minutes of the September 24, 2014 and input received at the recent tour. Need some clarification, and want to discuss long-range planning issues with the Water Precinct. Staff to contact the Water Precinct and get on their next agenda.

Project List – Draft dated June 10, 2015: Committee members were provided a copy of the draft project list dated June 10, 2015 prepared by the Town Administrator for future discussion with the Board of Selectmen. This draft list can be used as a base line for the CIP discussions as well, and be amended as needed.

Key Issues: Key issues identified during the site tours are space and storage.

1941 Building and Site Discussion:

Discussion of the 1941 Building and site could be the best solution to addressing many of these Town space and storage issues. Also noted the urgency as the School District will not be heating the building, and deterioration of the building will be accelerated. Discussed the centralized location, how the site is really important, how various uses of the building or demolishing the building are issues that will need to be resolved. Need to focus on having the Town residents understand the needs, and not have this be a discussion about a community center, but rather a focus on the overall community needs for space, storage, possible location of Town Department offices, and addressing other community needs, including recreation, and soliciting input from other organization such as COA, Outing Club, Recreation Department and others.

Motion by Michelle Holton, seconded by John Tilley to send a memo to the Board of Selectmen for their June 15th meeting:

Based on comprehensive tours of town facilities and identifying the critical needs for both municipal and community users and combined with a lack of other suitable and cost effective sites, the Subcommittee recommends to the New London Board of Selectmen that they enter into negotiations immediately to begin a process to reacquire the 1941 building and site. **Motion passed unanimously.**

General Discussion:

- Brainstorming session with some local organization such as COA, Outing Club, Recreation Department and others;
- Conducting a Town-wide charrette;
- Declaration about a day/month – Care about New London day;
- Develop a flow chart of how all of the issues are linked together;
- Hanover’s experience with their community center and use of that facility;
- How to engage the public as the process unfolds;
- Need foresight don’t want to look back as we did for the King Ridge situation;
- Need to engage the public now, and not wait until Town Meeting to be answering questions; don’t want to wait another year;
- Networking with friends and neighbors, get the word out;
- Newsletter to inform the public of what the CIP Subcommittee is doing;
- Police Department - want to know more about the past spending/history on the Police Department facilities. Comments on how the Police Department can even function in their current space.
- Preparing a feasibility study of the potential cost and uses of the 1941 building and site;
- Public awareness campaign on how to make the public aware of why we need the 1941 building and site;

- Public engagement session, suggest holding a session in August to inform the public and engage their input;
- School enrollment size in the school, adding more kindergartens;
- Strategies to disseminate information about the space/storage and issues. Have this issue be a focus of a CAC meeting.
- Tours of Town Facilities for the public to really see what the issues are. Arrange a series of tours in August so the public can see the various town facilities and be better informed, get 50-60 people at least at each tour;
- Virtual Tour -make a virtual tour/photograph gallery showing the condition of the various town facilities. This could be put on the website so people can really see and understand the issues;
- Whipple Hall/Police Department- how best to use that space or use another space; historic importance of Whipple Hall.

Assignment: Each subcommittee member will be prepared to discuss what they believe are the top priorities for the next five (5) year, specific projects.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the subcommittee scheduled for Friday, June 26th at 9 A.M. at the Town Office.

Motion to Adjourn: The meeting was closed at 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy A. St. John, AICP
Planning and Zoning Administrator