



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Conservation Commission MEETING MINUTES of June 22, 2016 8:30 AM

Lake Sunapee Bank Community Room 116 Newport Road

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Brown (Chair), Laura Alexander, Ruth White, Michael Gelcius, Tim Paradis, Michael Kennedy

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Vernon, Dan Allen, Andrew Deegan, Shawn Costello

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Maggie Ford (new alternate)

Call to Order: Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

Roll Call: Chair Brown called the roll. Chair welcomed Maggie Ford to the committee. She will be sworn in later this morning.

Approval of Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Michael Gelcius) to approve the minutes of April 20, 2016 as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Michael Gelcius) to approve the minutes of May 18, 2016 as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Ms. St. John gave an update. The Planning Board's next meeting on Tuesday is a work session. They're looking over zoning amendments. The Board can email her with anything specific they would like the Planning Board to consider.

A presentation for Messer Pond Study will be given, along with a questions & answer session. She will be an advocate for updating the maps. The streams should be included as well. Not all of them are listed and the protection of the streams needs to be incorporated.

The Site Plan application for Stahlman, who proposed to extend the driveway located on the side of the office building with an easement over the Canary Systems property (Tax Map 084-080-000) and create a paved parking area to the rear of the building, has withdrawn his application at this time. He is working with the DES to have soil borings done due to past contamination and there will be drilling rigs on site to put some well monitoring devices in this coming Friday the 24th.

The Planning Board's site walk yesterday for the Alpaca Farm was very informative and received a large crowd. The application that was submitted will be continued to the July 12. A variety of concerns were discussed and answered, including, is this a wildlife corridor? Info on that and the abutter comments are posted on the Town's website for review. Any comments or concern should be submitted before the meeting.

Paradis commented on the Alpaca site walk. He said agreed that it was a well-attended site walk. He noted that there is seven plus acres of pasture and 20 acres of forestry land to which no tree cuttings will be done. In comparison to the Sky View's number of alpacas, there would be only a third of alpacas on this site. Concerns were nothing out of the ordinary. This is a beautiful land that abuts a golf course.

Mr. Paradis said that the concerns for manure were discussed. The owners clean and bag it every day for distribution to those who want it. The compost area is partitioned off, so it's not visible.

Shoreland Permit Application

Michael Morgan and Laurie Schive application. Property located at 721 Little Sunapee Road. Tax Map 033-015-000. Received June 2, 2016. Project description: Total square feet of impact 15,000. Total square feet of new impervious area 910 square feet. Proposes to remove and replace an existing single family home. The existing driveway will be re-aligned, and the footprint of the house will shift slightly to reduce impact within the 50' shoreland buffer. Additionally the project proposes to install appropriate storm water treatment features, and replace an existing impervious patio with a pervious patio. Pre-construction impervious is 13.5% and post construction impervious is 15.5%. The applicant has also submitted a variance application to the ZBA for construction of 309 square feet of impervious surface and a pervious patio in the 50' waterfront buffer to be held on Monday, June 27th. She noted that the pasture is located well below the plateau where the house sits and there are no concerns with wetlands thus far. The owners own another alpaca farm in Enfield.

Subcommittee Report

Mr. Gelcius updated the board. He said there were no concerns with the Morgan and Schive application. And no other new applications are on the next agenda at the moment.

Easements and Land Acquisitions

- *Pleasant Street* – Chair Brown gave a brief for the new members. There have been some delays with the preparations of the deed. Finally, this has been cleared up and will be closed soon. The Environmental Assessment for Pleasant Street was completed and cost \$1,800. This expense was thought to be about \$2,500. Nothing significant came about, just a few areas will be monitored. Chair explained the reason why this assessment needs to be done for land acquisitions.
- *Clark Lookout Expansion Project* – Chair gave a brief and update. Owners have not gotten the survey work done yet. Pierre Bedard, surveyor, recommended going for an annexation vs a subdivision because it's simpler and cheapest.
- *Desirable Land List* – Chair Brown encouraged the board to review and update the list and send out letters to the owners of the land.
- *Clark Lookout* – Many campers are already camping on the site. Signs are posted about campfire safety. State law requires a permit and the RSA states that camping is not permitted on Town land without written permission.
- *Phillips* – The board discussed the lock and mobile camper issues.

Trails and Projects

- *Hospital Trail* – Chair explained why the agreement is still being worked on.
- *Trail Worker List* – The Board discussed the amount of hours available for trails maintenance.
- *Town Nursery* – Chair said that the seedlings need to be taken care of.
- *Trail Patch Program* – The cards need to be updated and printed. Discussions on how to get the program restarted was exchanged.

- *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.
- *Low Plain* – Mike Gelcius submitted a letter to Richard Lee asking him to have a crew put telephones poles onto the trail to be used for the construction of a bridge. Mr. Lee was also asked to deliver additional gravel to the Rte. 11 parking lot, and to bring ground glass and gravel to the Mountain Road side of the trail to fill in the wet area that currently exists close to the start of the trail on that end. More lumber will be needed on this project. Chair said he will purchase more and he explained how he orders lumber in advance because it's easier to manage if it's lighter.
- *Tools* – A quality saw is needed for trail maintenance. The board agreed to purchase one. Safety concerns were discussed and requirements for those who operate the tools. Mr. Kennedy will research required classes.
- *Clark Pond* - There has been a lot of trail activity there; clearing the area for more parking needs to be done for it. Mr. Gelcius has made a kiosk with a roof for signs and maps which will be located just inside the fence. Maintenance on the trails needs to be done.
- *Low Plain Stewardship Project.* – Leo Maslin (Licensed Professional Forester) has agreed to head the Stewardship Program Project for harvesting like he did with the Phillips harvesting. The American Tree Farm Certification that was given to Phillips will be applied for. The New Hampshire Sustainable Forest Implementation Committee will be meeting on Friday, September 23rd at Colby-Sawyer College. Mr. Maslin would like to add a demonstration of a site visit to Low and with a dedication ceremony of this certification as part of his presentation.

Other Business

- At the end of June is the board's year end for the financial budget. Only 40% was spent this year. Chair explained to the board (for the new members) the normal expenses and how they hold funds for special projects. The next expenses are going to be used for legal expenses for Pleasant Street.

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held on July 20, 2016 at 8:30am. Located at Lake Sunapee Community Room on 116 Newport Road.

Motion to Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Richtmyer, Recording Secretary
Town of New London