



TOWN OF  
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON PLANNING BOARD  
CIP SUBCOMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Friday, July 17, 2015

Sydney Crook Conference Room  
Town Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
9:00 A.M.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Tilley

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ed Andersen, Police Chief; Richard Lee, Public Works Director; Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator; Jay Lyon, Fire Chief and Bill Helm, Chair of the Planning Board.

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

**Overview:**

Chair Dietrich explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss further space and facilities needs of the Police Department, the Public Works Department relating to the current transfer station, and the needs of the town administration relating to Town Hall, Whipple Hall and documents/files storage.

**Ed Andersen, Police Chief**

Much has still not been done that was previously planned. Moving upstairs is better than just being in the basement, but there are still lots of problems. It is not a safe situation with regard to prisoners and there is a great lack of storage. Many rooms cannot be walked into. There are sewer and flooding problems and the facility needs major electrical upgrades. Dispatch needs a major overhaul. In general the facility is a big area with lots of unusable space. The current facility also has parking issues. The Sunapee facility is a good example of a proper facility. Chief Andersen sees a need to move over the longer term.

He would like any new facility to be located in the center of town. It would be good to be near the elementary school to help deter anything happening. Chief Lyon adds that it is important for emergency services such as fire and police to be near the center of town in order to cut down emergency response times.

Chief Andersen notes that the actual size of a new police facility could be smaller than the current one, but with better space use. In the short term he would like to finish off the new

downstairs. If the Recreation Department were moved out then dispatch could be moved into that area. Also the current conference hall could be used for storage.

**Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator**

The school district would like to get rid of the 1941 building, but that it would like to lease it rather than sell it. The lease could be a 50 year lease. Many people in town would prefer to buy the building and land.

She sees a lack of parking as an issue for Town Hall and the police station/Whipple Hall. Town Hall is fine as an office; storage issues there probably should be dealt with by digitizing at an estimated cost of \$25,000-\$50,000. The facility could use a larger conference room.

Whipple is currently difficult to use because of hearing, lighting, and temperature issues. Whipple Hall is currently second in line after Town Hall for money set aside for repairs. The first need for Whipple is to address safety issues. A great use for the current police facility would be to store archives and for the Recreation Department. We should fix up Whipple for use at major events.

**Richard Lee, Director of Public Works**

A Solid Waste Committee and the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) is looking at doing a site analysis in September. The problem is that there are currently three sites for recycling and a need for many certified people. DES rules are ridiculous, but are there. He is not sure that the transfer station site can be rebuilt due to area and wetlands constraints. The current lot is confined and it may be hard to improve traffic flow and properly handle recycling. Storage on this site is an issue, this is another space problem. Personnel costs are a problem; most towns have everything in one location which results in needing fewer certified people. As for alternatives to the current site he says that an alternative site is on Mountain Road where the town owns the land. There would be traffic issues. Working with Wilmot probably would not work because of a lack of space. A Cooperative may not be an effective approach.

A problem we have is that there is no place to store plastic. Also plastics and aluminum are very labor intensive. We don't have the space at the current site to store these items. We probably need to await the results of the study which will make both short and long term recommendations. He recommends that we first find out what type of facility is needed then look for a site. Mr. Prohl asks if we should recommend looking at the piece of land near exit 11 that had been previously mentioned.

**Bill Helm, Planning Board Chair**

Could the college offer us space given their current reduced student enrollment perhaps for the next couple of years until the 1941 Building site issue can be solved?

Sees tearing down the 1941 building since Chief Andersen has said that in the longer run the town should build a new police building.

**Other General Comments:**

- ✓ Discussed possible sites and the general sense was that it is not clear if any other sites besides the 1941 building and, possibly, the TDS building would be available.
- ✓ Perhaps we could move Recreation into college space and expand the police facility into their space for the short term.
- ✓ Perhaps we could move dispatch into college space for a couple of years.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the subcommittee will be Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Motion to Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dietrich  
Chair CIP Subcommittee