



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## **Conservation Commission MEETING MINUTES of July 20, 2016 8:30 AM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Brown (Chair), Laura Alexander, Ruth White, Michael Gelcius, Mark Vernon, Andrew Deegan, Tim Paradis, Michael Kennedy, Shawn Costello, Maggie Ford.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dan Allen

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tom Coverdale (Trail worker)

**Call to Order:** Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 8:35 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 June 22, 2016 as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Ms. St. John gave an update. There are no new applications. The Planning Board did approve the Alpaca Farm site plan. The site walk went well, there was much interest and concerns with animals coming in contact with the alpacas. The New Hampshire Fish and Wild Life gave input regarding some of the wild life concerns which is on the website as part of the records concerning the farm.

Meeting dates for August and September are posted. She gave an update of the mapping project. She asked the board to go through the CC files with them to open more space. She expressed that a lot of records are redundant due to multiple copies given to review.

### **Application Review Subcommittee**

Mr. Gelcius updated the Board on the subcommittee and noted that the members have changed. Michael Kennedy agreed to take the seat for Mark Vernon and the Board agreed. Mr. Gelcius said there was still an open spot which was made vacant when Jane McMurrich stepped down from the NLCC. The subcommittee now consists of Mike Gelcius, Andy Deegan and Michael Kennedy. Mr. Gelcius discussed the way the subcommittee reviews applications.

### **Easements and Land Acquisitions**

- *Pleasant Street East/West* – Chair Brown reported that the acquisition is complete in terms of ownership and the board is charged with the management responsibility. The easement on the west side, which includes the hiking trail and the beaver dam, needs to be updated. The plan is to amend or reissue the easement so that Ausbon Sargent will be the primary and the Town will be the owner.

Any changes to the lots, such as conservation or restrictions are to be done at the next Annual Town meeting. He went over suggestions that were given.

Ms. Alexander suggested changing the conservation easement language for the existing to add the west side commercial land and getting a stewardship program contribution.

Mr. Gelcius said that when he had discussed the acquisition of the property with attendees at the New London Town Meeting, most people asked if the property would be put under an easement. He feels expanding the easement would have a positive effect on the New London residents.

Mr. Vernon suggested having the water quality tested on both parcels. The board discussed when and where to test and what the cost are.

- *Clark Lookout Expansion Project* – Chair thanked the board for their support at the planning board meeting. The deed has not been given for review. Nor has the approved annexation plan because it has not been recorded as of yet. He explained the present easement and the restrictions that are being asked to be included. Mr. Deegan has the propose plan and is communicating with the Attorney General’s office to get an approval.
- *Desirable Lands List* – The board went over the list and talked about other available lots. Ms. St. John explained why people have called about the Lyon Brook Trail sign that is posted. She said it was to advertise where the trail is located.

Chair went over what the board has done in the past with contacting land owners and letting them know of the Conservation interest.

- *Phillips* – The board discussed the road concerns from ruts made by recent activity. The first fifty feet are very muddy. Chair said that Chief Andersen suggested cutting the lock in thirds for access, however, recent lock tampering has put that on hold.

### **Trails and Projects**

- Chair explained the trail agreements between the land owners and the conservation.
- *“You Are Here” Trail Maps* – The board discussed the maps being used and a map encompassing all the main trails on one, including mileage and installing a kiosk to post it on.
- *Hospital Trail* – Mr. Vernon gave an update on the detailed plan. The board went over the materials and cost needed.
- *Trail Patch Program* – Two people have completed the program.
- *Trail Worker List* – The Board discussed the amount of hours available for trails maintenance.
- *Phillips Trail* – Mr. Coverdale gave an update of the work that has been completed. He put in two benches placed along the shore front of Otter Pond as well.
- *Bog* – Ms. White said a sign saying no dogs allowed is needed for their safety. She suggested making the maps in a heavier laminate for reuse.

Mr. Costello suggested replacing the signs that have deteriorated or place additional kiosks along the trail. He also suggested using the word danger vs no for the dog signs.

Mr. Gelcius said that adding a permanent map of a trail at trail heads would be very useful. He noted that most trails currently have QR codes, which can be used by visitors to access maps on their smart phones.

The board agreed to get some new signs for the trail.

Ms. Alexander excused herself from the meeting at 9:44 am.  
Mr. Deegan arrived at 9:45 am.

- *Clark Lookout* – Mr. Coverdale talked about his helper, Jeff, who has helped him keep the trees in check and needs more service hours.
- *Kidder Cleveland Clough* – Mr. Vernon said the trail is going to be extended through to Morgan Hill Road. Chair said the grass needs to be done.

Mr. Deegan arrived at 9:54 am. Chair brought him up to date.

- The board discussed ways to promote the trail walks and the conservation.

Mr. Paradis & Mr. Kennedy excused themselves from the meeting at 10:02 am.

- *Low Plain Stewardship Project* – Chair said that Leo Maslin will be here later this week to start marking trees and has finished and given the application for the Certified Tree Farm to Tim Fleury, the County Forester, who has to approve it before its submitted. He is hosting an annual meeting to be held at the college in September. He would like to have a tour of the Low Plain Trail and have two of the board members & the tour be a part of his meeting. Chair suggested that at that time maybe a dedication for the Tree Farm could be scheduled.
- *Messer Pond* – Chair discussed the concerns about the frequent firearms happening nearby.
- *Tools* – A safety demonstration agenda for Chainsaw operations by NH Timber Owner's Association. They offer a four-hour demonstration. Chair explained the reason for and went over the details of the program.

### **Other Business**

- Chair asked for any receipts going towards the board's yearend financial budget be submitted.
- The board talked about the educational offerings from LSPA.
- Mr. Costello introduced himself and spoke about easement concerns with old files. He asked about the procedure for subdivisions for NL. Chair explained the land funds.

Mr. Costello asked if a cost vs evaluation study has been done. Mr. Deegan said the town has not. Cooperative Extension does and is called a cost of community services. This educates the Town on how the Conservation saves money.

Ms. Ford said the Forest Society (CLCA), a couple of years ago, did a similar program.

- Chair explained how letters were mailed to land property owners to let them know they were in the conservation in the past.

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held on August 17, 2016 at 8:30am. Located at Lake Sunapee Community Room on 116 Newport Road.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

**IT WAS MOVED (Mark Vernon) AND SECONDED (Michael Gelcius) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:47am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Richtmyer, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London