



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES August 6, 2012

PRESENT:

Peter Bianchi, Chair
Tina Helm, Selectman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator

ALSO PRESENT:

Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer
Kris McAllister, Tri-Town Assessor
Jay Lyon, Fire Chief
Dave Seastrand, Police Chief
Richard Lee, Public Works Director
Michele Holton, New London Resident
John & Rosa Vernalia, New London Residents
Beverly Yuskaitis, New London Resident
Kim Lloyd, New London Resident
Leigh Bosse, *The Messenger*
Tom Anderson, Detective, New London Police Department
Linda Hardy, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Donna Larrow, Administrative Assistant, New London Police Department
Lisa Hoke, New London Resident
David Bemis, New London Resident
Joan Pankhurst, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector
David Kidder, New London Resident and State Representative
Chad Denning, Recreation Director
John & Sue Clough, New London Residents
Kathie Seastrand, Springfield Resident
Jeff & Jackie Hudkins, New London Residents
Nonresident Taxpayers: Paul & Susan Nadeau, Peter Winship, Frank Wibil, Betsy & Don Little, Jessie Woeltz

Chair Bianchi called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Nonresident Taxpayer Meeting

Chair Bianchi explained that the nonresident taxpayer portion of the meeting is designed to bring nonresidents up to speed about things that had gone on since last summer's meeting and also to give them the opportunity to express their thoughts and concerns directly with the Board. He noted that there would also be a presentation to a citizen of New London for a life-saving act of heroism. The citizen had not yet arrived at the meeting, so he said they would begin with the nonresident portion of the meeting and would interrupt the discussion when the citizen arrived.

Chair Bianchi noted that there had been some personnel changes within the Town's officials and administrative staff. He pointed out that Mark Kaplan, former Selectman, had been on the Board of Selectmen for 15 years and this spring decided to retire. Janet Kidder was elected in May to fill the vacant seat.

Chair Bianchi explained that Wendy Johnson is the new Finance Officer in place of Carol Fraley, who retired, and has been on board since August of 2011. He noted that Peter Stanley (Planning & Zoning Administrator) had left the Town after serving in several capacities. He has changed careers and is working in the Upper Valley. They have hired a replacement for Mr. Stanley only after going through an interview process where 60+ resumes were received. After holding nine interviews, they offered the position to Lucy St. John, who currently lives in Concord. She will start on August 29th. Lastly, Chair Bianchi pointed out that Norm Bernaiche, the Tri-Town Chief Assessor, was no longer with them, having taken a position with the City of Keene. Kris McAllister is serving as Interim Chief Assessor. Ms. McAllister has been working as the Assistant Assessor for the past 6 years and is well prepared to serve in the interim position.

Presentation of Citizen Life Saving Award to Jeff Hudkins

At this time, it was brought to Chair Bianchi's attention that the citizen who was to receive the award had arrived.

A presentation was made to Jeff Hudkins in recognition of an outstanding accomplishment on May 13, 2012 for courage and heroism in a lifesaving act where he pulled an unconscious person from a burning car. On behalf of the Board of Selectmen and the Town, the award was given to Mr. Hudkins.

Police Chief Seastrand explained the incident. He said that Detective Anderson came upon the scene and witnessed Mr. Hudkins pulling the unconscious victim from the burning car, saving his life. The Police and Fire Departments continued with the life-saving aspects of the accident and put out the fire. While this was taking place, the gentleman quietly walked away from the scene. Chief Seastrand said that this was the sort of gentleman he wanted to have in this town. Fire Chief Lyon added that Mr. Hudkins and his wife live in New London on Main Street and had been celebrating Mother's Day weekend at the Inn at Pleasant Lake. He heard a noise and went to investigate, unlike many people who would just ignore it. A similar accident had taken place earlier that week on I-89 and two people died. In this case, in large part because Mr. Hudkins intervened, the victim survived with minor burns. He felt it was great that a citizen could help out in this way. Mr. Hudkins put himself in danger and he was being commended for his heroism. All in attendance applauded Mr. Hudkins.

Upon returning to the nonresident portion of the meeting, Chair Bianchi introduced the Department Heads including Public Works Director, Richard Lee, Police Chief Seastrand, Fire Chief Lyon, Finance Officer, Wendy Johnson, Recreation Director, Chad Denning, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Linda Hardy, and Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Joan Pankhurst. Donna Larrow, the Administrative Assistant for the Police Department was also present.

Chair Bianchi explained that since the last year's meeting, the change-over to the Fiscal Year (July 1 – June 30) was complete. Quarterly billing has been successfully implemented. The sewer project with the Town of Sunapee has gone to bid and has been awarded. The construction has started but probably won't be done until 2014. 65% of the cost will be paid for by New London to the tune of \$5.5 million dollars. The Town of New London has received a 25% loan forgiveness grant from the government to assist in the payment of this project.

Chair Bianchi added that the selection of the design firm for Elkins Transportation Grant is currently being negotiated. They have interviewed engineers and ranked them in order of qualifications. They are currently in negotiations with their first choice to go over the scope and price. Ms. Hallquist and Mr. Lee are handling these preliminary negotiations.

Chair Bianchi noted that the Pleasant Street Sidewalk is under construction. This was a "Safe Roads to School" grant project that the Town was awarded a few years ago and there was a lot of red tape and regulations to get through.

Lastly, the Town was issued a letter of deficiency on the Pleasant Lake Dam from the State saying the Dam must be repaired. During the process of preparing the required breach analysis for the dam, the engineering firm offered several scenarios that could address the letter of deficiency. Chair Bianchi said that it is going to be very expensive to do. The regulations state that the dam has to withstand a two and a half times a 100-year storm. They are negotiating with the State on this. Chair Bianchi observed that initial estimates put the upgrades at about a half a million dollars. This is a project that caught the Board by surprise.

At this time, Chair Bianchi opened the floor to the meeting attendees to make comments or ask questions.

Jessie Woeltz who lives on Pike Brook Road said that her family has lived in New London for 60+ years. She felt like nonresidents have no voice, were disenfranchised, and added that the agenda that night didn't touch on any concerns that she had. She noted that she felt that her concerns were not valued. Ms. Woeltz asked if the meeting would address nonresident issues or if they were just going to listen to what has gone on in the past year. She was concerned with school issues, trees falling down on her road and also that people had been on her lakeside property without permission and that she was told there was no budget for Marine Patrol who could assist in the matter.

Chair Bianchi said that neither Marine Patrol nor the school district were under the jurisdiction of the town. A large amount of their tax bill goes toward the school. He felt if she had a concern about noise, vandalism or a tree that had come down on her property, she should call the town officials or the office. He did not want to minimize her concerns. They strive to make sure that every tax payer gets the same services whether they are residents or nonresidents.

Ms. Helm wondered what Ms. Woeltz's concerns as a nonresident are. Ms. Woeltz said the way the lake is maintained and the invasion of privacy and people coming onto their beach. They have no recourse to call anyone. Her neighbor calls constantly and is told there is no budget for permanent Marine Patrol. She didn't feel they had a vote. Police Chief Seastrand said that the Police Department can help if there are unwanted people on her property and those people could be removed. Once people are in the body of water it is a public way and so they can't be restricted by local police. He added that Marine Patrol has been drastically cut back by the State.

Deb Putnam who lives on Pike Brook Road said she loves the Town of New London and has been coming to the town since she was a child. She currently lives in Boston. She loves coming here because it feels like a breath of fresh air. She opined that not a lot has changed since she came here as a kid when her Grandmother lived in New London. She thanked the Board of Selectmen and the Department Heads for keeping the town as it is. Her one complaint was that she is not able to go to the dump on Sunday because it is not open. She felt this was unfortunate. They also have a rental property and she worries about bears and sanitation with having garbage left out while they are gone. She thought it would be great if they offered the transfer station hours on Sunday's, even a short time like 8-10am on Sunday morning.

She asked why this was not possible. Chair Bianchi said there were some suggestions made last year to address this issue. They understand the want for expanded dump hours. He was hopeful that by next year at this time they would be able to come up with a solution for a more flexible dump schedule. Chair Bianchi said that it is a scheduling issue mostly and how the hours for employees would be reallocated.

Don Little who lives in the oldest summer house in New London on Knights Hill Road recalled that last year someone from Burpee Hill Road complained that the traffic was too slow as it was only a 25mph zone. He felt the opposite and has found the traffic to be too fast and noisy. He wondered if the Police Department could try to slow people down a bit in this area. Chief Seastrand said that this was entirely possible and he was happy to schedule additional patrols in that area.

Anne Cushman lives across the street from Mr. Little and agreed with his assessment of the current conditions. She said there used to be a 25mph sign on the road and it came down about a year ago. The traffic seems now to be like a speedway. More people use Burpee Hill and Knights Hill as a transportation route due to construction at the hospital. Ms. Helm asked if Mr. Lee could put up speed limit signs as they wish because it was a town road. Mr. Lee said he could.

Ms. Helm said that some of the signs near Bucklin Beach to prohibit parking had been stolen and vandalized which was frustrating. The newly instated parking ordinance had deemed the entire surrounding roads around the beach to be posted as “No Parking” or “Parking by Permit Only.”

Frank Wibil, Barrett Road, said that his grandchildren come up often and he has an interest in fishing with them. One frustration he had was the lack of public access to a lake where the children can fish. He didn't know if there was some way they could start an effort to get 50' of lakeside property to accommodate fishermen. It is important to him and children who don't have a place to fish. Chad Denning, Recreation Director, said that the town acquired a piece of land around Clark Pond that is an ideal spot to take children fishing. They have even taken some children from the Recreation camp there to fish and they had great results. Mr. Denning briefly explained how to get to Clark Pond.

Ms. Helm confessed that she had a problem with the word “disenfranchised” that Ms. Woeltz used to describe how she felt as a non-resident. She indicated that the Board of Selectmen meet weekly, have email and are open to communication with taxpayers, both resident and nonresident. She felt that the Town and the Board of Selectmen are there to serve their needs. Whether they live in the town all year or are a nonresident, they are paying taxes and deserve the services. She said that people shouldn't be shy and should persevere until they get a response that is satisfying to them.

Mr. Vernalia found that some of the boat ramps are poorly marked and are dangerous to put a small boat in the water. He wondered who in the town is responsible of maintenance and upkeep of the ramps. Chair Bianchi said the State was responsible for the ramp on Little Lake Sunapee. The Town owns the boat ramp on Pleasant Lake but is supposed to be maintained by the State. In the past, the Town has done repairs to the ramp even though the State is supposed to. New Hampshire State Representative David Kidder said that the budget for marine patrol on the lakes and the maintaining of boat ramps was cut in half in the State Budget. He hoped they could rectify this decision come November.

Chair Bianchi noted an email that was sent in from Nathaniel Stevens to be considered at the nonresident taxpayer meeting. Mr. Stevens supported the idea of having the Transfer Station open on Sundays. Chair Bianchi stressed that if someone can't make a meeting, they are welcome to email Kim Hallquist and she would forward their correspondence to the Board of Selectmen and the issue would be considered by the Board. He noted that they always respond to emails and letters, unless they are sent anonymously, and he

felt it was hard to imagine how someone could not find information if they ask Town staff. He felt they had a great staff that is more than happy to answer questions from people and he was proud of this.

Ms. Helm asked how many of those at the meeting visit the Town's website. Many of the people at the meeting raised their hands. Mr. Wibil thanked whoever updates the website as it does help them a lot when they are not in town.

Mr. Little pointed out that they used to list tax liens in the Town Report but do not any longer. He wondered how they were doing currently with the economic status. Ms. Hardy, Tax Collector, said that the total dollar amount for liens is in the Town Report but that individual names and amounts that are owed was discontinued 4-5 years ago as it is not required by law and to be sensitive to the individuals involved. If people want an individual list it is available to them upon request. They have not had any properties deeded to the town in many years, which is somewhat atypical to what is going on in other parts of the State. She indicated that the lien amount from this year and last year are almost identical and had not increased.

Chair Bianchi said that in September/October they will begin the budget process and hope to be completed with it in January. The Department Heads, Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee try to keep things as low as they can while still keeping the services currently offered in the Town.

Mr. Little said he heard some towns were shutting down some street lights. Chair Bianchi said that this was being done by the State for their lights near highway exits, including in New London, in an effort to save money, but the Town is not currently considering shutting off any town maintained lights.

Mr. Clough asked if anyone got tripped up by having one mailing that included two tax bills. Ms. Hardy said that they did a lot of advanced PR to let people know it would happen this way. The first time they did it they sent a reminder notice out and received many negative remarks about them having done so. They do have the dates on the website of when bills are mailed and when they are due. By the next billing cycle, instead of two separate papers for bills, they will have a one-sheet paper with all the tax information at the top and two tear-off coupons for the two payments. They bill semi-annually and collect quarterly. Ms. Hardy said that if people don't like quarterly payments, they can always pay both payments when they arrive upon the first mailing. She added that they are looking at a system that integrates the software they have that will help get the bills out online. They can also see an 18-month history from this website. In the future, they hope to be able to offer online payments.

Paul Nadeau thought the Post Office should paint their poles as it was looking shabby.

Ms. Yuskaitis said her mother was living at Woodcrest. She said that when cars are parked along the side of the street and people are trying to come out of the driveway and make a left-hand turn, it is difficult to see on-coming traffic and a terrible accident could occur. She wondered if there could be some solution to make it easier to get out of there to prevent an accident. Chair Bianchi said they would look into this.

Ms. Helm said the flag pole outside the office was contributed to by citizens and installed by the Public Works Department. The meeting attendees applauded to show their appreciation for this act.

Chair Bianchi reiterated that people should contact the town office with any questions or problems as they strive to be helpful to all taxpayers.

Beverly Yuskaitis – Morgan Hill Road Maintenance Request

Ms. Yuskaitis was given the floor to discuss an issue having to do with the repair and maintenance of a gravel portion of the road she lives on. She began by introducing her neighbor, Ms. Kim Lloyd. Ms. Yuskaitis commended Mr. Lee for doing a great job on Morgan Hill Road, and said she has spoken with Ms. Hallquist about this issue previously. She explained that Ms. Hallquist sent her the RSA that discusses the "repair of highways by town", which does not include any exceptions. She explained that the private road she lives on turns into a dirt road which goes to trails that the public and their guests of the Town of New London or anyone else can use. She had distributed copies of the Deed of Dedication, which was granted by the Webb family. She opined that the wording of the deed says that people can pass the paved road onto their gravel road to access the trails to enjoy the hiking, fishing and hunting. She said that Nancy Coonley, the neighbor who lives on the gravel road, wasn't able to attend that night's meeting.

Ms. Yuskaitis said that nine years ago the Town paid 1/3 of the cost to fix the gravel road that goes beyond the paved road. This year she asked for the Town to once again contribute to the cost of fixing the road but her request was denied. It seemed clear to her that there was an easement in favor of the Town and that this required the Town to maintain that portion of the road. Those who are living on the road don't use that portion of the road all that much. There are a lot of people who go up and down the road on their way to and from the trails, which creates wear and tear. She felt that they have to make sure there is access in and out of the trails in the event of emergencies. She felt the Deed of Dedication stated that the Town should help pay for maintenance of the area. Ms. Yuskaitis said that the New London Conservation Commission felt the same way after she met with them. She felt the Town was responsible for the road in its entirety and was no longer just asking for 1/3 of the cost, but for the cost in its entirety. She said she understood that money was tight but she said she pays taxes and it wasn't her problem. The trails are advertised on the Town's website and noted that there was a lot of "riff-raff" in the area. Lots of trash is left around and sometimes she calls the police when she thinks something bad is going on down there.

Chair Bianchi understood that in getting the easement there was no expectation that the town of New London was responsible for any part of the access to the trails; there was no commitment on the Town's part to maintain the road. It is a private road with an easement on it and is 250' long. To get to the trails private, part gravel and part paved, road has to be crossed. He didn't see that the Town contributing to private gravel road upkeep was any different than if the homeowners on that road thought the Town should fix the paved road if it starts to crumble. He didn't feel that the Town was obliged to maintain any of the portions of private road.

Ms. Yuskaitis said she wanted to put a no-trespassing sign at the bottom of the road noting that cars would be towed at their owners' expense. She was asking for \$2,250 and believed that it was the Town's responsibility to take care of the road. Chair Bianchi disagreed with this opinion. He saw no condition in the deed for the Town to be held responsible to maintain any part of the road.

Ms. Yuskaitis said she felt it was wrong to have that kind of response when everyone travels there to enjoy the trails and everyone wants to keep it safe. She said they will put a "No Trespassing" sign up and asked that the trail be removed from the Town's website. Chair Bianchi didn't think this was a fair position and didn't like the fact that they were closing an access road to the trails.

Ms. Lloyd asked if they agreed that it was a private road and that they (the people who live on the road) were responsible to maintain it. Chair Bianchi agreed. Ms. Lloyd asked if, since it is a private road that they are allowed to gate it. Chair Bianchi said that they do have the right to declare it as a private road and can gate it if they wish. Ms. Lloyd added that as she saw it, the Town of New London owns a piece of the private road due to an easement, and they should maintain it.

Ms. Kidder felt it was very unfortunate that when the land was given to the Conservation Commission in the 1970's that they didn't make provision for parking and access to it. It is a large piece of land and perhaps there are other access points to the trails. In the future, the Conservation Commission or Ausbon Sargent should always have a provision for parking and access. Ms. Kidder felt they should explore another access point so it wouldn't be an issue for them to have to maintain the property. It is their right to post the road in order to keep people off of it. Ms. Yuskaitis suggested that perhaps people could access the trails from Twin Lake Villa.

Ms. Hallquist said that the town has an easement and that this doesn't mean they own the property. In the 70's, when the easement was donated to the Town, there was no provision for how people were going to get to the trails. She suggested that maybe part of the gift of the easement was that Mr. Webb would maintain it; she wasn't sure. The Conservation Commission doesn't have to do anything on land with easements and don't have to maintain the trails if they don't want to. The difficult part for the Town is that by putting public funds towards something like this, increases their liability. The Town has great protection on town roads, but any money spent on non-town roads increases their liability. The whole road is private so the property owners on the road might well expect financial assistance to maintain the pavement if they were granted assistance with the gravel portion, that is now at issue.

Ms. Yuskaitis said she didn't want to take away the enjoyment of the trails and said there are many people who come to use them. She doesn't want this to be their liability either if there is a fire there, etc., and she also noted that many hikers leave trash in the area. Ms. Hallquist noted that the issue of trash on the road is separate from the issue of the town maintaining the road.

Ms. Yuskaitis summarized that she doesn't want to be a mean person and keep people from enjoying the trails. She thought the Board of Selectmen had a responsibility to pay for the upkeep of that portion of the road. It has been nine years since the last time it was repaired. Chair Bianchi said that in the letter dated June 25, 2012 from Nancy Coonley, she asked that the dirt section be fixed and to be split six ways to equal \$375 from the commission but now they are asking for the entire amount. The bottom line was that he didn't think it was the Town's responsibility to maintain a private road, no matter if it was \$375 or if it was \$2,250. If it is their collective decision to put up a no-trespassing sign, he thought that was their right. He noted that Ausbon Sargent also has a sign there near the trails and should be notified of the change in accessibility. Ms. Yuskaitis said that they are already aware about the possibility.

Ms. Kidder said that they have a responsibility to the Town and this does not include maintaining a private road. She is opposed to maintaining the road and said that they need to find another access point to the property so the public can use the trails. Ausbon Sargent can work with the Conservation Commission to find a place where there is parking and isn't close to someone's home.

Sue Clough said she talked to Ms. Yuskaitis previously and sympathizes with her position, but agrees that the Town was doing the right thing by not agreeing to maintain any part of the road. She was sorry for Ms. Yuskaitis as it was an issue for her, but the Town cannot make itself liable for taking care of a private road. Ms. Helm said that this would also set a precedent.

Chief Lyon said that if people are partying and throwing trash about, that is under the Police Department's umbrella and they will want to know about it, and he felt sure Chief Seastrand would follow-up if he was aware of it. Ms. Yuskaitis said that they do know about the area as she has called them on a few occasions. Chief Lyon said that if someone was setting fires or campfires and if the road is becoming a gated community it would be good for the Fire Department to have access in order to prevent a delay in services.

It was the feeling of the board that they did not want to pay for this road maintenance. Ms. Yuskaitis asked them to have the trail access point be removed from the website and noted that the road would be posted as “No-Trespassing”. The Conservation Commission will be advised as they are the ones who maintain trails and publicize trail information.

Approval of Minutes

July 23, 2012

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to approve the minutes of July 23, 2012, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Page 4: Everett not Everet
“Kris” McAllister, not “Chris”

Old Business

Ms. Kidder said that previously, they had discussed New London’s mutual aid calls and whether they are paid for by the other towns. Chief Lyon said that if it is a forest fire, mutual aid towns can opt to charge for reimbursement. Most towns around do not, and consider the aid to be mutual aid. Or they can pay for the other town’s employees in the towns who helped at a rate of 100% and the State will reimburse this at 50%. Everyone helps each other. Chief Lyon said that they used some mutual aid foam and food to feed the firefighters during the fire on the back side of Pleasant Lake. This would be in the range of \$1,500 and it would come from the Fire Department’s budget.

Chief Lyon said that they cannot charge for mutual aid responses. There is nothing in the statutes that says charges can be made with exception of task forces. For building mutual aid fires, they do not charge. For forestry fires a mutual aid town can ask the town where the fire was for payment for their personnel if they wish. Chief Lyon assured the Board of Selectmen that the mutual aid system was in place and that it was a bit difficult to explain without being confusing. Chair Bianchi opined that New London was a good resource to other towns. Chief Lyon said that other towns rely on New London for their personnel as much as New London relies on other towns for their apparatus since New London does not have as much apparatus as some of the surrounding towns.

New Business

Ms. Hallquist passed around the re-stated conservation easement at Low Plain to add the additional acreage approved by Town Meeting voters. The Conservation Commission has reviewed and approved the easement as presented. The Board of Selectmen signed the easement.

Kris McAllister – update on BLTA

Ms. McAllister informed the Board that she was able to settle a 2010 tax abatement case, previously filed by the taxpayer with the Board of Tax and Land Appeals Board (BTLA). The taxpayers live out of state and it has been difficult to conduct a visual inspection of the interior of the property. She was able to do an inspection last week and the taxpayer came to an agreement as to what the structure value should be adjusted to. It is a very modest camp and the owner is actually looking into the permitting process to take the building down. They settled this issue the past Friday. Ms. McAllister said that it was a .38 acre parcel and is on Little Lake Sunapee on Checkerberry Lane at the cove inlet.

Ms. Kidder asked if it was a sub-standard lot. Ms. McAllister said yes, but is consistent with the other properties on Checkerberry Lane. Ms. Hallquist said they are not within the 50’ buffer and can rebuild with permitting in place. Ms. Kidder felt it was still a high amount for the building. Ms. McAllister said that it is the land that is of value and the home has only a \$40,000 value on it. The building had been in

the \$69,000 range previously. The value of the building is the footprint. All of the reduction was on the building and the land value stayed the same.

IT WAS MOVED (Kidder) AND SECONDED (Helm) to approve the recommendation by Ms. McAllister, as explained. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Administrator's Report

Ms. Hallquist noted that the recent New London Hospital correspondence regarding ambulance service was a surprise to some of the other towns as there was no finality to the earlier committee meetings. She noted that Sunapee has requested a meeting with the Hospital to discuss the billing. Chair Bianchi was surprised that Chief Lyon had not been contacted and privy to this information as he was their representative from the town.

Chief Lyon said he was concerned that there was only one backup ambulance from 10am – 6pm and they have had to go to Newport for ambulance services of late. This is a huge issue. Chair Bianchi assumed that since there was a committee that Chief Lyon and the committee would be included in this information. Chief Lyon said at the last meeting with Municipal Resources, Inc. (MRI), the proposal was to change the length of the contract from five years and to rewrite it. MRI is done and this is between the hospital and the communities the hospital serves.

Ms. Hallquist noted that there was some question about the reserve for the ambulance and if a town leaves, what do they do with the money? Chief Lyon said that Grantham is thinking about getting out and has contacted Lebanon to find information on the cost of their services. There is also some confusion about the fiscal year as some towns are on different schedules. It is hoped that Terry LeBlanc, New London Hospital, will agree to meet with the towns' administrators to work this out.

Ms. Hallquist brought up the issue of the town's shooting range. She noted that a local business owner called to request that the town range not be used as it was adversely impacting his business. She noted that she and Chief Seastrand discussed this issue and he was agreeable to making sure there was no use by his department during the time in question. Chief Seastrand indicated that he has been trying for several years to get fencing up to keep people out to stop unauthorized shooting there. Chair Bianchi said that the town's range is off of Mountain Road and they keep their excess gravel and crushed glass there as well. Mr. Lee said he didn't see a fence stopping people from going into the area to shoot.

Ms. Hallquist noted that Chief Seastrand said that only authorized New London Police Department personnel should shoot at the town range, however, there has been evidence of others (non-authorized) shooting there as well, which is very hard to stop without a fence or signs says "no trespassing". Ms. Hallquist said that the Police Department usually shoot in the colder months while wearing gloves and do not generally bother people who are enjoying the outside during the summertime. Ms. Kidder didn't feel the gunfire was a huge problem at the golf course and noted that when she has heard the gunfire, she thought it came from the Gun Club. She agreed, however, that living near it would be bothersome.

Auditor's Checklist

Chair Bianchi said that he looked through the checklist and he filled some of it in. He would work with Ms. Johnson and Ms. Hallquist to get it completed. Chief Bianchi's colleagues agreed this would be appropriate.

Committee Meeting Report

Ms. Helm reported on the Planning Board meeting noting that there was a tree-cutting request that was approved. Also, someone from the college was supposed to come in for a wind-turbine project but that

they did not show. Mr. Jesseman came to request permission for a platform to install a solar panel for the college. It will be located behind the Ivey Science Center. They also discussed the Master Plan Summary. Ms. Helm said she did mention that the Board of Selectmen was disappointed with the final result but they didn't want to spend any more time or money on it. She added that there was some concern that although the Zoning Ordinance and Site Plan Review requirements were on the website, they were hard to find. If these could be made more easily accessible to people on the website, it would be helpful.

Ms. Hallquist said that Chair Cottrill wanted to see if Ms. St. John (new Planning & Zoning Administrator hire) would like to/be able to attend the next Planning Board meeting on the 28th of August even though she doesn't start until the 29th. Ms. St. John will be asked to attend.

Upcoming Meetings

August 13th – ZBA at 7:30pm

August 20th – Board of Selectmen at 6:00pm.

Other Business

Ms. Hallquist informed the Board that she has received citizen input regarding the difficulty in coming out onto streets with parked cars blocking views. Ms. Kidder said parking is a real problem especially with Hospital Days when they closed Main Street for the parade. People don't know where to park and it needs to be addressed. Mr. Lee said they lost four spaces when they re-stripped Main Street. Chair Bianchi felt they should address parking on Main Street at some point. There is no parking from the Playhouse down the street and signs were put up by private homeowners. A homeowner was concerned that people were taking their signs down. He wondered if they would like to put up permanent signs because it is a no-parking zone. Pressey Court and Everett Road also had private signs up. The more they cut off parking, the harder they are making it for people to get to the Barn which is an integral part of their town. Chief Lyon said that it would make sense for there to be a sidewalk and designated parking on the Playhouse side of the road, although the homeowners wouldn't like this. Chair Bianchi asked if anyone knew why there was no overnight parking allowed on Main Street. Mr. Lee said it started in the winter due to snow removal needs. He wasn't sure why it was extended year-round. Later it was thought perhaps it was so college students who did not get a parking permit through the college couldn't leave their cars on Main Street for long periods of time.

Pathways Engineering Update

The Board discussed the most recent meeting with Pathways, attended by Ms. Hallquist, Mr. Lee and Chair Bianchi. It was the consensus of those attending that the results were not encouraging as Pathways does not seem to be up to speed on the LPA Manual, or on the unique needs of the Elkins area. Ms. Helm wondered if they should just move on to the next firm on the list. Chair Bianchi said that they would need to let them know of their decision. Ms. Hallquist said that she would be fine notifying Pathways that they were not comfortable with them moving forward with the project. Mr. Lee said that they asked the engineers to do the RFQ and began with a walk around the Elkins property. After they found out they were the number one choice, Pathways asked 12 more questions and went on another walk-around. These were all questions that had already been addressed. There were two specific things he brought up as being necessary for the project: a historical review and a structural engineer to analyze the bridges and area before putting the new guardrail in. Mr. Lee didn't have a good feeling about moving forward with Pathways, Ms. Hallquist and Chair Bianchi agreed. Ms. Hallquist got the impression that Pathways wasn't up to speed with what the residents of Elkins expected with the project. Ms. Hallquist felt that Pathways are capable engineers but the added requirements of the LPA Manual are not within their area of expertise.

Chair Bianchi said that the engineer wasn't able to explain how they would replace the sidewalks on the bridges as it is narrow already. Ms. Helm said that they would like to look to an engineer as the professional who would initiate questions about the project. They haven't done this. Mr. Lee said that the citizens input meetings did not seem to be valued by the engineer. He doesn't bring the key people (project engineer and manager) to the negotiation meetings and they should be involved.

Ms. Helm liked the notion of working with a small firm rather than a large firm but she didn't feel comfortable about the way Pathways was meeting their needs. She thought they should move on with someone else. Ms. Hallquist said they don't have to get approval on this decision by Mr. Rose (State DOT) but that she would copy him on the letter she would send to Pathways indicating that they would not move forward with them.

**IT WAS MOVED (Tina Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to move into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II(e). THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.
Tina Helm: yes, Kidder: yes, Bianchi: yes**

Upon returning from non-public session, Chair Bianchi said that with regards to The Seasons [discussed at the previous Board meeting], Ms. McAllister gave him a list breaking down the sales justifying the 104.5 ratio. He observed that the ratio she got was because she used sales that were four years old and he questioned the advisability of including these sales. The Board noted that if Chair Bianchi has questions on the methodology used by the town assessors, he should feel free to take it up with them during regular office hours.

Application for Building Permit:

- Craig & Deb Langner, 1299 Route 103A (Map & Lot 128-007-000) replace window with 5' French door & increase frost wall by 4' – Permit #12-073 – Approved.
- Rob & Cindy Daley, Burpee Hill Road, (Map & Lot 070-044-001) build 12x12 storage shed – Permit #12-074 – Approved.
- Thomas Rucinski, 39 Seamans Road (Map & Lot 085-005-000) replace basement walls & floor – Permit #12-075 – Approved.
- Colby Sawyer College, 541 Main Street (Map & Lot 085-033-000) 3 building permits:
 1. Install pocket door in Colgate Hall – Permit #12-076 – Approved.
 2. 6 precast concrete pads – Permit #12-077 – Approved.
 3. Cement pad for solar panel – Permit #12-078 – Approved.
- Mary Ann Hayward, William & James Mitchell, 73 Wilmot Center Road (Map & Lot 064-001-000) demolish old shed – stick build replacement – Permit #12-079 – Approved.
- Murray Pond Association – Murray Pond Road (Map & Lot 045-017-000) repair beach add silt fence – Permit #12-080 – Approved.
- Anne & Marc Margulies, 53 Lamson Lane (Map & Lot 049-013-000) build 12x16 dormer – Permit #12-081 – Approved.

Application for sign permit:

- Ladies Benevolent Society of Elkins, bake sale – 8/18/2012 – Approved.
- Susan Phipps, yard sale – 8/11/12 at 125 Newport Road (Dental office) Approved.
- LSRVNA – sign at information booth – fundraiser 8/15/12 – Approved.
- Free Concert @ Morgan Hill Bookstore – 8/11/12 – sign at information booth – Approved.

Other Items to be signed:

- Disbursement voucher
- Plodzick & Sanderson, PA/ Accountants & Auditors – 18 month audit services agreement
- Application for Raffle – Dead River Company - Approved
- Application for rotary Club Raffle – (after the fact) Approved

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to adjourn the meeting.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London