



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES October 13, 2014

PRESENT:

Janet Kidder, Chair
Peter Bianchi, Selectman
Nancy Rollins, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Ed Andersen, Police Chief
Bruce Hudson, New London Resident
Minette Sweeney, *The Intertown Record*

Chair Kidder opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

Town Administrator's Report

Ms. Hallquist said the Town is still working on the Haddad Trust with regards to money being left to the Town by Mary Haddad's sister who recently passed away. She added that the Town is still waiting to hear back from William Rose (DOT) on the preliminary design submitted for the Elkins sidewalk project. Lastly, Ms. Hallquist noted that a CIP meeting was held the previous week and she thought it went well. Another meeting is planned for October 23rd.

New Business

RFPs for Whipple Hall Analysis

Chair Kidder said the Town has received two proposals for an engineering analysis of Whipple Hall. One is from The HL Turner Group, and one is from Dennis Mires, PA. Selectman Bianchi thought the Town should go with Dennis Meyers. Selectman Rollins agreed and felt his proposal was responsive to what the Town was looking for. Ms. Hallquist noted that building committee members Frank Anzalone are also in favor of Dennis Meyers' proposal.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to accept the proposal for \$9,800 from Denis Myers for the analysis of Whipple Hall.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meetings and Reports

Planning Board

Selectman Bianchi reported that the Planning Board met for a CIP meeting the week prior and they heard from the Library, the Recreation Department and the Public Works Department. He said there would be many things to consider but hoped that by October 23rd they would be able to gather all the information and have a report to the Select Board and Budget Committee. He noted that the Planning Board is taking a different approach to the CIP from the approach taken in years past. He said one issue that keeps coming up is parking and the lack thereof.

At the regular Planning Board the following evening, Selectman Bianchi said they plan to discuss the definition of “family” and “accessory buildings.” Currently the ordinance states that no more than five non-related people can live in one unit. The definition of an accessory building also needs to be clarified.

Chair Kidder said for properties that have non-related individuals living in them, parking should be adequate. Selectman Rollins said the Planning Board should consider what happens when the five unrelated individuals bring in other non-related people; everything is multiplied. Selectman Bianchi said Selectman Rollins’ suggestion would be hard to address and they don’t want to try and police that issue.

Selectman Bianchi noted that the regulation having to do with the five unrelated people in one dwelling was present in the zoning ordinance some 20 years ago, probably even longer. Chair Kidder thought that initially it was meant to address servants living in the large estates in town. Selectman Rollins suggested it also could have come from the boarding house. Chief Andersen noted it is the off-campus housing where they are seeing more and more problems with parties.

Tri-town Assessing Meeting

Chair Kidder reported that at the last Tri-town Assessing Meeting they learned that the Grand List for New London has increased. Kris McAllister and Norm Bernaiche (Tri-Town Assessors) will be attending a conference in Portland, Maine, on high-end properties. She indicated that the Assessor’s budget would go up 3% the following year, which included \$8,000 for data collecting using an outside source. Of the total assessing budget, New London pays 32.78%, Sunapee pays 37.43%, and Newbury pays 29.47%. These percentages are based on the number of parcels within each town.

Recreation Commission Meeting

Chair Kidder said at the last meeting of the Recreation Commission there was some discussion of the Easter Egg Hunt. Additionally, it was determined they would not move forward with the bike safety signs at this time. The Chad Denning Memorial Walk to School is planned for Wednesday, October 22nd. There will be numerous chaperones from the school, as well as some Colby-Sawyer College students and the Police Department lending a hand. Chair Kidder said the Recreation Department needs more candy for the Halloween festivities and it was noted that candy could be purchased and dropped off at Colonial Pharmacy. The Colby-Sawyer College Players will portray ghosts, etc. during the haunted walk, and the Outing Club will host a movie night on Halloween. The Recreation Department is promoting the Pumpkin People contest and there are several displays throughout New London already. Chair Kidder noted that the upgrades and repairs to the warming hut [at the Bob Andrews Memorial Skating Rink] are being done by Matt Grimes, Building Maintenance, and were almost complete. Mr. Grimes is currently reviewing the work needed at Elkins to make the bathrooms handicap accessible. Scott Blewitt, Recreation Director, will talk with Ms. Hallquist at a later time about the Commission’s ability to accept financial donations/gifts. Lastly, Chair Kidder shared that Mr. Blewitt is looking into creating a “festival of trees” this year in Whipple Hall.

Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2014

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the minutes of September 30, 2014, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

October 14 – Planning Board Meeting, 7:00pm
October 27 – Board of Selectmen’s Meeting, 6pm
October 29 – Budget Committee Meeting, 7pm

The Board set meeting dates for November and December.

Election Poll Sitting

November 4, 2014 – Whipple Hall- polls open 8AM – 7PM.

Selectman Rollins: 8am – 12pm

Chair Kidder: 12pm – 4pm

Selectman Bianchi: 4pm – 7pm

Ms. Hallquist requested that at least two Selectmen be present at the close of the polls and for the counting of the ballots. Selectman Rollins said she would come back to the polls when they close.

Other Business

Recap of Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting of October 11, 2014

Selectman Bianchi noted that representatives of each of the member towns that participate in New London Dispatch were on hand to discuss the future of the current dispatch service. There were no criticisms or complaints about dispatch, but a suggestion was made to create a compact between the towns similar to how they have a regional school district and the Tri-Town Assessors. Selectman Bianchi thought New London would need assurance that all the towns would agree to a compact in order for it to work. He was glad to hear that the other towns are happy with the service provided through New London Dispatch. He thought they should look over Bob Barry's report¹ further to review the recommendations that were made regarding Dispatch in New London.

Selectman Rollins wanted to schedule a time to talk more about the report from Mr. Barry. She also wanted to talk about the process of follow-up with the other towns going forward. She thought the CAC meeting went well and hoped the selectmen go back to their respective towns to share what was discussed. Ms. Hallquist suggested waiting until the call for service figures are available (after October 30th), and 2015 bills are determined, before calling to schedule another meeting with the towns. This information will be available for the board's consideration at the November 10th meeting of the board.

Mr. Hudson wondered if New London had enough time to create a multi-town agreement with the other towns based on the various budgeting cycles of the towns involved. Chair Kidder said the other towns would need to present this kind of agreement with their voters at their town meetings, as would New London. Selectman Bianchi noted that at this time they could ask that the other towns provide feedback to New London on the possibility of entering into such an agreement.

Chair Kidder thought once the numbers from dispatch came in, they could decide how to continue the conversation with the other towns. Mr. Hudson feels the discussion is going in the right direction. Chair Kidder said the whole conversation about dispatch evolved because of the Budget Committee's suggestion to cut dispatch to lower the budget.

Cupola at Whipple Hall

Selectman Bianchi opined that the cupola at Whipple Hall looked terrible and needed to be painted. He offered that they have the money available and it should be done. He thought they should get some quotes from local painters to see what it would cost to do the job.

Selectman Rollins wondered if painting would be enough and perhaps it would need additional work; she agreed that they should have someone at least look at it to see what it needs. Chair Kidder thought they should wait and do this when the Academy Building is being tended to as far as painting or siding. If there are painters on the premises already, they could do both jobs.

¹ Town of New London Public Safety Communications Study, August 2014, prepared by Robert Barry, Primex.

Ms. Hallquist said Mr. Lee (Public Works Director) was working to get a quote for the Academy Building as well as the bandstand to make further improvements. He would be putting an ad in the Kearsarge Shopper to invite those interested to come and look at the bandstand at a certain time, and decide what needed to be done. Quotes could be given by interested parties.

Selectman Bianchi recalled there may have been some provisions the Town had to abide by after the College gifted the Academy Building to them. He thought this should be researched to see if things, such as vinyl siding, were prohibited. This will be investigated.

Surplus Recommendation – Bruce Hudson

Mr. Hudson asked how the surplus is generated for use to reduce taxes. Ms. Johnson (Finance Officer) explained that this year the Town added \$279,000 to the surplus which comes from the budget surplus (money budgeted by not spent) and from revenues in excess of what was budgeted. She noted that historically the Town tries to keep the surplus at \$1 million dollars although DRA has never told them how much they should keep. Ms. Johnson said she feels keeping \$1 million dollars in surplus is a conservative amount she likes to keep. Selectman Bianchi said New London has a great record of being fiscally prudent.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to enter into non public session to discuss pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (e).

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Janet Kidder – Yes, Nancy Rollins – Yes, Peter Bianchi – Yes

The Board entered nonpublic session at 6:42pm.

The Board re-entered the public session at 6:45pm.

Application for Building Permit:

- Constance Appel – 97 Hilltop Place (144-001-097) – Replace sliding glass doors with walls and windows, add propane insert – APPROVED
- Thomas Rucinski – 39 Seamans Road (085-005-000) – Complete bathroom in basement – APPROVED
- Steven & Nancy Allenby – 28 Lamson Lane (049-031-000) – Install 10' x 14' shed – APPROVED
- Glen & Kristine Lohmann – 90 Oxbow Road (121-027-000) – Add 24' x 10' shed to existing barn, including stairs into attic – APPROVED
- Glen & Kristine Lohmann – 90 Oxbow Road (121-027-000) – Extension of permit # 13-097 to build farmer's porch – APPROVED
- James Stanzler – 331 Bunker Road (062-019-000) – Construct 119 square foot deck – APPROVED

Application for Use of Town Office Conference Rooms:

- Ladies Duplicate Bridge – Mary Anne D'Alton – Mondays June – September, 1-4pm

Other Items to be Signed:

- Temporary Sign Permits
 1. The Fells – Sandwich Board at Info Booth – 11/1 – 11/16 – APPROVED

2. Our Lady of Fatima – Sandwich Board at 724 Main Street – 11/6 – 11/8, and Sandwich Board at Info Booth – 11/1 – 11/8
3. Friends of Market on the Green – Info Booth – 10/11-18, 11/22-29, 12/13-20, 1/17 – 24, 2015, 2/21-28, 3/21-28, 4/18-25 – APPROVED
 - Memorandum re: Land Use Change Tax for 039-004-000 – Forty Acres Road
 - Memorandum re: Land Use Change Tax for 106-013-006 – Pond’s Edge Lane
 - Warrant for November 4, 2014 Polls

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Hallquist noted that she received a text from Norm Bernaiche, Chief Assessor that the MS-1 form would be ready for signing on Tuesday. She asked the Board to reconvene the meeting at that time in order to approve the form so that the tax rate could be set.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to continue the meeting until 6:55pm the following evening to sign the MS-1. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London