



TOWN OF  
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 19, 2013**

**PRESENT:**

Selectmen  
Peter Bianchi, Chair  
Tina Helm, Selectman  
Janet Kidder, Selectman  
Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator  
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Bob and Emma Crane  
Casey Buiso and Cicely Markoff, 1941 Building Committee  
Leigh Bosse, "*The Messenger*"

Chair Bianchi called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

Update on Upper Valley Regional Planning Commission (RPC) Activities – Bob Crane, NL Representative

Mr. Crane spoke about a regional and countrywide effort to bring broadband to rural areas. This program will consist of a series of connections, providing broadband from one small town to another. One of the connections is proposed to be within the Town of New London. There is a push from the Upper Valley to conduct a survey within the town to see who has access, who does not, and who wants it. Mr. Crane said the State legislature is considering adding broadband as something a town can bond if they choose to take over the maintenance of that service and provide it to everyone.

Mr. Crane said that a survey may already be created by the RPC for use in New London. The RPC has already contacted the New London Fire Chief, Colby-Sawyer College and New London Hospital to survey them. The last two mentioned had not yet replied to the survey.

Chair Bianchi asked if this effort was part of NH FastRoads. Mr. Crane said it was. Chair Bianchi said that someone from NH FastRoads came and spoke with the Selectmen about the project. He noted that it was his understanding that fiber optics is already available in New London. He noted that the Board has not yet made a decision about joining with the Fast Roads program and providing a space in a town building for their equipment. Chair Bianchi said he had no problem with a survey being taken and thought the same survey should be used throughout each town to have a consistent comparison of information.

Ms. Helm worried that if they used the Town's list-serve to distribute the survey, it was like reaching those people who already have the capabilities they are talking about. Mr. Crane

disagreed and said that the kind of technology they are talking about will enable people to make use of more advanced communications, such as higher speeds of information transfer and the ability to download movies and television.

The Selectmen agreed that a survey could go out via the town's list-serve with the results from the survey collated by the RPC. Mr. Crane asked how often the Board would like updates on the activities of the RPC. Chair Bianchi asked that the Town's representatives to the RPC (Bob Crane and Nancy Rollins) continue to provide updates to the Board about every 4-5 months or as the need arises.

#### Decision by the Kearsarge Regional School Board on the 1941 Building

Chair Bianchi reported that the School Board accepted the Town's proposal to allow the Town until May 2014 to enter into a lease to acquire the 1941 building. The School Board agrees not to enter into a lease with any other entity until after the May 2014 Town Meeting. This option to enter into a lease will cost the Town \$10,000. This information was brought before the Budget Committee the previous Wednesday.

Chair Bianchi thought this was a good deal. Ms. Markoff wondered who would be responsible for payment of the \$10,000 option. Chair Bianchi said that from his understanding, the Town would be responsible to raise the funds through a warrant article at this coming Town Meeting. He noted that nothing had been formally decided, but that was how they were thinking.

Ms. Helm wondered who would pay for the engineering studies of the building during the option year. Ms. Markoff suggested that it would demonstrate the Town's support to pay the \$10,000 and then have the 1941 Building Committee raise the funds for the engineering studies. Chair Bianchi always thought that paying for these kinds of studies was the intent of the 1941 Building Committee. Ms. Markoff agreed and noted that it would further illustrate the public/private partnership.

Chair Bianchi said in his opinion the 1941 Building Committee was appointed by the Selectmen to obtain the 1941 Building and he felt that the committee had successfully done what they were charged to do. He thought there should be a private 501(c)(3) entity separate from the 1941 Building Committee, as a Town committee has to abide by certain regulations with regards to meetings and decision-making procedures. Chair Bianchi thought this separation of groups would help people be clear about who it was they would be donating money to; the Town or the private group. He summarized that the committee should recharge the group and it should consist of a non-profit portion of the building committee, and then a town-appointed portion. Ms. Markoff understood that he was asking them to terminate the ad hoc committee and recreate themselves. She wondered what they should do to make this a viable Town project going forward into the future.

Ms. Markoff wondered if the Recreation Department could be a component of the Town-appointed assembly. Chair Bianchi felt that the Recreation Department was quite busy at the moment and with having an interim director just being hired, it would take them a while to get up to speed with what the normal activities would be. Ms. Markoff said that she thought it was

always envisioned that the Recreation Department would make up a big part of the community center and felt they all needed to cooperate. She thought perhaps they could have the Outing Club be a part of the discussion as well. Chair Bianchi noted that the Selectmen had not voted to hire a full or part-time Recreation Director after the six month interim period was up, so they shouldn't assume that there would be a full-time replacement.

Ms. Helm said she was reticent to dissolve the current 1941 Building Committee and would like to see the structure continue through to Town Meeting. That does not preclude conversations between now and May on how the structure would continue going forward. She felt there was a good working relationship and communication between the Selectmen and the 1941 Building Committee. After the official letter from Dan Wolf (School Board Chair) arrives, they will be able to present the information to the Budget Committee and then draw up a warrant article for this year's Town Meeting.

Ms. Helm thanked the 1941 Building Committee for their energy and their work on the project thus far.

#### Interest Fee on Late Payment of Taxes

The Board discussed information from Linda Hardy, Tax Collector, concerning a request for abatement submitted by the Louise Howard Trust. Ms. Hardy recommended that the Board deny the request for abatement as she said it is the taxpayer's responsibility to pay their taxes on time and the Town treats each case the same way regardless of who has forgotten about or misplaced their bills.

**IT WAS MOVED (Tina Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to deny the request for abatement from the Louise Howard Trust. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### Town Administrator's Report

Ms. Hallquist reported that she attended a Hospital Days Meeting this past Friday at New London Hospital. Also attending was Dave Seastrand, Jay Lyon and Richard Lee for the Town, the Chamber, Rotary, Lions Club and the Hospital. The purpose of the meeting was to begin planning discussions on how the event, scheduled for August 2-4, will take place.

Ms. Hallquist noted that Tom Galligan, President of Colby-Sawyer College has informed her that the college will be awarding the "2013 Town-Gown Award" to the Town of New London. The award will be presented during Commencement in May. Ms. Helm said the award is given to those who commit to working with the college for mutual benefit.

Ms. Hallquist provided information to the Board of Selectmen regarding the Bandstand Committee and the Steve Mendelson Trust. She noted that the issue of how the monies are to be spent has been a convoluted process in the past and it would be helpful to come to a resolution. Chair Bianchi said that in Town Counsel Bart Mayer's letter from 2008 it said that the monies from the trust should be the responsibility of the Town and handled by the Trustees of the Trust

Fund. Chair Bianchi did not feel that the New London Bandstand Committee and the Kearsarge Community Band were really separate entities.

Ms. Hallquist said that there is no question that the Town has custody of the money and the responsibility to invest the funds; the question outstanding is who is to say that the expenses requested are appropriate for payment with Trust funds? She understood that the 501(c)(3) was created solely to accept monies left by Mr. Mendleson in an insurance policy, prior to that the New London Bandstand Committee did not have that designation.

Ms. Helm suggested having a meeting with Aarne Vesiland to discuss the issue. She agreed with Ms. Hallquist that it was time for the Selectmen to make a decision. This has gone on for so long and they need to come to a resolution.

Chair Bianchi envisioned that the money in the trust would be spent very quickly if it was handed over to the Bandstand Committee to use as they wish. Ms. Hallquist said that the Bandstand Committee was made up of Steve Mendelson's friends and perhaps he wanted them to have that discretion with the money. She noted that the stipulation that the money must be used for "programming costs" is pretty broad. Ms. Kidder said the difference in this situation is that it is not taxpayer money and it can be spent the way the Bandstand Committee wants to.

Ms. Kidder felt that the Bandstand people are trying to do the right thing and bring music to the area. She did not feel like they wanted to take the money and run and she did not want to fight with the Committee on it. Chair Bianchi thought there was a legal conflict of interest as the Bandstand Committee hires their own band more often than the other bands and were charging more than the other bands were charging. The Board will invite Mr. Vesiland and members of the Bandstand Committee in to a meeting to discuss these issues before making any decisions.

#### Green-Up New London Day

Ms. Kidder spoke with Administrative Assistant Linda Jackman and found that there is a list of people who currently volunteer to clean up the roadsides in town. Ms. Kidder noted that given this, she would not go any further until she heard back from the person who inquired about establishing the event in New London.

#### Recreation Commission Presentation to the Budget Committee

Ms. Helm said she was concerned with how this presentation would go on February 27th. She thought that the Selectmen had approved a full-year position and that it was part of the budget they had approved. She thought they should discuss it and make sure they were on the same page. Ms. Helm worried that perhaps the Recreation Department was one place the Budget Committee would target to find a savings for the coming year.

Chair Bianchi said he was under the impression that they had put the money in the budget for a full-time replacement, in the event that they decide to hire a full-time person, should they determine that was what they wanted. It was never voted on by the Board that they would automatically fill the Recreation Department with another full-time person.

Ms. Kidder believed that they would want to hire someone full-time based on the information received from the younger population in the Town. They want a year-round, full-time Recreation Director. She added that if they are successful with the 1941 Building, there will be an even greater need to have this full-time person on board as programming opportunities will only grow.

Ms. Kidder said that the Recreation Department would be ready with a presentation to the Budget Committee but they may not be prepared to answer some of the direct questions that some of the Budget Committee members like to ask.

Ms. Helm hoped Chair Bianchi would support keeping the full-time salary in the budget at this point. Chair Bianchi said he would stand by the budget the Selectmen put together, regardless of whether he was personally for or against certain portions of it. He did not think they had made a decision on whether to have a full or part-time replacement.

### Committee Reports

#### *Planning Board Meeting*

Ms. Helm said that the Planning Board voted to approve, with some stipulations, Ed Canane's Silvo-Pasturing plan on his Pleasant Street property. The other issue that came up was Wilbur Grace of Radio Shack asking to move into the Main Street location where Foremost Builders was. The Planning Board observed that the parking in that area is tricky but it was not felt it would pose any greater problem than it had in the past. Mr. Grace's fast-track application was approved.

Ms. Kidder noted that she attended the Planning Board Meeting when Mr. Canane's application was considered. She felt that there were some people on the Planning Board who did not know where the subject property was located. Ms. Kidder observed that they had to abide by this bad amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that was adopted last year. It was noted that the regulations have no parameters. The Canane's were expected to come in with a site plan and there were no regulations or parameters offered for them to address. She felt that it was a poorly written amendment.

Ms. Helm said that Ms. St. John has had a number of situations arise with the zoning ordinance. She would really like to change a lot of things but the Planning Board was not ready to make such drastic changes so quickly. They will chip away at these changes little by little. Ms. Kidder thought there have been some zoning amendments that were not well thought out and it was wrong that the Planning Board has the ability to just waive them at will. She was glad that Ms. St. John was interested in tightening the ordinance up. Ms. Helm observed that there is considerable work required for Planning Board members to become well-educated on appropriate matters. Ms. Kidder opined that if they cannot afford the time it takes to do it right, they should get off the board. Chair Bianchi agreed with Ms. Kidder.

Ms. Helm felt that the Planning Board members are beginning to see the contradictions in the zoning ordinance and perhaps more changes would be made sooner than later.

*Recreation Commission Meeting*

Ms. Kidder noted that Scott Blewitt has accepted the position as the Interim Recreation Director on a part-time basis. Mr. Blewitt's first day will be February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Minutes of February 4, 2013

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to approve the minutes of February 4, 2013, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Next Selectmen's Meetings

Monday, March 4, 2013 was changed to Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.

Monday, March 18, 2013 changed to 6:00pm instead of 8:30am.

Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30am; Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm; Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.

School elections: Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> Ms. Helm would be there from 8am-12pm, Chair Bianchi would be there from 12:00pm - 3:30pm, and Ms. Kidder would be there from 3:30pm – 7:00pm

Budget Meeting: Wednesday, 2/19 at 7:00pm

Planning Board Meeting: Tuesday, 2/24 at 7:00pm

Ms. Hallquist noted that the Recreation Commission has offered to allow the appointment of the Recreation Director as the Emergency Management Director (EMD). This would be a continuation of the past practice where Chad Denning filled the role of EMD.

Application for use of Whipple Memorial Town Hall

- Democratic Party – Jack Harrod – March 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 9:00PM - approved

Other Items to be signed:

- Disbursement voucher
- Abatement request
- Dept. of Safety – radio recipient & certification
- Application for raffle
- Land Use Change Tax application – Map & Lot 118-007-000 Brown to Paquette
- Intent to Cut – Map 023-005 – Approved.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London