



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES July 8, 2013

### PRESENT:

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

### ALSO PRESENT:

Jason Lyon, Fire Chief  
Don Bent, Health Officer  
Ed Andersen, Police Chief  
Richard Lee, Public Works Director  
Larry Ballin, New London Resident  
Pat Blanchard, New London Resident  
Peter Ruth, New London Resident  
Leigh Bosse, *The Messenger*  
Minette Sweeney, *The Intertown Record*

Chair Helm called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to open the meeting.**

### Recognition of Dr. Don Bent, former New London Health Officer

Chair Helm began by noting that the Board is privileged to recognize Don Bent for his 32+ years of service to the Town of New London as its Health Officer.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to award a proclamation to Dr. Don Bent. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chair Helm read the proclamation aloud, which details Dr. Bent's past accomplishments and his extensive commitment to the Town of New London. They awarded Dr. Bent with the proclamation and photographs were taken by local newspaper representatives.

### Thomas Parks, Fox Run Lane

Mr. Parks was present at the meeting after having communicated with Ms. Hallquist and Mr. Lee. Mr. Parks said that Fox Run Lane is a cul-de-sac providing access to six houses and he is representing those homeowners. He wanted to find out what it would take to get their road paved and what the possibilities were. Until paving can be done, he thought re-grading Fox Run Lane needed to be addressed with regard to when it is done and how it is left after grading as in his opinion the maintenance of the road is lacking. Mr. Parks thought the roads that are graded each year should be reviewed first to see if grading is even necessary as he felt there are times when it is not needed. He did not feel that Fox Run Lane needed to be graded often as it hasn't seen a lot of wear and tear.

Mr. Lee said it is the Public Works Department's policy to grade all the roads before they treat the roads to control dust. He said that while a road may look fine to the residents, they do need to be graded. Mr. Lee reminded everyone that they experienced 8" of rain in the month of June and this can be a detriment to the condition of the roads. Grass clumps will appear because they have to pull the shoulders of the road in to insure the water will run off into the ditches. Roads that are gravel are bound to have rocks in them and he does not have staff enough to follow behind the grader to remove clumps of grass and rocks.

Mr. Bianchi said that he has had 35 years of construction experience and is familiar with Fox Run Lane. He went to see the road, as did Ms. Kidder and Chair Helm, and he did not see a problem with the road at all. He thought it was one of the best roads in the Town and did not see it to be a problem. It is a flat road with no hills and steep ditches. Mr. Bianchi did not believe the road was on an early paving schedule or that they intend to pave all the gravel roads in town. Other roads would surely come before Fox Run Lane because they have pitches, slopes, and safety and drainage issues.

Ms. Kidder said she was surprised at the condition of the road after reading Mr. Park's emails, as the road did not appear to be in bad condition at all. Chair Helm noted that she drove on Fox Run Lane soon after the deluge, and did not think the road was that bad. She wondered if a compromise could be made to go back with a York rake once more to see if it would help. Mr. Lee said he would do it but not until they get a stretch of good weather. Material needs a chance to compact without rain as it gets very muddy. Chair Helm asked Mr. Parks to be patient with the Public Works Department and the weather. Mr. Parks said he understands the complications with the weather and scheduling. He did not understand why they could not just take his suggestion to review the road before grading as it may save money, gas and time. Mr. Parks said he doesn't mind living on a gravel road but understood they would have to agree to disagree on this issue, as the tastes of the Selectmen were much different than his and the others who live on Fox Run Lane

Ms. Kidder said that his concerns are duly noted and going forward there would be more communication between him and the Town.

#### Richard Lee – Sunday Transfer Station Hours

Chair Helm said they have traditionally had a non-resident taxpayer's informational meeting for those who do not live in New London full-time but who reside in town during the summer. For the last six years the issue of having the transfer station open on Sundays has been a leading topic at this meeting. The Board felt it was time to take some action on this issue and would like to come to a resolution with Mr. Lee to see if the request could be accommodated.

Mr. Bianchi said he had read over Mr. Lee's memo, stating the options he had come up with. He felt they need to accommodate what the townspeople want and it was thought that at the last meeting, perhaps the transfer station could be open half a day on Sundays, all year long.

Mr. Bianchi suggested that since there were three full-time employees at the transfer station, they could open with one part-time person and one full-time (existing) person on Sundays, for four hours. The full-time person would then take a half a day off during the week. The full-time employees could alternate this so they would only have to work every third Sunday. Alternately, they could close the transfer station one afternoon that they are normally open during the week and the full-time employees could alternate working a half a day on Sundays.

Chair Helm said it had been suggested that the facilities manager position could fill in on the weekend at the transfer station.

Mr. Lee said the transfer station is open 25.5 hours/week and felt that was enough. He thought these suggestions would pose for a scheduling nightmare and didn't think it was fair to ask his people to work Sundays. He added that part-time people have no commitment to the job and was hesitant to hire someone part-time.

Mr. Bianchi thought the first concern for any service the Town gives, including road plowing, police, fire or any other public service, is to serve the bulk of the people in the town. Ms. Kidder said she has heard from full-time residents of the town who would appreciate the transfer station being open on Sundays. If this is something a non-resident taxpayer would like to have, after they pay taxes and not send any kids to the schools, etc., they should consider it.

Chair Helm wondered if they could have a dumpster located at the stump dump for Sunday dumping. Mr. Lee said they don't have a way to dump a dumpster and it would be an extra cost to have a dumpster there. He added that there would be no way to monitor what people would be throwing into the dumpster throughout the week.

Mr. Lee said it is up to the Selectmen of what they will do. He will do his best to work with their requests. Mr. Parks wondered if they had researched what other surrounding towns do with their transfer station hours that have similar situations. Mr. Lee said that it is a town by town issue and some are open more than others. Ms. Hallquist agreed that it is a tough situation and while it is a scheduling challenge, it is something that has been requested a lot. She added that they have to honor whatever hours they commit to.

Mr. Ballin thought having the transfer station open on Sundays was a bad idea. He thought it was a convenience issue for a small amount of people and would be inconveniencing their valued employees at the transfer station, who are the faces of the Public Works Department. He didn't think they should ask the Public Works Department employees to juggle their lives to convenience a few people. There are other options, such as trash pick-up or hiring a property manager who can be paid to pick up trash after people leave. He felt they had a good system currently and he felt they serviced the public well.

Chair Helm said that these people are paying taxes and to expect them to pay extra to have people come pick up their trash was unfair. Mr. Ballin disagreed. He said they all pay taxes and doesn't understand why they can't bring their trash on Saturday rather than on Sunday morning.

Peter Ruth of 42 West Side Drive said that perhaps switching Tuesday's hours to Monday (when it is usually closed) could help. Many who are in town for the weekend may not leave until Monday. Chair Helm said that while that may be a solution, the request has been for the transfer station to be open on Sundays as this was seen to be the most convenient time.

Chair Helm said that they can always try something and if it doesn't work they can go back to the way it was. Mr. Ballin rebutted that if they have something that is working well for the vast majority, why change it? It is a quality of life issue for the employees.

Mr. Bianchi said the Public Works Department employees work odd hours in the winter plowing. They are hired to provide services to the town for fair and equitable terms. He said he would like Ms. Hallquist and Mr. Lee to explore the options for a scheduling plan for this proposal.

Norm Bernaiche, Tri-Town Assessor - Tax Abatement Recommendations

Mr. Bernaiche said that in “The Seasons” there was repeal, and they are sending a letter to the others who live in the development to get some information. Through the abatement process there were some things that came to light that needed to be looked into further.

Ms. Kidder wondered about the shopping center. Mr. Bernaiche said that they pass the taxes through to the tenants. He believed that the people who bought the center are professional and knew when they purchased it that there was potential for abatement. Their income hasn’t changed but the tax impact to the tenants has gone up. Chair Helm understood some of the tenants at the plaza were concerned with these increases as it is a tight market for all of them. Mr. Bianchi said that the request for abatement from the shopping center seemed unreasonable.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to accept the abatement recommendations as made by Norm Bernaiche dated June 30, 2013. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Request for Abatement of Water Precinct Taxes

Ms. Hallquist said she sent a letter to the DRA to get their take on the situation, since it is unusual. This is in regards to a bill that was sent after the fact. It is not a lot of money but could clearly set a precedent. Chair Helm asked Ms. Hallquist to respond to the individual requesting the abatement to let her know that the Town is waiting to hear back from the State on how to proceed.

Upcoming Meetings

July 13 at 7:30am – CAC Meeting  
July 22 at 6:00pm – Selectmen’s Meeting  
July 23 at 7:00pm – Planning Board Meeting  
August 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am - Non-Resident Taxpayer Meeting. Regular Selectmen’s meeting to follow.  
August 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm – Selectmen’s Meeting  
September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00am – Selectmen’s Meeting  
September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am - CAC Meeting

Appointments

*CAC*

Ms. Hallquist said she sent out five invitations for open CAC spots. These individuals have not yet replied as the letters just went out. She indicated that Ben Dulac said he could not serve, but that Marie Rossachacj has accepted the invitation.

*Conservation Commission*

Chair Helm said she received an email from Bob Brown about the Conservation Commission appointments. John Clough and Mike Gelcius would like to join and there is one seat available.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to appoint Mike Gelcius to the Conservation Commission. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Planning Board*

Ms. Hallquist said she spoke with Tom Cottrill, Chair of the Planning Board, who said he would like to have Deirdre Sheerr-Gross remain as an alternate as he values her opinion. She is not able to attend many of the meetings due to scheduling, but is happy to stay on. Chair Helm said she would like to put this decision off one more meeting and then they would decide how to proceed. She felt the Planning Board was an important enough committee in the town that if folks can’t come to the meetings, they have to be tough and fill it with someone who can.

*Zoning Board*

Ann Bedard and Nancy Rollins want to join.  
Courtland Cross agreed to be an alternate.  
Doug Lyon wishes to stay on.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to appoint Ann Bedard and Nancy Rollins to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, and to appoint Courtland Cross as an alternate. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Public Works Updates – Richard Lee

Mr. Bianchi asked if the boat ramp permit had been submitted yet. Mr. Lee said it would be submitted by the end of the week. He just finished the design the other day.

Mr. Bianchi asked about Lamson Lane. Mr. Lee said they are waiting to hear back from the State. There is a new person handling their case. They need to find out how much money they still have available to do more work.

Mr. Bianchi asked about paving. Mr. Lee said they paved about 4.5 miles and used about 3,309 tons of asphalt. There was \$185,000 in the paving line. Grinding and paving allows them to do a little less than a mile. Shimming allowed for a little over 4 miles with this amount of money. They were left with \$6,300 and used about \$3,000 of this to purchase some knit pack to repair some of the shoulders.

Mr. Lee said he didn't want to spend all the paving money for the new fiscal year to provide for some cushion should they have a hard winter and need to purchase more sand/salt. The paving quotes provided from the paving companies are good for the summer. He would like to pave Rowell Hill and Ridge Road this summer but would need to go back out to bid as it needs to be graded and compacted which was not part of the paving quote he was given for the other paving projects in town. He would come back with quotes for the Selectmen to choose from.

Chair Helm said she was approached by a resident about the intersection of County Road and the shopping plaza as there is a pot hole there. Mr. Lee said he has heard this complaint and has suggested that there is plenty of road in the area to avoid the pot hole. There are several areas in town like this.

Ms. Kidder asked about the sidewalk to the Conservation Commission trails on Pleasant Street as it is too steep. People have to go across her property to access the trails. Mr. Lee said he would look into it. There was no provision on the plan to grade this area down.

Mr. Lee said that Ms. St. John received a call about the footbridge at Elkins. Apparently, the rail was about to fall off, some planks were rotted, etc. He went down and taped it off so people would stay off of it. They patched it up last summer but it is in need of more work. Ideally, he would like to extend the culvert underneath the bridge and create a rock wall and install a sidewalk and get rid of the bridge.

Ms. Kidder noticed that people are sunbathing in the boat launch area and didn't think that was a safe place to do so. Chief Andersen said they have tried to keep people away from the area but when doing so, receive a lot of complaints from residents asking if they can be allowed to enjoy the area and use that space. Mr. Lee said that people have been tying a rope to the rail behind the gate house and boogie-boarding and riding in tubes on the water going into the spillway. He was worried that should someone let go of the rope, they could get hurt or killed on the rocks below.

Mr. Bianchi wondered if anyone could be ticketed for this kind of use at the lake. Chief Andersen said that if it is posted and they felt it appropriate they could issue a disorderly conduct ticket. It was suggested that more signs could be posted to keep people off the area. Ms. Kidder thought a substantial fine should be issued to anyone who is on the dam at all. If someone were to fall in and get hurt or killed, the Town would be responsible. Chair Helm said she would review the ordinances to see exactly what they say. Ms. Kidder said she would be happy to go with Mr. Lee and Chief Andersen to the site and see what they could do to make it a safer place.

#### Town Administrator's Report

##### *Bench Request & Donation*

Ms. Hallquist said that one person called and requested a bench be placed on Pleasant Street. Later on, another person called and wanted to donate a bench. She wondered if there was somewhere on Pleasant Street it could be placed. One person wanted it from Bittersweet to the right towards Job Seamans Road. The other side of the street past Bittersweet is too overgrown and there are water issues. Mr. Lee said they could create a bump-out to place a bench like they did on Newport Road. The bench would be put away for the winter, but would be placed back in its spot in the spring. Chair Helm asked Ms. Hallquist to contact the donor and thank them for their suggestion and ask if they would like the same kind of bench found on Newport Road. The location in mind would be along Pleasant Street near the Kidder property. Mr. Lee said they can have a brass plate put on the back of the bench if it is in memory of someone. He preferred these types of benches to the granite ones.

##### *Barn Playhouse Noise Complaint*

Ms. Hallquist said that she and Corporal Zuger met with Tom DeMille of the New London Barn Playhouse, Amanda (the company manager) and Fred Sladen to talk about the noise coming from the property housing the barn players. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the complaints of neighbors and to urge the management of the Barn Playhouse to impress upon their staff that they must keep the noise down or neighbors will call the police for help.

##### *Morgan Hill Bookstore Deed*

Ms. Hallquist indicated that the Morgan Hill Bookstore deed has been recorded.

##### *Refunds from LGC to the Town of New London*

Ms. Hallquist shared that a refund from the LGC health trust was received in the amount of \$75,000. They also received a property liability insurance refund in July of \$11,897.80. For the new fiscal year they received \$75,250.27 from the health insurance, and a dental insurance refund of \$ will go in as income except for the small amount that will be returned to the employees for the portions they paid.

#### Committee Reports

##### *Recreation Commission*

Ms. Kidder said that the closet that was discussed at Bucklin Beach at the last meeting has been built by Chris Gaherty, and it came in under budget. Mr. Lee's people have built eight picnic tables which are now at Bucklin Beach. There are 8 ready to go to Elkins that just need to be painted.

Ms. Kidder said that Mr. Blewitt had asked her to make it known that there is a Goffstown bus being leased to the town to transport children to the summer adventure programs. There are no children from Goffstown being brought into town for camp. The Recreation Commission would also like to see an updated website for the Town and the Recreation Commission's pages. LGC has come to train the lifeguards, who have also trained with the New London Fire Department, and with Sunapee on rescues.

Review of Minutes

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the minutes of June 24, 2013, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Other Business

Peter Ruth wanted to thank the city and the Selectmen for the summer recreation they have for the residents, primarily the boats at Bucklin Beach. He saw it as a great asset to have sailboats, paddle boards and kayaks available for their children/grand-children to use when they come to visit. Learning to use these types of things give the children skills they will enjoy all their lives and he has never seen a program like this anywhere else.

Application for Building Permit:

- Jeffrey H. Wheeler, 275 Route 103A (Map & Lot 080-012-000) build 10 x 16 deck – Permit #13-062 – Approved.
- Dr. Siklar & Martha Banerjee, 135 Lamson Lane (Map & Lot 049-018-000) build wooden arbor - Permit #13-063 DENIED
- Deborah Hoover, 39 South Cove Road (Map & Lot 045-023-000) build new deck – Permit #13-059 – Approved.
- Jane Smedley Trust, 406 Elkins Road (Map & Lot 077-032-000) demolish greenhouse – Permit #13-060 – Approved.
- Westwind Trust (Amy Johnson), 596 Lakeshore Drive (Map & Lot 050-006-000) install wooden shed – Permit #13-064 – Approved.

Application for temporary sign permits:

- Wilmot Farmers market – sign at information booth – July – September – approved.
- New London Garden club – sign at information booth – July 20-27 – approved.
- Ladies Benevolent Society of Elkins – sign at information booth – July 13 – August 10 – approved.
- COA Chapin Senior Center, 37 Pleasant St. – Book Sale – 7/20 & 21 – approved.

Application for permanent sign permit:

- KH Kitchen LLC, 499 Andover Road (Map & Lot 098-011-000) – Approved.

Application for use of Sydney Crook Room:

- Adventures in Learning – Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> & November 13<sup>th</sup> 9:30-12 - Approved

Other Items to be signed:

- Disbursement voucher
- Tax Abatement in the amount of \$3.75 (Map & Lot 029-003-000) lot should have been retired
- Warrant Yield Tax Levy – in the amount of \$1157.65 (Map & Lot 023-009 & 010)
- Warrant Excavation Tax Levy – in the amount of \$74.00 (Map & Lot 086-001-000)
- Intent to cut – Alf & Michelle Rylander, Elkins (Map & Lot 089-007-000)
- Intent to cut – Robert Thomas, (Map & Lot 137-019-000)
- Abatement Recommendations memo from Assessing office

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to adjourn the meeting of**

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London