



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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DRAFT Minutes of the August 21, 2013 Conservation Commission Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Brown (Chairman), Andy Deegan, Rick Anderson, Laura Alexander, Dan Allen, Terry Dancy, Mike Gelcius, Emma Crane (arrived at 10:00am)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ruth White

OTHERS: Gary Anderson

Chair Brown opened the meeting at 9:00am.

He noted that Ms. St. John was out sick that day and would not be there to present any permit applications to them. Gary Anderson was there to explain a wetlands permit application he would like to submit. He wanted to explain his plans to the Conservation Commission so they would understand his intent.

Mr. Anderson said he and his wife have lived in New London since 1995 on Twin Lake Villa Road. They also own two lots on Little Lake Sunapee where Twin Lake Villa Road meets Route 114. A new boat house has recently been built on one of the lots. The opposite end of that lot, on Route 114 near the state culvert, they would like to remove the damage done by Hurricane Irene two years ago. There was a huge washout which caused debris to be dumped into the lake. A 4' deep area near the culvert is now just about 3" deep. When the lake is drawn down this fall, they would like to remove the debris, which includes not only branches and wood, but also asphalt. About 45' out from the shore is where the debris extends. The debris extends about 40' in width, creating a delta shape. He wasn't sure which wetlands application they should apply for.

Mr. Anderson said that they would like to have an excavator go in and take the debris out during the scheduled 5-year drawdown. He showed the area the material would be placed once removed, which is on their property. He felt this would restore the shoreline, and would benefit everyone by removing the asphalt and other debris from the lake. They would like to hire Stewart McInley, who did the work on his boat house this year.

Mr. Allen asked if the excavation would be above the water level during the draw-down. Mr. Anderson said that they plan to use a turbidity curtain and it would be left up until the water was clear. Mr. Rick Anderson asked if this area used to be a beach. Mr. Anderson said he wasn't sure but knew it was all sand under the debris. He noted that he had just received permission from the Conservation Commission to restore the sand on the beach area on the property. Mr. Rick Anderson said that Mr. Anderson had noted that fishermen used to fish in this area when it was at a 4' depth. Was public access allowed in this area? Mr. Anderson said he didn't mind if people fished there but preferred that they stay off of the delta.

Mr. Dancy felt the drawdown was a good opportunity to remove the debris that had gone into the lake from the wash-out.

IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Terry Dancy) to approve the plan to remove debris from the lake as presented by Gary Anderson.

Mr. Rick Anderson said that they will probably need to define how they would be removing the debris; by hand or by machinery.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Brown passed out a summary for a State Shoreline Permit Application which involves 688 Lakeshore Drive. The applicants are John and Lisa Garrihan and they would like to get a permit to demolish an existing

house and rebuild a new house and garage on the property. Since the Conservation Commission didn't have any plans or information on the site they decided to table the discussion until such information became available.

Review of Minutes from July 17, 2013

Chair Brown suggested that under the section: "Others present" the names of Bob Stewart and Richard Lee be added. There were no other comments.

IT WAS MOVED (Rick Anderson) AND SECONDED (Andy Deegan) to approve the minutes of July 17, 2013, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Planning Board Update – Emma Crane

Ms. Crane indicated that the Planning Board had met twice since the last Conservation Commission meeting. They discussed the Owl's Next tree-cutting request that the Conservation Commission had tabled. She had learned that the project had been put off for another month or so. Chair Brown said that the trees had been marked and what they wished to cut was significant. He thought they should make another visit to the site. A visit was made to the site recently and it was noted that Leo Maslan was in attendance, which was beneficial. They are still waiting to see how the count would come out and Mr. Maslan is continuing to work with the owners and would report the facts back to the Town. Chair Brown said that some serious discussion would need to be had with the Planning Board, as they will need to be involved with this issue.

Mr. Dancy suggested telling the Planning Board that this requires more participation on their part. It is not solely a Conservation Commission decision. Mr. Anderson said that Peter Bianchi and Jeff Hollinger from the Planning Board attended the site visit and a lot of good discussion ensued regarding tree-cutting. He said that Ms. St. John had suggested some changes to the tree-cutting request procedure that should be tabled until the Planning Board has had enough time to discuss it further.

Ms. Crane said that another meeting she attended was a joint meeting between the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen. She would propose that the Conservation Commission sit down and meet with the Selectmen as there are some misconceptions as to their role and what it should be. She felt there was confusion as to the role of Ms. St. John as it is different than the role of Peter Stanley. Chair Brown said that in the past it has been suggested that Ms. St. John make site visits but it has been determined that this is not part of her job. Mr. Dancy said that the Conservation Commission is supposed to take on an advisory role, but the Planning Board is responsible for making the decisions.

Chair Brown said that the new form Ms. St. John is offering for tree-cutting requests only references the Conservation Commission and doesn't mention the Planning Board at all. He was not in favor of this lengthy form but thought the current form could be used and would work as long as the guidelines were followed.

Ms. Crane said she would like a joint meeting between the Conservation Commission and the Selectmen. She would like to discuss the role of the Conservation Commission as they see it. She senses frustration from some of the members of the Conservation Commission with regards to Ms. St. John's role with the Conservation Commission. There was some discussion as to site visits and who was responsible to do them.

Working Group - Rick Anderson

Mr. Anderson said that this is a group of people who have come together with the intent to review the ordinances related to water resources, comparing them to local towns, prioritizing recommendations, and suggesting where ordinances could be more clearly written or expanded. Their thoughts will be brought forth to the Conservation Commission who would then decide if they should be shared with the Planning Board and the Selectmen.

Easements/Acquisitions/Desirable Land List

Chair Brown said their last acquisition was Clark Pond in 2008. 10 letters have been sent out to owners of parcels that are important to the Town. These owners may be hard to convince to sell, as they have received similar letters from other organizations (Ausbon-Sargent) and they aren't in need of added funds. As of yet, there were no responses from the letters that were sent.

Chair Brown said that looking at the list of Town-owned land and what is stated in the Master Plan and the annual report from the Conservation Commission; they have talked about levels of risk, benefit and cost. He thought the risk of the Selectmen selling a property, such as the Philbrick-Cricenti Bog was low. Mr. Deegan said that the bog is too important to the town and would be virtually impossible to build on. Chair Brown wondered why the Colby Sanctuary was on the list as a low-risk for the Town. It was stated that the property is surrounded by forest and there was no right of way to it.

Chair Brown noted another parcel Tax Map/Lot #083-09, which is 14.7 acres adjacent to the Outing Club. There was some uncertainty as to where this property came from and the exact location of it. Mr. Deegan said he would look into the parcel to get more information on it.

Ms. Alexander departed the meeting at this time.

There was some discussion pertaining to properties that should be followed up with.

Trails

Chair Brown said that Steve D'Angeli was out of the country but had worked the allotted 244 hours for his internship. He has spoken with Ms. Hallquist to see if there was a way to pay more for additional hours by using some unused funds. This is a possibility and would enable more work to be done by Mr. D'Angeli throughout September. Chair Brown shared that Mr. D'Angeli worked about 20 hours/week and has done a great job. He is a good communicator, a self-starter and is very dedicated.

Dan Allen said the trail he recently cut goes from the end of the pre-existing shore trail. He went up onto the ridge across a quarry and went to what is shown as the vernal pool (which is not actually vernal), and joined the existing trails next to the skidder trails. It is cut and marked.

On Newport Road, Mr. Allen said he has tried to use their weed wrench to pull up the Purple Lustrife, but it just cuts the stems off; the roots are very strong. He cut the flowers from an area as a test to see if it does any good. He hopes to get some more work done on the Clark Pond trail soon.

Chair Brown said they are basically out of lumber and they will need to purchase some more to put up to dry over the winter.

Chair Brown noted that they had put a gate up on the Snay property near Phillips. It is too high, but can be lowered. There has been more activity at Morgan Hill, which has resulted in more garbage in that area. This has happened even with the added signage. There has also been evidence of fires and partying at Clark Lookout. There are broken bottles up there and he noted it was a hard location to patrol. Chair Brown said they made up keys for each cruiser so the police can gain access to the gated trails.

Mr. Gelcius asked about the overlook at low plain. He wondered what they should do with the debris that had been cut and is now lying around. Chair Brown recalled that Mr. Stanley had mowed that area in the past but doesn't any more. Mr. Gelcius said it would look better if it was cleaned up, but he wasn't sure if it should be left alone. It could be difficult to mow again if the debris is left there. It was decided that Mr. Gelcius and some people from the Elkins Fish & Game Club could go in and rake out around the benches. The area would need more cutting this fall.

Chair Brown said that it is very hard to get Hemlock but they could get pressure-treated from LaValleys. He said they were authorized to make this purchase.

Chair Brown hoped to get the bridge at Low Plain repaired sometime in September or October. He wasn't sure how quickly the Highway Department would get their mower fixed and get to the mowing at Phillips. If they can't do it this year, they should hire someone to come in to do it. Mr. Deegan said he has someone who mows the Spofford Field and could get him to do it. It would be about \$300-\$400. Dave Carey also mows fields and could offer an estimate.

Chair Brown asked Mr. Gelcius how the kiosk was coming at Low Plain. Mr. Gelcius said it should be done by the next meeting. They had to add some things to the design after the last meeting. He said there are two telephone poles in the ground now that held up the old kiosk. He wondered if they could use 4x4's or metal posts and take the telephone poles out; they were not level and not in good condition. He wondered if it would be better to put the kiosk on the inside of the gate to keep it from getting damaged by plowing in the winter. Chair Brown thought maybe they could cut a clearing for it to go into. He found that packing the hole with bluestone after the posts are placed in the hole kept things where they should be. Mr. Lee at the Public Works Department should be asked before this material is taken, however. He is generally fine with it. Sand or other rocks don't do as good a job.

Chair Brown said that Mr. Gelcius had been appointed and Ruth White and himself, reappointed to the Conservation Commission. He thought they should reappoint a chair at the next meeting. Assuming he was asked to continue he might not be in a position to do so unless things are done a little differently. It was taking a lot more work and time than he could spend, especially when it comes to budgeting. He said they could discuss this at the next meeting. Mr. Gelcius suggested Chair Brown bring a list of things that could be delegated so that people could take on additional tasks.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 25, 2013.

Mr. Anderson thought it was useful having Mr. Gary Anderson come in to explain his project. It was a quick and easy way to gather a lot of information and made it a smooth process.

**IT WAS MOVED (Andy Deegan) AND SECONDED (Rick Anderson) to adjourn the meeting.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:58am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London