



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## **DRAFT Minutes of the February 19, 2014 Conservation Commission Meeting**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Brown (Chairman), Mike Gelcius, Laura Alexander, Andy Deegan, Rick Anderson, Emma Crane, Terry Dancy, Dan Allen**

**MEMBERS ABSENT: Ruth White, John Clough**

**OTHERS: Bill Green, Richard Lee, Greg Grigsby (Pelletieri Associates)**

Chair Brown opened the meeting at 9:01 am. He noted that Ms. St. John would not be present at the meeting as she was out of the office.

### Approval of Minutes from January 15, 2014.

It was noted that the correct spelling of "Odell" should not include an apostrophe, as was written in the minutes.

*The Conservation Commission unanimously approved the minutes of January 15, 2014, as amended.*

### Elkins Sidewalk Project Update

Mr. Lee, Public Works Director, presented the Elkins sidewalk project and explained in detail the scope of the projects. Plans, drawings and photos were reviewed. It was agreed that this was an important and beneficial project and that the environmental impact was minimal.

*The Conservation Commission unanimously approved the permit application for the Elkins Sidewalk Project, as presented.*

### Shoreland Application – Mendillo at Hastings Landings Road (Map/Lot 116-003)

Greg Grigsby, Pelletieri Associates, presented the landscaping and planting proposal that correlated with the shoreland application for the Mendillo project at Hastings Landing Road. The drawings, maps and photos were discussed as well as the altered and unaltered areas of the lot. The Conservation Commission members had no objection or concerns with the plan and the application process will move forward.

### Clark Pond Tree Cutting Request - Bill Green

Mr. Green explained that he was there to discuss his tree cutting permit application at Clark Pond as requested by the Planning Board. There was obvious confusion as the Conservation Commission was not notified that Mr. Green would be attending the meeting that day. The Conservation Commission had previously seen the application, as forwarded by e-mail several days before. The Planning Board had already approved the application at their last meeting. It was unclear how this miscommunication occurred. No action was necessary.

### Working Group Update – Rick Anderson

Mr. Anderson gave an update on the working group projects and potential. He reported that he had attended the Planning Board meeting last week and they are moving forward with the Conservation Commission's recommended wording relative to boathouses in the Shore Land Overlay. This wording would make it clear that no new boathouses are permitted and would clarify that attachment of docks to the shoreline would need to be the least impactful and per State requirements. The Conservation Commission's request to clarify that all tree cutting and clearing plans in the 100' Stream Buffer need review and approval "regardless of use" appears to have been lost in the discussions at the last Planning Board work session. At the meeting, the Planning Board was asked to consider re-visiting this Conservation Commission and Working Group request. Emma

Crane was asked to try to keep this clarification request before the Planning Board.

#### Trails

Mr. Gelcius reported that the Low Plain duck boxes would be cleaned and maintained on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> by members of the Elkins Fish & Game Club. He said they would also be installing new boxes in areas previously determined to be attractive to wood ducks. A report on the condition of the boxes will be given to the Conservation Commission.

Ms. Alexander reported that the trail map and the “vicinity map” will be updated to include Clark Pond, Cordingly, and the Phillips Memorial Preserve.

Mr. Allen reported that he had met with subcommittee members Terry Dancy, John Clough and Mike Gelcius to review the Low Plan Forestry Plan. Recommendations were made and a report from that meeting was presented to the full Conservation Commission. The report recommended doing the majority of the harvesting on the west side of the Low Plain property. It was also determined that a walking tour should be made with a NH State Wildlife Biologist to determine a plan that would be most beneficial to wildlife and habitat. Mr. Allen said he would set up a date. He walked much of the west side on February 15<sup>th</sup>, and reported that there are quite a few mature pines and areas of less vigorous pines perhaps over-topped by maples. Much of the area between the previously cut development road and the pond is park like.

#### Trail Intern Update

It was noted that the Conservation Commission intern position was posted on Town’s website and it would also be listed on the Colby-Sawyer College website.

#### Committee Reports

Ms. Crane reported the actions of the Planning Board's meeting of February 11<sup>th</sup>. They approved two applications from Colby-Sawyer College - the construction of an outdoor skating rink and one for changes to the interior layout of Danforth Hall. The Planning Board also approved applications from the New London Inn and the Kearsarge Area Council on Aging for changes to their interior layouts. Two tree cutting requests were approved, one for William Green, Jrs. property on Clark Pond and one for the Curtis property on 19 Hutchins Cove Road. The Planning Board discussed the language for the proposed zoning amendments for the next town meeting. The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission presented their findings for a Healthy Eating Active Living audit for New London.

#### Budget Update

Chair Brown said the 2015 budget proposal had been presented to both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee. The Conservation Commission will hold on the proposed warrant article for RSA 36-A: 5.

#### Calendar Events

On March 15, 2014, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests will host a forestry tour at Eagle Pond Farm in Wilmot.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 15, 2014 at 9:00am.

**The meeting adjourned 10:32 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Brown, Chair  
New London Conservation Commission