



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF NEW LONDON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APRIL 15, 2009

Present: Andy Deegan, Chair, Laura Alexander, Dan Allen, Bob Brown, Emma Crane, Terry Dancy, Vicki Koron

Absent: Sue Clough, Ruth White

Other: Bob Crane, Peter Stanley, Zoning Administrator

The minutes of the April 3, 2009 meeting were approved as presented.

Legal Fees:

Mr. Stanley brought to the Commission a bill for \$687.43 for the legal fees associated with the work on the Lynch property. He suggested that the funds be expensed from the Low Plains Fund and that the check be made out to Upton and Hatfield of Hillsboro. Mr. Dancy so moved and this was seconded by Dr. Alexander. There being no discussion, the motion was unanimously passed.

Trails:

Mr. Allen reported on the following trails:

Low Plains- The walk-out on the left-hand blind is going underwater. He said that a 16 foot bridge there would be appropriate and this is being worked on. He has asked Mr. Brown to make up several Trail Closed signs to protect the nesting birds.

Clark Pond- Mr. Brown has been able to work cooperatively with the Town Public Works Department and supplies have been delivered to this site to construct the first bridge on this trail. Mr. Stanley offered tractor assistance with moving these should that be needed. Mr. Allen reported that he has sent an e-mail out to the volunteer trail crew alerting them to the upcoming work and will follow-up once specific dates have been set.

Mr. Brown reported that the first shipment of lumber has arrived and gave Chair Deegan the \$1162.33 invoice and requested that it be processed expeditiously. He said this is enough material to finish behind the Middle School which includes 4 bridges and boardwalk, with a little left over. He said that he spoke with Coty and Raney about any possible deals which might be available and was told that they had an overstock of 2x8x14 boards and these could be purchased at a 15% discount. This would essentially mean that we would be getting 14' boards for the price of 12' boards. 120 pieces of lumber would be just under \$1000. Chair Deegan said that the extra 2' per board could be used in other places. Mr. Dancy asked the status of the Conservation Funds. Chair Deegan responded that the fund was at about \$9000. Mr. Stanley said that there will be a

monitoring fee of about \$2500 for the easement at Clark Pond and whatever easement fees that may arise out of that. Mr. Dancy said that \$700 will be needed for the printing of maps. Mr. Allen said that he support Mr. Brown's proposal, noting that he has not yet purchased the lumber for the Bog and some of this lumber could be used at that site. It was suggested that Chair Deegan get a copy of the more detailed line-item budget from Mr. Norman that the Commission had completed last year to assist with the planning for 2009 allocations and expenses. Dr. Alexander moved that the invoice to Coty and Raney be paid. This was seconded by Mr. Brown. There being no discussion, this motion was unanimously passed.

It was suggested by Mr. Stanley that for next year the Commission could think about hiring college age students to assist with trail maintenance when needed in the fall and spring. Mr. Allen said that this would incur the need for supervision and said that his experience has been that the volunteers have met the needs of the trails. Mr. Stanley suggested that this could be a consideration for the 2010 budget.

Mr. Allen asked the status of the suggestion made by John Kiernan regarding kayaks on Clark Pond. Mr. Dancy responded that this would be a liability for the Town and would require supervision by staff. The kayaks could only be released by users once they signed a waiver and were supervised. He said that the Recreation Department is unwilling to take on this supervision since they will not have staff present. He added that there would be nothing prohibiting Village Sports from renting kayaks which those individuals could then use on Clark Pond. These kayaks, however, could not be left at Clark Pond and locked by Village Sports for rental. Mr. Stanley noted that this type of use would have to be approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Spring Walks:

Chair Deegan asked for volunteers to lead these walks. He volunteered to lead a Bird Walk on Low Plain on May 9 from 9:00A.M. – 11:00A.M.

Mr. Allen will lead a Flower Walk on May 27th. He encouraged other Commission members to think about doing this and contacting him via e-mail by the next week, noting that these are good for the visibility of the Conservation Commission and provide a opportunity for Town residents to experience the conserved land.

Dr. Alexander said that the ASLPT Outreach Committee was doing a marketing study to update their marketing plan and asked the Commissioners for their input on the following topics (responses are in italics).

- Land Conservation experience in the last 12 months- *Clark Pond and Lynch Property*
- Amount of land under conservation in New London owned by the Town- *about 1500 acres is under conservation easement; regardless of ownership, about 16% of land.*
- Conservation agencies favored- *NH Fish and Game, ASPLT, and NE Forestry Association.*
- Town's attitude towards conservation- *according to survey, they are very positive, 80-90%. People are more in favor of conservation than development,*

and with regard to the environment verses tax base, the residents are supportive of the environment.

- Support of the Town for land conservation
What is the Town budget support? *Through Town Warrant articles*
Is there an active Conservation Commission? *Yes*
Are there stewardship issues? *No*
- Does the Town use current use to fund land acquisition? *No, has capital reserve account.*
- What is awareness of ASPLT and how is it viewed? *Viewed favorably.*
- Is the Town increasing land conservation? *Assurance that we have a capital reserve fund should land become available.*

In her quarterly report Dr. Alexander looks at anything that the Commission is doing with land protection plans or projects. *There is nothing active.* Any development proposals that might impact important land acquisitions? *No.* Any wetland proposals or compliance issue that are of conservation concern? *No.* Any current conservation funding proposals? *These are done through warrant articles.* Any equipment acquisitions or loans in support of land conservation? *No.* Mr. Stanley suggested that more detailed answers to these questions can be found in the Master Plan, and added that he would be able to help her with any details that she needed.

Hydroperiod PDF:

Chair Deegan reported that he had been sent this PDF by the UNH Cooperative Extension. It focuses wetlands, basically addressing the amount of time the water is present determines the types of species that use the water. He suggested that he could e-mail this to the Commission members.

Master Plan:

Mr. Dancy reported that the paragraph he had included in the draft regarding the Blackwater and Messer Pond water sheds should be deleted since he has not been able to confirm that anything has actually been done. Mr. Stanley suggested that he communicate this to the Planning Board at the meeting they will hold to discuss the Conservation and Land Use chapters of the Master Plan. He did not yet know the specific dates for this meeting but would e-mail Chair Deegan as soon as he knew. He thought the Conservation Chapter might be Tuesday May 12th or Tuesday June 9th, said the Planning Board has not yet scheduled a date for the Land Use chapter. He further encouraged all members to attend both of these Planning Board meeting.

Any Other Business:

Mr. Dancy reported that he had ordered 2000 maps for the Esther Courier Trail and 1000 copies for the Webb Trail. He also said that regarding the Forest Trail he was still waiting to hear about the replacement of signs. Mr. Allen said that Mark Vernon will e-mail him and have him contact Mr. Dancy.

Mr. Brown expressed concerns about the Town's milfoil funding letter inviting lake protective associations to request assist with funding for milfoil abatement needs to go out soon. He said that some of the lake protective associations are being informed that State funding has been cut, making the Town's funding that much more important. Chair Deegan will speak to Jessie Levine regarding the sending of this letter.

Mr. Crane reported that the 2008 monitoring has been completed. He said that volunteers are needed to do the 2009 monitoring. Ms. Koron said she would do three trails, Evergreen, Cordingly and Fernwood. Other volunteers are still needed and Chair Deegan encouraged the members to consider “adopting” a trail for this year and get back to him.

Mr. Allen announced that the Friends of Northern Rail Trail have applied for a grant to resurface the rail trail between the Danbury highway garage and Potter Place. When this is completed a bicycle trail will exist between Lebanon and East Andover.

Chair Deegan asked for a volunteer to sign a Conservation Commission easement with regard to Clark Pond where it might be considered a conflict if he were to sign on behalf of the Conservation Commission with his responsibilities at ASPLT. It was moved by Mr. Allen that Mr. Brown sign the Clark Pond Conservation easement on behalf of the Conservation Commission. This was seconded by Dr. Alexander. There being no discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

There being no other business, Dr. Alexander moved that the meeting be adjourned. This was seconded by Ms. Koron. There being no discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Colby
Recording Secretary