



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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APPROVED Minutes of the April 19, 2011 Conservation Commission Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Brown (Chairman), Ruth White, Andy Deegan, Dan Allen, Emma Crane, Terry Dancy, Laura Alexander, Peter Stanley (Zoning Board Administrator)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vicki Koron, Sue Clough

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Crane (Webmaster)

Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 9:31am.

The first item on the agenda was to review and approve the meeting minutes of March 15, 2011. Mr. Allen said that under "Trails," the name "Ruth Koron:" should be "Ruth White." Also, there was a name which was misspelled, which should be "Langenau."

IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Terry Dancy) to approve the minutes of March 15, 2011, as amended.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Re-appointments

Chair Brown said that Ms. Alexander and Ms. Cranes' terms were up that year and they would be re-appointed. He also indicated that the position of Chair was up for reappointing. Mr. Stanley said that the Chair needs to be reappointed each year. He asked if anyone else would like to take over as Chair. No one was interested. Chair Brown said that the position does take up a lot of his time. He indicated that he would be away for three months this summer. He said he needed someone who could help with some things such as being able to take over his duties when he has a conflict from time to time. Mr. Stanley said a Vice-Chair would be appropriate. He also added that many boards in the town take a break in August, which would alleviate some of Chair Brown's issue of being away for three meetings this summer. He suggested appointing someone as Vice-Chair to take care of things that may come in, such as a wetland permit, while Chair Brown was away. Ms. Alexander said she could help out during the summer with some things, but was too busy during the school year.

IT WAS MOVED (Terry Dancy) AND SECONDED (Ruth White) to reappoint Bob Brown as Chair and Laura Alexander as Vice-Chair, with signing authority, of the Conservation Commission, as of April 19, 2011. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resignation

Ms. Koron has decided that she is no longer able to continue with the Conservation Commission due to her busy schedule. She has sent in a letter of resignation, as she still has one year remaining in her term. Ms. Levine said that there were no people waiting to join the Conservation Commission at this time. Mr. Stanley said if there is a person who is interested who possesses a useful skill-set, he would suggest those people to the Board of Selectmen for consideration.

Mr. Allen said that there were two people who were recently interested in helping with trails. He thought perhaps those people should be approached, if retired. It was determined that these people were both gainfully employed and were not ready or able at this time to take on a membership to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Stanley had spoken with Mr. Allenby, one of the individuals, who didn't think he was ready to jump into the position, as he was new to town.

Mr. Deegan noted that this person would be taking over for only the remainder of Ms. Koron's term, which was one year. Chair Brown said that they could continue on with a full term afterwards, if they enjoyed it. Ms. Crane thought that Jerry Gold would be a good candidate. Mr. Allen said that he has approached him about this before, but he is very busy with the trail operation of the Greenway. Ms. White wondered about Michael Todd. Some thought he may be too busy as he was part of the ZBA and was the Town Moderator.

Mr. Dancy wondered if they could ask Mr. Allenby if he would join for the one year and if he finds it is too much, he could stop. If he enjoyed it, he could be appointed as a regular member. Mr. Stanley thought that was a good idea and thought the Chair should approach Mr. Allenby to talk about it and explain the situation.

Mr. Stanley suggested Mark Vernon. Mr. Allen said that he works full-time in Concord and couldn't make it to meetings. Ms. Alexander said that he may have a flexible calendar and it couldn't hurt to ask. He may also have a name to offer that they hadn't thought of.

Ms. White suggested Gail Goddard. Mr. Stanley wondered about Glen Bonewald. He is self-employed, cares about the community and perhaps has some interest in conservation. He also suggested a couple named Brian and Wendy Dumas. Mr. Dumas is self-employed. He offered to contact them, as he knows them. Chair Brown suggested Rick Anderson. He said that he would contact him, as he has a meeting with Mr. Anderson the following day.

CSC Study - Alternative Energy Sources

Chair Brown received a marketing survey from Colby-Sawyer College regarding wind energy, which he filled out and sent back in. He was curious as to how those on the Commission felt about the possibility of wind energy in this area. Many remarked that the windmills in Lempster were really great. Ms. White said that there is a tremendous mortality for birds when the windmills are put up in bird migration routes. Mr. Dancy said a method of preventing this is infusing a high frequency noise, which decreases the approach of birds. He added that New London resident, Bill Hopwood has worked extensively in this field. Mr. Allen said that if people want to put up a 6' wind generator, they shouldn't. The rules the town has set up, they couldn't meet the requirements; they need to go big, or it is too costly. Mr. Stanley noted that Chair Brown had received the survey by random selection. He added that the project expanded from an idea to have a wind turbine at the college, and then has expanded to include the thoughts of the town on the possibility. He noted that it didn't seem to be feasible to have a successful wind turbine(s) in New London, but possibly in Wilmot or other surrounding towns.

Forest Nursery

Chair Brown said that Ms. Clough was going to order some larger pots for about 40 new trees that are on their way. The pots have not yet arrived. Mr. Allen said he could use about 10 trees for shade on the Clark Pond trail.

Chair Brown said that Mr. Lee has agreed to hook up an irrigation system to keep the plants watered.

CC Land Acquisitions

Chair Brown said that at the last meeting they identified 15 of the most desirable land parcels. Mr. Stanley drafted a letter to go to the owners to inform them of their place on the list. Mr. Dancy and Ms. White believed the letter to be well-written and appropriate. Mr. Stanley said that each letter should be tailored to address certain issues or previous contact the Town had taken with the owner(s). Ms. White asked if there was anyone on the list who shouldn't get a letter because of their thinking towards conservation. Mr. Stanley said that the Howard family who owns the land surrounding the Clark Lookout; he would not send a letter to them. Ms. White said she thought some people might get angry over the letter even though it was well-intended. Mr. Stanley thought they should formalize the list, email it around to the commission, and get input on who should/shouldn't get a letter, as well as who should tailor the letter depending on who may already have an existing relationship with a landowner.

Chair Brown talked to Ms. Levine who said it was fine to send such letters out.

Trails & Projects

Mr. Allen suggested getting two telephone poles from the Clark Pond trail and moving them to the trail on Pingree Road to rebuild the bridge. Mr. Lee was willing to help with this. He said that Mark Vernon measured the stringers from the old bridge, which are 4-5' longer than the poles at Clark Pond. There are some poles in the pit which may be usable; he would speak to Mr. Lee about this. Mr. Allen also said that Mark Vernon and a friend removed most of the planks from the old stringers and has most of the nails out. He proposed to contact the new chairman of the PLPA, Richard Anderson, to do a shore patrol from the water when the ice allows, and pick up any of the planks as they have spikes in them. Chair Brown said he would mention this to Mr. Anderson, as he was meeting with him the next day.

Mr. Allen proposed that if they could find a chainsaw winch, it would go faster than a come-a-long. The rig, separate from the chainsaw motor could be up to \$600. He has an extra chainsaw body that could be used. Mr. Stanley didn't think that Mr. Lee had such a thing already. There was a suggestion that a horse could be used and that someone like Peter Messer might like to help with this.

Mr. Allen proposed putting in some sort of abutment (piece of telephone pole) to raise the bridge a foot or so, and attach a cable that they didn't have before.

Mr. Allen said the first bridge going into Clark Pond seems to be sagging at one end. He thinks a pole has been cracked. He was proposing to put a post under that stringer to raise it up a few inches. It wasn't in the water, but was sagging. He noted that when the water went over the long

bridge with Maple poles, it was because the snow blocked all the space under the bridge, so the water went up and around it.

Mr. Allen said he wanted to broach the possibility of another loop trail off of the Norman trail. A good reason for not doing it is because it is in wildlife habitat. His assessment was that most of the wildlife activity occurs at the top of the first hill on the Norman trail, on the Allen Loop and the Dancy Trail. He proposed the new loop would go down the Norman Trail to the big brook, turn right, go through the wall or the past edge of the brook, follow the wall westward until the end of the wall is reached, and then up-hill to rejoin the Norman Trail very close to the Borrow Area. The approximate length of the trail would be about 1/3 of a mile. He thought to cut a few trees to make it groom-able. Ms. White thought they should take a look at it. Mr. Allen said he has already flagged it. Ms. Crane and Ms. White thought it would be good to take a look. They agreed to meet at the trail head at 1:30pm the following day.

Trail Work Intern

Chair Brown said he had drafted some text for the trail work intern and sent it to Ms. Hardy (interim Town Administrator). They would be placing it in the Kearsarge Shopper soon. Once applications come in, they would begin an interview process. Mr. Stanley said he would be available to help with this, as well as being a contact person while Chair Brown was away for the summer.

Trail Adopters

Mr. Stanley said that he and his wife maintain the Kidder Trail and the Morgan Loop, and it seemed silly to have someone else do the Morgan Trail. He agreed to take on that trail and this was well received by the other members of the commission.

Chair Brown said there were two openings for adopters (Philips Preserve and Shepherds Spring Trail).

Chair Brown said that the Merrimack County Detention Center work dates have been scheduled for Fridays, including June 3, 10 & October 7, 14, 2011.

Programs

Ms. White asked if there was interest in having spring walk(s). They usually go on Wednesdays starting in May. Ms. Crane wondered if a weekend would draw more families. Ms. White wasn't sure, but wondered if they should put an ad in the Kearsarge Shopper the following day to appear in time for the last Wednesday in April (the 27th) to promote a Woodcock Walk. She said she would try to do this. In summary, the spring walks tentatively scheduled are:

Woodcock Walk, April 27th at 7:30pm – led by Ms. White
Clark Pond Walk, May 25th at 9am – led by Mr. Allen
Bog Walk, Cricenti Bog, June 8th at 9am – led by Ms. White
Flower Walk, June 1st, 9am – led by Ms. White

All walks will meet at 9am at the parking lot across from the library.

Mail

Chair Brown said ASPLT sent them a note about their membership. He wondered how they have handled it in the past. Several believed that their membership fee had been budgeted for.

IT WAS MOVED (Dan Allen) AND SECONDED (Ruth White) to contribute \$500 for the New London Conservation Commission's membership to the ASPLT for 2011/2012.

Ms. Alexander and Mr. Deegan asked to abstain from the vote, as they are affiliated with ASPLT. This left a need for a quorum before a vote could be taken. There were two alternates present at the meeting who were asked to participate in the vote. Terry Dancy would sit in for Sue Clough, and Ruth White would sit in for Vicki Koron.

A vote was taken: **THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.** Andy Deegan and Laura Alexander abstained from the vote.

Calendar events

Mr. Deegan and Ms. Alexander noted that there was a presentation by Colby-Sawyer on Thursday night at 7pm for the 12-town region.

Mr. Deegan said he was part of a conservation options workshop at the Grantham Town Hall the following week from 7-9pm. He passed around a brochure. Unless they get more people signed up by the following Tuesday, it would not happen. Currently, they had just three people signed up for it.

Other

Chair Brown said that they had received a donation from Brian and Amy Butterworth for \$50. It was decided to put that money into the Conservation Fund.

Chair Brown noted some inspection documents that needed to be signed. Mr. Deegan explained which documents needed to be signed. These documents referred to the properties of Cook, Crook, and West Anthony, which the Town of New London owned.

Mr. Stanley asked Mr. Deegan if he could contact the attorney regarding the Phillips property to see if anything has happened. He opined it would be good if they could come up with a project for this year.

Mr. Deegan noted he had the arguments written up regarding the warrant articles. He planned to email those to everyone that afternoon.

The Bug

Chair Brown asked if they had identified the new bug that had come in. Ms. Alexander said it was a Stinkbug. Mr. Stanley thought that the Asian Long-Horned Beetle was huge by comparison to this particular insect. Mr. Deegan agreed with respect to the antennae, but the body is similar sized, perhaps a bit bigger. Mr. Allen noted that the Pine Borer looked similar to the Asian Long-Horned Beetle.

The next meeting dates were determined to be:

May (Tuesday) May 17, 2011 @ 9:00 AM

June (Wednesday) June 15, 2011 @ 9:00 AM

July (Wednesday) July 13, 2011 @ 9:00 AM

August (No Scheduled August Meeting)

September - Tentative - (Wednesday) Sept. 28, 2011 @ 9:00 AM

These dates will be confirmed at the May meeting.

**IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Emma Crane) to adjourn the April 19th meeting of the New London Conservation Commission.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:06am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London