



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF NEW LONDON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
August 19, 2009

Present: Laura Alexander, Andy Deegan, Sue Clough, Emma Crane, Terry Dancy, Vicki Koron, Ruth White

Other: Peter Stanley- Zoning Administrator

Chair Deegan opened the meeting at 1:04P.M.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 15, 2009 meeting were accepted, with the minor spelling and wording corrections which were forwarded to the Chair by the members.

Stewardship Request:

Chair Deegan recused himself from this discussion and left the meeting, asking that Ms. Koron moderate this discussion. The amount of the one-time stewardship contribution for the Clark Pond easement was then discussed. Ms. Clough moved that this contribution of \$2500 be paid from the 2009 budget. This was seconded by Ms. White. After a brief discussion, this motion was passed unanimously, with Ms. Alexander abstaining. Chair Deegan then returned to the meeting. Mr. Stanley asked if money for this type of easement contribution was put in the 2010 budget. Chair Deegan replied that he has this as a line item in the 2010 budget.

2010 Budget:

Chair Deegan reviewed the recent CIP meeting and the fact that the Conservation Commission was not awarded any money for programs in 2010 by this committee. The Budget Committee is the next opportunity to attempt to gain additional program dollars. It was suggested that the request be for about \$20,000 rather than the original \$50,000 requested last year. Failing that, the only recourse for funding would be to present a warrant article at the next Town meeting, which would be presented without the support of the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. The Conservation Commission members agreed that they should all attend the next Budget Committee meeting, which will be held on September 21, to present a strong case for the need for additional funding along with the value that conserved land presents to the Town.

Chair Deegan then initiated a discussion of the 2010 budget. The following line item was discussed.

Trail Maintenance- \$3500 was allocated for 2010. Chair Deegan reported that \$3135.35 has been spent year-to-date to R. P. Johnson and Cote and Reney on trail maintenance.

It was noted that the Lyon Brook Trail is in need of some work as well as Low Plains and on-going work in the Bog. He noted that there was \$2949.08 remaining in the 2009 Low Plains Fund and thought that any dollars needed for that trail for lumber, weed control or easement could come out of this fund, and the other needs could be met through the requested \$3500 in the 2010 budget.

Land Management Surveys- Chair Deegan reviewed survey needs for the potential easements for Messer Pond and the remaining 70 acres on Low Plain which the Commission could address in 2010. Regarding the surveys for Messer Pond, he said the land was received in two separate transactions both of which were surveyed at that time, but he thought that both surveys could be referenced in any future easement. He, therefore, thought that the land would not need to have an additional survey since both of these surveys were recent and the boundary markers could all be identified. He said that a Stewardship contribution would be needed for this parcel. With regard to the 70 acres in Low Plain, Mr. Stanley said that this parcel had been surveyed last year. Chair Deegan said that a Stewardship Donation would not be required for this parcel, noting that things with the State can be subject to change. He also noted that placing easements on both of these properties would require approval at Town meeting.

Chair Deegan referred to the list of properties he compiled which indicated which parcels will need surveys and easements, noting that there are 12 parcels which will need to be considered. He also mentioned Goose Hole, .6 acres, which is all wetlands except for the old right-of-way which might be a future acquisition. The Commission agreed to focus on the Messer Pond parcel and the Low Plain parcel in the 2010 budget. Mr. Stanley mentioned that there might be legal fees associated with both these parcels and that this should be included in the budget.

Land Management Forestry- Chair Deegan said that there was no land management forestry done in 2009. It was agreed that for 2010, the Commission should obtain a Forestry Management report for Low Plain and the Phillips Preserve. Chair Deegan will get in touch with Clayton Platt and several other foresters to get an estimate of this expense. This expense will be put in the 2010 budget.

Among the other parcels of land that may need to be surveyed in the future were:

Colby Sanctuary

Philbrick-Cricenti Bog

30 acres that touch Low Plain

Pratt

Darrah George Estate

Chair Deegan said he will update the draft of the 2010 budget based on this discussion and send it via e-mail to the Commission members for their review. He said the budget is due the Tuesday after Labor Day.

All Other Business:

- Mr. Dancy said he has been in contact with Mark Vernon regarding the signs on the Webb Forest Trail. Mr. Vernon has suggested that the text of the trail guides be changes to reflect the changes in the trails; the map of the trail is essentially correct. Mr. Dancy

has suggested that Mr. Vernon make the changes to the text and the next time the guide is printed that these changes be incorporated. It was also noted that a trail guide and map was needed for Clark Pond. Ms. Alexander thought this might be a good project for the Capstone Project. She said that any project of this nature would have to include an interpretive trail guide, including history and succession of the site along with a map. She will ask if any students would be interested.

- Mr. Stanley showed recent pictures of the water level changes as a result of the new pipe structure now in place at the Low Plain.
- Chair Deegan said that he and his wife are compiling a dragon fly atlas at two sites, Cricenti Bog and Low Plain, and he said that they already found three species that are new to New London. So far they have caught and identified over 12 different species.
- Ms. Alexander said that seven students will be doing the Natural Resource inventory for New London. She would like to invite them to the September meeting of the Conservation Commission, along with her colleague Harvey Pine who is a newer faculty member at Colby-Sawyer. She said her intention was to have the students collect data in the fall and do the writing in the spring, learning about what is a natural inventory and what goes into one by reading other inventories that had already been done. She thought the students would go back to the Master Plan to see if they thought anything should be changed, based on what they found, and if there was time enough to look at conservation priorities. It was suggested that, as background, the students also look at the watershed plans that have been done for Lake Sunapee and Pleasant Lake, the work that has been done on the Low Plain, Knights Hill, the Audubon Christmas and February bird counts, and also interview Fred Clayton, and Chris Martin in Newbury. Ms. Alexander said the students will make two presentations on their work; one in mid-project and the other at the conclusion of the project.
- Mr. Dancy said that Chapter 10 of the Master Plan has been recently reviewed by the Planning Board.

There being no other business, Ms. Alexander moved that the meeting be adjourned. This was seconded by Ms. White. The meeting was adjourned at 2:17PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Colby
Recording Secretary