

**MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF NEW LONDON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 21, 2009**

PRESENT: Les Norman (Chair), Terry Dancy (alternate filling in for Laura Alexander) Emma Crane, Dale Conly, Bob Brown, Dan Allen, Vicki Koron.

Others: Peter Stanley (Zoning Administrator – filling in as Recording Secretary), Bob Crane (Volunteer)

MINUTES: A motion was made by Emma Crane to accept the minutes of the December, 2008 meeting and second by Bob Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY CENTER: Les Norman introduced the new Community Center Concept Site Plan and after a brief discussion it was resolved that because there was no substantive change in building footprint or alteration of terrain, the Conservation Commission had no comment.

CAMP WALLULA: Peter Stanley gave brief description of the status of the Camp Wallula proposal as follows – Camp Wallula was subdivided as a PUD project in 1972 subject to Planning Board review when and if any lots or units were intended to be sold. The owner of Camp Wallula, Chris Bottinger, approached the Board with plans to sell, and it was determined by Town Counsel that because the road had been built and the waterline installed that the project was vested and could go forward as planned.

The Owner has now presented a proposal to the Planning Board to enlarge all but one of the lots and to re-orient several parcels to abut the existing roads. In addition, several lots were extended to the side front property lines, with no buffering suggested. Peter Stanley commented that this constituted a 15.8% overall increase in the land area devoted to building lots and may be considered a substantial change by the Planning Board, possibly subjecting the project to restrictions that were not contemplated in the original proposal.

Vicki Koron and Dale Conly both had questions regarding access to the common waterfront by prospective project property owners. Peter Stanley responded that Town Counsel had determined that access to the waterfront was clearly implied in the original subdivision and therefore remains part of the project, subject to restrictions imposed by deeds and condominium agreements. Docks will be subject to the State permitting process, and under no control by the town. There is a plan by the owner to limit the number of power boats that can use the waterfront at any one time, but that is not controlled by the town.

After a brief discussion of concern for increasing impact on the lake, it was generally agreed the no action by the Commission was needed at this time.

PSNH SUBSTATION PROJECT: Les Norman commented that since there was no longer any proposal to fill wetlands, there was no comment necessary by the Commission.

WINTER WALKS: Dan Allen commented that no one showed up for the snowshoe walk, no doubt because of the extremely cold weather. Dan went on the walk alone. Ruth White was absent, so there was no further comment on winter walks.

ANNUAL BUTTERWORTH CONTRIBUTION: Les Norman requested a motion to accept the annual contribution of \$50 in memory of Milton Butterworth. It was moved by Terry Dancy to accept the donation and second by Emma Crane. All present voted in favor of the motion.

VERNON ROW: Les asked Dan about the status of the ROW question and Dan reported that he has spoken with Mark Vernon and it was decided to put the subject on hold to a later date, yet to be determined.

TRAILS: Dan Allen reported that the first trail at the Clark Pond Natural Area is largely complete and useable, but approximately 7 bridges are needed to cross various streams and wet areas. One bridge will need poles approximately 25' long and Dan suggested that the bridges be 4' wide. There was some discussion about the first bridge and what it needed to accommodate, but the consensus was that Dan's proposal was appropriate at this time. In addition, railroad ties will be needed as "sleepers" for the proposed bridges. Les indicated that there are sufficient funds available for Dan to purchase materials for bridges, as needed. Dan also reported that he is recommending a second "loop" trail at the Clark Pond NA that will be higher in elevation and more level to accommodate cross-country skiing. The group agreed with this concept.

Dan also reported that the most efficient way to take the railroad ties into the trail area was to use a snow machine in the winter months. To do that he needs permission from the Town, which he is in the process of arranging with Jessie Levine.

In an unrelated comment, Les indicated that he was meeting with the Selectmen on Monday regarding the warrant article proposing to place a conservation easement on the Clark Pond Natural Area. Peter asked about how the monitoring contribution of \$2500 will be paid, and Les responded that the plan is to have this included in the warrant article. If the money is not included, we will discuss it further at the next meeting.

MASTER PLAN: Peter Stanley reported that the field inventory is now completed and that one more table remains to be updated. The text of the chapter is complete, and when the tables are completed he will email the draft to Les for distribution and comment before the February meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Terry made a proposal regarding the recycling of #5 plastic. Currently, New London does not recycle #5 plastic, because there is no market for it. The Hanover/Lebanon Co-op however has found a firm in Massachusetts that will take the plastic. Terry proposes that the NLCC endorse the concept and recommend that the Town make contact and look into the feasibility of a similar proposal, if it can be done at no cost to the Town. Vicki commented that there would be nothing to lose by looking into it, so she made a motion to have the NLCC formally recommend this to the Town, second by Dan, and voted in favor of unanimously.

Les also reported that Newbury has proposed new, tougher Shoreland regulations patterned after the new CSPS, similar to New London, but with some of their own modifications.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Peter Stanley
Acting Recording Secretary