



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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APPROVED Minutes of the July 13, 2011 Conservation Commission Meeting

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ruth White, Sue Clough

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Crane (Webmaster), Doug McKenna (Trail Intern)

Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 9:00am and asked if anyone would make a motion to approve the minutes from June 15, 2011.

IT WAS MOVED (Emma Crane) AND SECONDED (Laura Alexander) to approve the minutes of June 15, 2011, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Amendments were:

Section 5, 2nd line: “they” should be “we.” 3rd line; “their” should be “our.”

Section 7, 2nd paragraph: “...Don Clarke, whose wife has been ill.”

“Knotweed” is one word.

“Phragmites” is the correct spelling.

“Privet” not Krivet.

Page 4, “...excavator in to move rocks away.”

Page 5 – Mr. Anderson said that he had noted they use a targeted herbicide on milfoil as well. He had done more research. He is comfortable working with “these” herbicides.

Page 5 – “McKenna” not “MacKenna.”

Mr. Stanley asked if item 6 on the agenda could be dropped to the end. This was acknowledged by Chair Brown.

Mr. Brown said he recently met with people from Ausbon Sargent regarding RSA 36:A for land acquisition. He wondered how they could reach their goals. They agreed that some lapses in communication were experienced and they need to keep each other informed of what each other are doing. They also spoke of conflicts of interest, which hasn't been a big problem. They are both working towards a common goal. Mr. Deegan said that the minutes from the Conservation Commission meetings are public. When they talk about the land trust, he said that he would write a report including the necessary information. When they talk about money or easements on a property, he feels he should step out because while the money isn't going directly to him, it could be part of what he is paid from as his salary from Ausbon Sargent. Chair Brown agreed that it was a gray area but that was something that Mr. Deegan and his employers needed to decide upon.

Budget

Chair Brown noted that they are now working within the 2012 budget. He asked about any expenses that may not have been submitted as yet. Mr. Anderson said he has some lab bills for water samples from the Bog. It was \$16.

Invasive Species

Mr. Anderson said the chemical used on milfoil is called 24-D which is one of the top two herbicides used in the world. Round-Up is the other one. 24-D is a systemic targeted broad leaf herbicide, which is the active ingredient. Round-Up is a little more troublesome in aquatic environments than 24-D. 24-D is made into pellets and dropped into the water to deal with milfoil. It is also used for Knotweed under the name “Weed-Be-Gone.” An EPA report suggested Round-Up was used more for home use and 24-D was used more for agricultural and governmental applications.

Mr. Dancy asked if 24-D stayed around and did not disappear like other herbicides. Mr. Anderson said that it has been approved for use and people are able to swim in the area within 24 hours after treatment. It is a treatment of last resort. Mr. Dancy said the recommendation for Round-Up was that within two days, there was no residual poison in the water. Mr. Anderson said that it is the additives that are the problem. Mr. Stanley said that Round-Up is being used in the detention pond above Little Lake Sunapee at Hilltop, which is frequently filled with milfoil. Mr. Anderson said that they need an FDA permit to use it, so it can become complicated.

Mr. Deegan asked if they need a State’s Pesticide Applicator’s License to use Round-Up on property other than what is owned by the Town. Mr. Stanley and Mr. Anderson suspected that this was the case. Mr. Stanley said that there were no Town employees who held such a license.

Mr. Deegan said that along Newport Road there are many small clumps of Knotweed that should be treated. Mr. Stanley said that the weed grows well in some places, but in others, it doesn’t do well and doesn’t expand. Mr. Anderson said that they put a clump of Knotweed out so people could look at it and he was surprised that a lot of people didn’t know what it looked like. There have been people afterwards who have told him they found some on their property and would be taking care of it. Mr. Dancy said that it is impressive when people see the map and can note how widespread the Knotweed growth is. Ms. Alexander remarked that they are infested with many invasive species.

Mr. Allen said that his trial treatment of lime on a clump of Knotweed did not turn out to be successful, so couldn’t offer it as an alternative to herbicides. Mr. Stanley said that the State doesn’t treat the weed or can even be bothered to alter their mowing schedule to help deal with the spread of it. Chair Brown said that Mr. Lee (Public Works Director) has indicated to him that he is aware of certain invasive species and he thought they should keep Mr. Lee in the loop in their efforts to rid areas of certain species. Mr. Stanley said that the multi-flora rose chokes off woods so much that they cannot be walked through. He sprays it on his property but opined that it is a nasty weed that can ruin the outdoor experience for many.

Mr. Stanley said that that Little Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA) reported that one of their volunteer monitors removed a weed from a boat and sent it overnight it to DES; it turned out to be milfoil. This illustrates the fact that it is worth the effort of having the lake host program. Mr. Dancy said this would be good to remember when discussing budgets in the future.

Mr. McKenna noted that there was a clump of Knotweed near parking lot I at Colby-Sawyer College.

Forest Nursery

Chair Brown said that there were just under 60 new additions to the nursery and they wanted to get them potted and moved to DPW. Mr. McKenna weeded and prepared the saplings and brought them to where a third row had been dug at the DPW. This should put them at just under 200 pots. He remarked that the Norway Spruce are almost three feet high now. Mr. Allen said that all but two of his red pines have sprouted. Chair Brown said the 20 Sugar Maples are coming along nicely. He added that an employee at the sewer plant, George, is very interested in the project and is willing to keep an eye on the trees. Chair Brown said that they are thankful to the DPW for cooperating with them on this project and hopefully they can plant some of these trees in town in the following years.

Trails

Mr. Stanley said that he still has not heard back from Clayton Platt regarding the forestry plan.

With regards to the Philips Preserve, they are still waiting for things to dry up. Chair Brown said there are still some spots of mud even though the weather has been dry.

Adopter List – Mr. Deegan said that a copy of the list has been sent out in addition to a memo. He said he would send a reminder to everyone this week and would copy the Conservation Commission on it. He would note for people to keep an eye out for blazes.

Mr. McKenna reported that since the last meeting, he has done quite a bit of work, including blazing the Web Forest Interpretive Trail, Lyon Brook Trail, Bunker Loop, and the Darrah Crockett Trail, among others. The only one left is the Morgan Hill Trail from the top of Morgan to Great Brook. In addition to other projects, he also did some chainsaw work with Mr. Stanley, helped Mark Vernon with the Pinegree Bridge, did some pole pruning and weed whacking in Low Plain, and cut back some Knotweed in the Overlook.

Chair Brown said that he made the sign for the DiClerico property in March and that he and Mr. McKenna decided where to plant it and they set the sign. He would send a picture of the sign in place to Mr. Crane to put on the website.

Chair Brown said that he and Mr. McKenna worked the past Saturday and Monday on the bridge behind the old middle school, which was re-built by the middle-school kids 10+ years ago. They fixed the two ramps on either end and the middle piece, which was barely 2' wide. This bridge is part of the story walk trail and Chad Denning (Recreation Director) was concerned about the safety of the bridge as there are a lot of little kids going across it. Mr. Denning said he wouldn't open the new story walk until the bridge was fixed. It has been repaired and is now a 3' bridge and has a double hand rail. Mr. Dancy said the bridge was built 15 years ago and a fire was lit underneath it and part of it was burned. It was never really properly repaired. They should have completely rebuilt it at the time, but didn't.

Chair Brown said that the bridges tend to get very slippery when there is a frost. Mr. Stanley offered that in the UK they lay chicken wire down on such surfaces to gain traction. Chair Brown said the pressure treated wood gets the most slick even before a frost. Many thought the chicken wire idea was a good one.

Clark Pond Trail Head – Chair Brown said that Mr. Lee agreed to dump some ditching material there. Mr. Allen said he had cut the stumps out of that area after the last meeting.

Messer Pond – Chair Brown asked if Mr. Deegan was keeping a list of volunteer workers. Mr. Deegan said he was not. Chair Brown indicated that Sue Clough had said that John Clough wanted to work with them. Steve Allenby would also like to do some work a little later on. Rob Prohl and Mr. Allen plan to work on the Clark Pond Trail. Chair Brown said that Jim Wheeler also wanted to help out. He thought they should try to make plans to involve these people.

Chair Brown reminded the attendees that he would be away for a couple of months and wouldn't be back until the end of September or the beginning of October. He thought they should be working on a list of people who were willing to help. Mr. McKenna would be with them for another four weeks. Mr. Stanley thought that the Merrimack County Department of Corrections work dates in October may be good opportunities to enlist the help of those additional people. Chair Brown confirmed that they are planning on October 7th and 14th to work with the inmates again.

Ms. Crane asked if they were planning to fix the Dura Crockett Bridge on the Great Brook Trail. Mr. Stanley said that any trail on that property is an issue and they need to make sure they have permission to be there. Mr. Crane said he noticed that people were coming down from the trail and crossing onto the road, which is private property. The sign pointing people to the trail is missing. He said that the bridge on the Darrah Crockett Trail is getting spongy. Chair Brown asked Mr. Crane to take photos of these sorts of problems if/when he comes upon them, and send them to him so he is aware.

Chair Brown said he and Mr. McKenna built some elevated boardwalk at his shop and it was ready to deliver to Morgan Hill, but the access road is presently not passable according to the Water Precinct.

Ms. Crane said she received a nice letter from Thelma Hewitt who was the local organizer for the Rock Garden Society in New London. She expressed appreciation for all the work the Conservation Commission had done on the boardwalk. They had over 100 people who came to the bog. At one point, there were 25 cars parked on Newport Road. Everyone was pleased and the person who gave the talk on Saturday, who is the Director of the Botanical Garden in Boothbay Harbor, ME, came out and took pictures and really talked it up. People from all over the country and from England attended and it was very successful.

Knights Hill Park

Chair Brown said he went to this park recently and noted that it was under the guidance of the Outing Club. He added that they seem to do a lot of programs and talks and wondered if there was anything they could do in conjunction with this. Mr. Crane said that they provide the programming at Knight's Hill Park on the Conservation Commission's website. Mr. Stanley said they hire an intern to work all summer who organizes the programs. He thought that that might be an interesting addition to their own intern program. Besides working on trails, the intern could coordinate specific programs having to do with nature.

Mr. Dancy said that Mr. Slayden was originally a member of the New London Conservation Commission when he started these kinds of programs. When he retired from it they didn't maintain such a close contact with the Outing Club. They had people from the Conservation Commission organizing maintenance programs and even investigated the effect of water pollution on the pond, and from phosphorus coming from the corn field and how quickly it would deplete if they had a stream before it got to the pond. They have worked with the Outing Club over the years in the past.

Ms. Alexander said that it would be good to work with them but not to be in competition with them. They should see how they could be helpful to the Outing Club, but not water down the audience by doing similar programs. Mr. Stanley said the Conservation Commission has done the same things year after year, like the winter walks. Perhaps they should do something with kayaks that would focus on the Shoreland Protection Act, and help people get a different vantage point.

Mr. Deegan said he and his wife are leading a walk on July 29th from 2-4pm on Dragon Fly Identification, on the Demming property. They also planned to do Langan in August.

Files

Chair Brown indicated that no one had been in yet to go through the files. This would be brought up again at a later date.

Mail

Mr. Stanley explained that the Lindsey family owns the house that abuts the little beach area on Little Lake Sunapee. They have a beach that is very small and have been losing their sand. They want to put a small retaining wall at the edge of the water with a step down in and a couple yards of sand behind it in an effort to better retain their beach area. Mr. Stanley thought it was a good thing and they are filing a

wetland permit for that purpose. He added that when the driveway was put in originally, it was closer to the water than it should be, under current regulations. Alongside this retaining wall project, they plan to also move the driveway away, behind the 50' setback and will plant the area with trees.

Land Acquisition

Chair Brown thought it best to go into non-public session as they would be discussing a potential land acquisition.

**IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Emma Crane) to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91:A to discuss a potential land acquisition.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY, by roll call:**

Mr. Dancy – Yes
Ms. Crane – Yes
Ms. Alexander – Yes
Mr. Deegan – Yes
Mr. Anderson – Yes
Mr. Allen – Yes
Mr. Brown – Yes

Mr. Crane and Mr. McKenna left the meeting, as they were not voting members of the Conservation Commission.

The meeting came out of non-public session at 11:00am.

**IT WAS MOVED (Emma Crane) AND SECONDED (Laura Alexander) to adjourn the meeting.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London