



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257 • WWW.NL-NH.COM

## **APPROVED Minutes of the June 16, 2010 Conservation Commission Meeting**

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

Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

### **Minutes Review**

He asked the board if they recalled approving the minutes from April. Mr. Allen said that they had received them in an email the same day as the meeting and hadn't had a chance to review and approve them at the meeting. Several members of the Conservation Commission (CC) said that they had no problems with the minutes, as written.

**IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Andy Deegan) to accept the minutes of April, 2010 as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chair Brown noted that Judith Guyer took the minutes of May 19, 2010. He had just one comment regarding trails. He wanted it noted that although the recreation department group did a great job unloading the sections and that Chad Denning was there helping, it was Scott's Yard Care that should be commended for the bulk of the work getting done.

**IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Andy Deegan) to accept the minutes of the May 19, 2010 meeting, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Milfoil Grant Application**

Chair Brown said that he had a lengthy discussion with Ms. Levine about the grant application. Although he felt the CC would have an active role in the process, Ms. Levine and the Board of Selectmen preferred to put task directly upon the Budget Committee. They will budget for 18 months (due to the fiscal year transition) and so this request will need to go in earlier. Jessie does not see a big need for the CC to be involved in this process. Chair Brown asked how everyone felt about this. Mr. Deegan said that it is a money process, so it really is the role of the Budget Committee. Chair Brown commented that they could still comment on and watch the process. Ms. White said that it is such a needed and because it is a fairly well-known issue, they don't have to keep explaining it to the public. Mr. Dancy said that if an issue came up they could put a word into the Board of Selectmen about it, but he didn't see a need to administrate the process. All agreed that it would actually be nice if they didn't have to do it themselves. Chair Brown said he would relay that they would help if needed. Mr. Deegan asked if Jessie would take care of the letters or if they had any responsibility at all in this process. Mr. Brown said that she and the Budget Committee would take it over completely.

Chair Brown said that a message came in to Mr. Allen a couple weeks ago from Bill Andrews, regarding Hilltop Pond. He was concerned that the pond was loaded with Milfoil and wanted to know what the status was. Chair Brown asked the Conservation Commission if they felt the need to get involved in this issue. Mr. Dancy said this was an old issue. In previous times, they had been involved with the DES and

they investigated what was between the pond and Little Lake Sunapee, and the DES indicated that it was very unlikely that Milfoil would get into Little Lake Sunapee from the pond. A screen was still put up 5-10 years ago to prevent such an occurrence. Ms. Clough said she was a Selectman at that time and they were very much involved in this as well and that it was taken care of once. Ms. Koron said that her husband Ron talked to DES that very morning. Apparently, the Milfoil just keeps coming back and it can only be treated so often in a time period. She noted that Mark Kosikoski said that anyone applying the herbicide needs to be licensed, which he is. It was treated last year or the year before. It will be treated again. Ms. Koron opined that the pond looks horrible and explained that it is a detention basin for stormwater so it cannot be filled in. Mr. Deegan asked if it was a retention pond, why not fill it in and build another. Mr. Stanley said the pond was over an acre in size and that it would take a lot of money to do this. He added that there was no guarantee that it wouldn't happen again. He suggested that they could perhaps make a liner of the herbicide underneath the basin, but that this method would prevent infiltration.

Mr. Dancy said that he thought the Milfoil had been in the pond for about 10 years and over that time there has been no appearance of it in Little Lake Sunapee. He noted that LSPA has kept their eye on it. He felt that a periodic treatment of the Milfoil that kept it from getting worse was an acceptable treatment for now. Ms. Clough asked if the contamination was worse now than it was five years ago. Mr. Stanley said that it fills up every few years, is treated, and then fills again. Mr. Dancy said that the biggest worry is that if there is an active area there, the Milfoil could be transported by birds or other means. That's why they want to get rid of it, not because it is a drainage problem. Chair Brown asked if anyone on the CC felt they should be involved in this issue in any way. Ms. White felt it would be sufficient if Ms. Koron could keep them informed of what was going on in that area.

Mr. Stanley offered that the reason Milfoil is in the pond is because people dumped their fish tanks into it, which could very well happen again. Mr. Allen asked if they could get a floating cover to keep the light out, which may kill the Milfoil. Mr. Stanley said that this was a possibility, although the pond is an acre in size. This would still probably cost less than making a new pond. Mr. Deegan said that some invasive species can die if heated too much, and perhaps Milfoil could fall under this category. Ms. Koron wondered who would pay for such things to be done. She remarked that probably the Town and the Lake Association, and perhaps Hilltop as well. She wasn't sure how much the Milfoil elimination was going to affect them. Ms. Koron said she would bring up the idea of a cover/sunlight barrier with her husband.

Mr. Dancy and Mr. Stanley felt that some photos of the Milfoil in the pond would help to show others the dangers of it. Ms. Koron said she would take care of obtaining photographs.

### **Land Acquisition Study**

Chair Brown noted the two parcels of land that were discussed at the last meeting and said that there had been lots of discussion about them since. Mr. Deegan said they had a site visit on the property known as Philips Property, which is adjacent to Philips Preserve. The other property is the Crowell Property. The LSPA and Mr. Denning from the Recreation Department joined him on the visit.

The parcel is 17.2 acres on Otter pond, which includes 15 acres in New London and 2.2 acres in Sunapee. They walked the trails, saw the campgrounds, and found most of the bounds including the one for the Town line. Mr. Deegan said that because they were able to find all the bounds, they wouldn't need a survey done on the property. He has been in touch with the attorney who is representing the two owners of the property. They have obtained permission to access the property for appraisal.

Mr. Deegan said that he has been in contact with several appraisers and has found their fees to range in price from \$1,200 to \$3,000 for the appraisal. The biggest issue is the timeframe that needs to be taken

into consideration. The sellers are motivated and looking to put the property on the market. One appraiser, Bruce Taylor from Fairlee, VT said he could have the appraisal done in 2-3 weeks. The others he contacted couldn't get it done until August. Mr. Deegan checked with the Upper Valley Land Trust to see if they had any past experience with Mr. Taylor. It was found that he is not an easement appraiser, but that doesn't mean that he couldn't do the job. Mr. Deegan offered that Mr. Taylor wasn't the cheapest option, charging \$75/hour. His estimate for the appraisal was between \$1,500 and \$2,500 but would be the quickest by at least a month.

Mr. Deegan said that they talked with June Fichter, who said that the LSPA voted unanimously to go forward with this project and would support it with fundraising. Mr. Dancy said he was at the LSPA meeting and found them to be very supportive. Additionally, the CC for Sunapee said they would commit to supporting the purchase financially. The Otter Pond Protective Association has already contacted its 25 members and they have received word that they were all supportive of the project. Some individuals said they will back the effort as well and have contacted the association. Mr. Deegan said that they need a price, however, and will need the appraisal done in order to go forward. He thought it important to get their own appraisal and not just go with what they are offering for a price.

Ms. Koron asked if the \$470,000 was an appraised value. Mr. Deegan said that it was. He also reminded the CC that the Clark Pond parcel had only one appraisal, which upon looking back, was not ideal. Chair Brown asked what the LSPA had as a goal for fundraising. Mr. Dancy said there was an extensive discussion at the LSPA board meeting regarding this matter. They were not asking the board to make a financial commitment, specifically, but it was evident that they were very supportive of working on the question of fundraising. At the meeting, it was said that most of the property is in the town of New London and they understand the CC has funds towards the acquisition of property in New London. He made the point that if this acquisition issue came up, it was almost certain that the Board of Selectmen would insist that the price paid would be partly supported by fundraising. They knew that in Sunapee, they don't have to go to Town Meeting to spend the funds, but that New London had to.

Mr. Deegan said that if they put \$400,000 of their funds into the project and if Sunapee put in a pledge, it could cover the purchase price. To cover expenses accrued, they would fundraise. He said that they could count on support from the Otter Pond Protective Association, LSPA and Ausbon Sargent. They could fundraise to pay down what was left that had to be paid. Mr. Deegan opined that there could be some major supporters on Otter Pond and there were also some there who couldn't afford to pay anything. Chair Brown wondered what LSPA meant by "support" for this project. Mr. Stanley said that it meant that they were willing to participate in a fundraising effort. He added that fundraising would be organized through LSPA. Chair Brown asked what the total expenses would be, above and beyond the purchase price. Mr. Dancy and Mr. Deegan said it would amount to about \$50,000. This would cover legal expenses, title searches, title insurance, legal expenses for the Purchase and Sales Agreement, and legal expenses for the Crowell property. The Crowell's are generous enough to give the land up to the Town as long as they pay the expenses for these things to be done.

Ms. Clough said she knew it was a big issue with the Clark Pond acquisition regarding the appraisal. She asked if just one town appraisal would be enough or should they have to have two. Mr. Stanley noted that the one appraisal from the seller is \$470,000. In theory, they are licensed and are supposed to come up with certain numbers by following specific practices. He said if there were two licensed appraisers in the State of New Hampshire who take a similar approach, they should have numbers that are not wildly different. Mr. Stanley said that Clark Pond was more controversial. It was land-locked and had no access to it at all. There is a right of way with this piece of land in question. It is identified in all the appropriate deeds. This property could very well turn into house lots. It is 1,200 feet of hard bottomed waterfront. Everyone sees this property; no one had seen Clark Pond. Mr. Brown asked how it came about that there had been a problem with the appraisal for Clark Pond. Mr. Stanley said that there was a realtor on the Budget

Committee who was convinced that the land was worth a lot less than the CC had paid for it. The survey that was conducted after the fact showed that the size of the property was smaller than they thought. This finding only exacerbated the issue. Ms. Clough said that there are many in Town with the specific interest in preserving waterfront and the lakes, but that there are a lot of people who are not along the same mindset. Mr. Deegan felt that having the two appraisals, both licensed in New Hampshire that they could argue that their figures should come in similarly.

Chair Brown said that if the second appraisal came in at 10-15% of the first appraisal, that it would be fine. But if it came in at much higher or much lower figure, another appraisal would be needed. Mr. Deegan agreed that the two would be sufficient unless they were wildly different. Mr. Stanley said that they need to see how it starts to wash out with the Board of Selectmen before they get too excited about the price. It is a land parcel that they have talked about with the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee for a number of years.

Mr. Deegan said that the vote at Town Meeting would be the last piece they would need to acquire the land. Sunapee would have already had their vote, as would the Otter Pond Protective Association, and Ausbon Sargent. The concern coming from the Board of Selectmen in the past was that the Conservation Commission didn't work with anyone on a common project. Since they would be the very last piece in the decision, he didn't see how they could deny their support of the project. Ms. White felt they should be communicating with the Board of Selectmen on this soon.

Chair Brown noted that the Crowell property donation would be paralleling with this project. He wanted to know if there were attorneys involved. Mr. Stanley said they will have to work with the land trust to see if everything is satisfactory. Because there is no clarity in the Crowell property, (not surveyed, the deed that references it does not include it in the description) the Crowell's attorneys aren't convinced that they even own it. Mr. Stanley said that there is a triangle of land that the Town believed they owned, but it actually belongs to the Crowells. They will probably quick-claim the strip they already own and the triangle of land as well. The estate will want some worth associated with that so that they can use the gift of it as a tax deduction. There are only legal fees involved, no purchase price. Mr. Deegan felt it would be a couple thousand dollars to pay for the legal expenses associated with acquiring the parcel.

Mr. Stanley said that the appraisals for those small pieces of property didn't need to be done immediately, but they do need to be done in the very near future. The contractor will be out there anyway, so it may be good to have him do it all at once. Mr. Stanley said they assumed the parcel in question to be Crowell's land, as they are currently being taxed on it. Mr. Deegan said the only issue with this is that the appraisal may need to be updated if the property isn't closed on within 60 days.

Mr. Dancy said they have been talking about a number of people contributing towards obtaining the property but they should also discuss the Conservation Commission's objective of how much of their funds they will have available to use. They have \$420,000 in the bank currently. He wondered if they should decide to spend no more than half, as this might not be the only piece of property they want to purchase. Mr. Stanley said that most likely, they will need to use \$400,000 for this piece of property. Mr. Deegan said they are lucky that dedicated funds from LCHIP are not being taken back. He said those funds would not be there in any force next year. Mr. Stanley said they should apportion this in a matter of acres. It makes sense that they bear the larger burden in New London, as most of the land is in New London.

Ms. Clough shared Mr. Dancy's concern that if they need to do some sort of public plea for help for funds. There were a lot of good people in town who may contribute to the CC. Mr. Stanley said that there was no mechanism for collecting funds; the Land Trust does, however. Ms. Clough felt that the CC needed to be accredited with part of the fundraising. Mr. Stanley said that this was the plan.

Andy hoped they would get a price on the property, purchase and sales, contingent on the vote at Town Meeting. Mr. Stanley said that the acquisition and protection of the property was led by the Land Trust and that New London had the largest interest in it. It should be noted that the CC started the process. Mr. Deegan said that they should phrase the wording to include all five partners who were involved in the funding.

Mr. Stanley said that based on acreage, the amount each town should be responsible for was \$410,000 to New London and \$60,000 to Sunapee. Chair Brown wanted to know if they, as a group, were 100% comfortable with this scenario. Ms. Alexander said that there was some value for voters when they see the CC putting the money aside and then actually using it. She felt that the citizens of New London would be in favor of the purchase. Chair Brown agreed and opined that this was a worthwhile project and that this sort of thing is what the money in the account is for. Ms. Alexander commented that Warner gets money and spends it immediately. It makes people see that it really is needed each year. Ms. Crane asked if there was any other land on the horizon that they may want to keep some of the money for. Mr. Stanley said that this is a big project and felt that there would always be other pieces of land and projects on the horizon. Mr. Deegan said that it could be noted to the public that with this acquisition, the impact to the tax rate would be zero, they already have the money.

Ms. Clough asked if the list of land to acquire was ever prioritized. No one thought it had been. She said that this piece of land is not well-known, like Clark Lookout was. She felt that other projects had more visibility and thus, had more value to the Town. Mr. Dancy said that this particular parcel wasn't listed in their previous list. It was in a different category than the Clough Pond property. He felt it was a property worthy of protection. No one on the CC thought they should prioritize the list. Mr. Dancy said the same question regarding prioritizing came up at the LSPA meeting because the Land Preservation Committee has this same parcel as a property to be acquired. It is their second item on a list of ten. They realized at the meeting that the original publication had it noted that the list was not prioritized, but when it was published, this disclaimer was missing. Mr. Allen felt that prioritizing pushes people to do things they don't want to do. Mr. Stanley added that it also prevents people from not do things they want to do.

Ms. Alexander said that they should save a time at a meeting to go over what the (Colby-Sawyer?) students came up with regarding priority of properties to acquire.

Chair Brown explained that when they get to the point where they are selling this project to the Town, he wants to be able to say that the CC is 100% behind it. Everyone said that they were in favor of moving forward. Ms. Koron said that if they spend the fund down to \$20,000 that would still be enough to do an appraisal on another piece of property if something big came up. Mr. Stanley said that they wouldn't have access to the money unless it was approved at Town Meeting.

Mr. Stanley said that RSA 36: a enables the Town to have a CC. They have adopted this and currently have a fund containing \$12,996.82 that is a discretionary fund that can be spent by them. It is subject to one approval process. If they are paying for expenses related to the CC, it would involve another approval process. An appraisal would be an expense to the CC, as there is no acquisition associated with the expense; they are simply determining the value of something. If they choose to do this, it would be set in motion by a simple majority vote of the members of the CC. However, if they are acquiring land, paying (?) interest on land, creating a conservation easement, or committing to purchase and sales agreement, they will need approval of the Board of Selectmen at a public hearing. Such a hearing would need to be sponsored by the CC, and dually noticed that this would be the topic of discussion. There would be two meetings necessary to acquire land or enter into a contract towards that purpose. For the purpose of engaging someone to do an appraisal, they have about \$13,000 to spend, when passed by majority vote.

Mr. Deegan reviewed with the CC that he has obtained four quotes. Only one has an acceptable

timeframe. All the others could only be done in August or later. One estimate for work done in August was \$1,600. One estimate that noted August to be the earliest they could begin was \$1,200 to \$1,500. One estimate to begin in August was \$1,300. One estimate to have to work done in 2-3 weeks is \$1,500 to \$2,500. For the latter estimate, Mr. Deegan had compiled all of the individual's qualifications and noted that he has been appraising since 1968. Mr. Dancy felt they should choose the one that can do the work the soonest to get everything in order for Town Meeting.

Chair Brown felt they should make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen and convince them that it was a worthwhile project. He suggested that they not go ahead with the appraisal without first discussing it with them to see what their reaction would be. Ms. White said she couldn't agree more. Mr. Stanley said that the CC is tentatively on the agenda for the next Board of Selectmen meeting to be held June 28<sup>th</sup> at 8am. Jessie thought it was appropriate to have them sit down and talk to the BOS about the project. Mr. Stanley suggested that having a representative from each of the involved organizations should be present. They suggested Walt Goddard from LSPA, Jerry Shelby from Otter Pond Protective Association, Andy Deegan from the Land Trust, and someone from Sunapee Conservation Commission. He added that someone from the Lake Associations should be there too. Chair Brown explained that contingent on the presentation to the Board of Selectmen, they would proceed with contracting the appraisal for the Phillips property.

Ms. Clough asked what kind of public access there would be to the property. Mr. Stanley said that there were two: one by land and one by water. He explained that the trail network would be extended out onto this property. There is a small sandy beach where a swim and picnic area could be created. Mr. Denning said that they currently don't have anywhere for people to kayak to a destination and picnic. This would be unique in that respect.

Chair Brown shared that he would be away until June 30<sup>th</sup> and was not able to change his plans. He asked Mr. Stanley if he could attend the meeting. Mr. Stanley said that he would be attending the meeting as a source of facts but not as a representative of the CC. Ms. Alexander said she would be able to make the meeting. Mr. Stanley said it would be discussed in a non-public session as it deals with a parcel of land to be acquired. Ms. Alexander asked if would be appropriate to have a dress rehearsal for the meeting. She and Mr. Deegan agreed that she could go to his office to work it out. She would also fix the Granite maps to show the Crowell piece and show what is owned by the Town of New London already. Mr. Stanley said it was crucial that things be correct at this stage in the game.

Chair Brown summarized the order of events leading up to the desired acquisition of the property: The Board of Selectmen meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> with approval granted, then "ok" to have the appraisal done (which would put them ready by the third week of July or sooner), then to compare the appraisal numbers, and then to hopefully negotiate a purchase and sales price. Chair Brown reminded them that this was all contingent on the voting at Town Meeting.

Mr. Stanley said that there would probably be some cash deposit required. They should not have a problem doing this between themselves and Sunapee. It will need to be explained at the Board of Selectmen meeting that they will need to come back should they decide to go forward with entering into a contract to purchase the land. Mr. Dancy said that those being requested to be at the meeting should be invited immediately to plan for it. Chair Brown asked Mr. Deegan to invite the representatives via writing. Mr. Deegan agreed and said that he would put together a letter, call them, and then send the letter. Mr. Dancy suggested that if Walt Goddard is still away during the time of the meeting, that June Fichter or Woody \_\_\_\_ could come instead.

Mr. Deegan said that he would recues himself from the vote as he was coming from the ASLPT side of the issue.

**IT WAS MOVED (Bob Brown) AND SECONDED (Laura Alexander) that subject to the Board of Selectmen’s approval, the CC will arrange for an appraisal with the company that can complete it within three weeks and for a sum of no more than \$2,500.**

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Deegan added that the attorney for this property is going to be away until the beginning of July. He understands that selling the property to the Town would save his clients 10% and he understands how the process works when working within a Town on these issues.

Per the suggestion of Mr. Stanley, Chair Brown agreed to contact Ms. Levine and confirm the 9am time slot for the Board of Selectmen’s meeting on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Trails**

Mr. Allen said that the Sunapee Ragged Kearsarge Greenway has adopted a new blaze so they can stop painting the trails. They are finding it hard to get people out on the trails to re-paint them. The new blazes cost about \$1 each. Greenway has the money and they have already spent \$800 so far. It will cost a couple thousand to put them all around the Greenway. The Sunapee Ragged Kearsarge Greenway is seeking approval to put the blazes on the New London trails, including the Great Brook Trail, the Wolf Tree Trail and the Web Forest Interpretive Trail. Chair Brown asked for a motion.

**IT WAS MOVED (Dan Allen) AND SECONDED (Vicki Koron) to allow Sunapee Ragged Kearsarge Greenway to affix their blaze to trees on the greenway trails in New London.**

Mr. Allen indicated that they will use aluminum nails to affix the blazes to the trees, which he felt were OK to use. Mr. Deegan confirmed that these types of nails do much less harm than galvanized nails.

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chair Brown asked if anyone had any problems with bikes on the Clark Pond Trail. He said that he had seen some tracks. Mr. Dancy said that the Clark Pond Trail says “Foot Traffic Only”, and he was sure of this, as he made the sign.

Mr. Allen said that the Sargent Brook Bridge on the interpretive trail was replaced the past Sunday with help from Ken Kelsler and Mark Vernon. They used pressure treated wood which came to \$231.26, which Mr. Vernon paid for. It was agreed that Mr. Vernon would be reimbursed by the CC.

Chris Parrin from the DOT responded to the Conservation Commission’s request to use salt to treat weeds on public highways. The letter stated three reasons why they would not approve this use of salt.

### **Projects**

Chair Brown asked if there were any projects on the list that had not been done yet. Ms. White asked about Low Plane Overlook. She said that the good news is that there is much more milkweed there than she has ever seen. The bad news is that there is a lot more of everything else as well. She accompanied 20 people from Concord there the past Sunday and they could hardly walk to the pond. Knotweed and Poison Ivy was in abundance. Ms. White opined that people weren’t going out on the trail because it was so dense. She knows the Town periodically mows the area, but she also knows the Davis Path gets bad before this happens. She wondered if they should come up with a new plan because by July, the path will be encroached.

Mr. Allen said he plans to ask Richard Lee to mow Low Plane. They didn't do it last year. Ms. White said if the mowing is going to be pushed back by the Town because of other priorities, they should make another plan. Mr. Stanley said that if Mr. Lee is not able to do it, he and another person could go in and have it done in 10 minutes. Mr. Allen said there is a question of whether they want to open up the meadow and cut down the pines and saplings. Ms. White said that would be a good thing to do. Mr. Stanley said that would be a good project for Bob's diversion group. He said that other groups of students have done this project in the past. He explained that the beaver in the area will take care of the hard wood, but the pine is what needs to be taken out.

Ms. White noted that there were a couple of successful wood duck families living in that area. There were five in one group and seven in another. Mr. Allen said that he saw the Blue Herrings that Ms. White had spoke of earlier. She said she wasn't sure that there would be any offspring this year, but perhaps next year. Mr. Dancy noted there are two loon chicks on Pleasant Lake.

Mr. Dancy said that Mark Vernon circulated some modified text for the Web Forest map. Mr. Vernon asked if they needed a new map and if they should schedule a re-print. Mr. Dancy explained that they still have a large number of the maps and that the changes are not enormous. His suggestion was that they don't need to reprint. Chair Brown suggested amending the master copy and using up their current stock before re-printing.

Ms. White said that the geology signs need to be updated. They should check to make sure all the examples are still there and if they are, the sign needs to be freshened up.

Ms. Koron said they are almost out of maps. (Are these different than the maps Mr. Dancy was referring to???) They ordered 2,000 two years ago. If they go to concord it was about \$40 cheaper than going to a local printer. She said that in the past, she has gone out of town for this printing job. Mr. Stanley said that he likes the idea of staying in Town. Chair Brown asked if she had talked to the local printer to see if they could get the amount down. Ms. Clough felt they may be able to cut the difference in half at the local vendor. Ms. Koron said that she would approach the vendor and see what they could do.

### **Bog Trail**

Chair Brown said that the first day with the diversion group was rained out. They have had two days to work with them since and have got a lot done. It is a small group of four people, but Mr. Allen was also there to lend a helpful hand. There is still some fine-tuning, leveling, and getting some things supported. They will be headed out to the Tundra Trail with the other sections. He thought there may be five or six sections left at the junction. He wants to be able to finish up the para-loop (?) and assess what they need further out. They have moved 800 linear feet of boardwalk.

Chair Brown noted that he got a call from Chad Denning (Recreation Department) who wanted some help on the Kidder Cleveland Clough Trail. They have created a Story Walk which includes 20 posts that have pages from a book on them. He was informed that some of the boardwalks needed adjustment and that some trees had come down in the trail.

Chair Brown said that on some of the signs that were being replaced, they have put "conservation commission" on it so that people are aware of the work they are doing. Often times, the Recreation Commission or the New London Outing Club get credit for their work.

Mr. Stanley asked who monitors the Philips Preserve trails. Someone thought it was Dale Connelly. He noted that the sign there needed some attention, as does the trail. Chair Brown said that there are 30 trails identified on the website, but only 13 on their list. Mr. Stanley said he would go out some morning this weekend and hike the preserve and get some rough work done that needed to be done. He added that

pruning was in order as well. Mr. Stanley added that this was something they should square away so that it is friendly and accessible to those who want to go out and see the property for themselves. Mr. Deegan said that he would go through the list of trails he had and merge it with the list online and send it around to make sure it was OK. Ms. Clough said that she and her husband would get out on the trail to do some maintenance. Mr. Stanley said that he had flagged the property already. There was a mark on a tree that was not a bound, but the actual bound was further beyond, 50 yards back and to the South.

Mr. Dancy said that he is not going to be able to get out to the Bunker Route. Mr. Deegan said that Les \_\_\_ is the adopter of that trail so that was fine.

Ms. Clough said she'd like to put for next month to have some public advertising to get some more adopters for trails. There are 33 trails and it is a lot of work. Chair Brown said that the blazing document gives good guidelines on how to maintain a trail. He noted that some of the trails were not in New London. Some cross over into neighboring towns. They have always been on the list for New London to maintain. Mr. Deegan said that he could remove these from the list. Ms. White said that the trails should stay on the list because New London has always maintained them and that New London residents use them.

#### **Member Update Email Sheet**

Kristy Heath agreed to put the list together and email it to the CC members.

#### **Website**

Mr. Crane shared that the following Spring/Summer, he and Ms. Crane want to take a long trip going to Alaska with their RV. They would like someone to keep the minutes and everything else up on the website. They thought someone else could slowly take over some of the website work. Mr. Deegan suggested giving the members some time to think about the idea and they could talk about it during the following week.

#### **Tree Farm Update**

Chair Brown said that the trees were looking better now. Some of the maples have grown up almost a foot. Chair Brown still has them outside his shop. Mr. Lee is prepared to move the trees to the sewer treatment plant, dig trenches, and back fill it. They need to get a watering plan and Mr. Lee is willing to help. Chair Brown said that he is trying to get in touch with David Kerry about trying to obtain some Chestnut saplings.

#### **Budget Report**

Chair Brown said that they haven't spent very much and he will go over everything with Mr. Deegan.

#### **Mail**

The following items were shared:

Pleasant Lake Protective Association – letter of receipt for the Milfoil grant

Ausbon Sargent – Invitation to a progressive dinner

Acknowledgement and thank you for membership of Ausbon Sargent

Shoreline Impact Permit from Kenneth Freise – Mr. Stanley said that a triangular parcel of land on Lake Sunapee that is accessed by another parcel on Pilot House Road. There is a small structure on it and was sold as residential site. The driveway crosses a small piece of wetlands. This was an acknowledgement of the permit application. Mr. Stanley said to drop it off with Linda Jackman to be filed in the tax file downstairs. He explained that the soil is 53" down and is all gravel. It makes a perfect place for the installation of infiltration devices. He added that it is being designed so the first inch of rain will all go into the ground.

**Notice Merger of Lots**

Peter Stanley said that Colby-Sawyer College's maintenance shed is on a small lot that fronts Barrett Road. They would be merging the lots but it would not entitle them to use it as an access point for the other lot. They will be merging the lots in order to reduce taxes.

**Meeting Dates**

Future meeting dates will remain as scheduled.

**Other Business**

Mr. Deegan said that at the Cricenti Bog he thinks there may be an endangered species of Dragon Fly called the Ebony Bog Hunter. The specimen's behavior signified to him that it was the endangered species. He couldn't catch it, so he wasn't able to report it to the State.

**Messer Pond Easement**

Mr. Deegan asked if this should be reviewed by the Town's attorney as it was similar to Clark Pond. Chair Brown asked if that should happen in the late fall. Mr. Stanley said it should go to Town Counsel, then to the CC counsel, and then it would go to easement. They would also need to schedule the Board of Selectmen to sign it.

Mr. Stanley said that he hadn't heard the status yet of the easement of low plane. It has gone before the Lands Committee for Fish and Game. Rich Cook hasn't gotten back to him yet. He was hoping all went well and they will move forward with it.

**IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Emma Crane) to adjourn the CC meeting of June 16, 2010. THE MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:09am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London