

**Town of New London  
Conservation Commission**

**Minutes of March 21, 2007**

**APPROVED**

Present: Laura Alexander, Dan Allen, Dale Conly, Bob Crane, Emma Crane, Terry Dancy, Vicki Koron, Les Norman, Peter Stanley and Ruth White.

Guest(s): Bruce King, CEO, New London Hospital; Laurie Underwood, New London Hospital; Kevin Thatcher, Clough, Harbour & Associates LLP; Marty Risley, Clough, Harbour & Associates LLP.

Meeting was called to order by Les Norman at 1:00 p.m.

1. Minutes of the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting were approved unanimously.
2. New London Hospital Property (Map-072, Lot-016 & 017): Bruce King, CEO from New London Hospital presented a brief overview of the New London Hospital(NLH) project and how it ended up coming before the commission. He continued with a review of the NLH renovation/construction project. Briefly stated that the project will move the doctors' office's from the Medical Building, the billing services and so on to the campus to create one area for patients and employees. He presented the construction plans and renderings of the new building and grounds area. Dan Allen questioned the Lyon Brook trail, citing the plan made it look as though the new driveway would sit on the current trail. Bruce King & Laurie Underwood stated the new driveway will lie about 50 feet from the Lyon Brook trail. Bruce King then introduced Marty Risley of Clough, Harbour & Associates to answer questions regarding the impact to the wetlands. Mr. Risley presented plans showing the walking trail in relation to the new driveway and then turned the floor over to Kevin Thatcher of Clough, Harbour & Associates. Mr. Thatcher handed out smaller copies of the plans he would be presenting to the commission. He then pointed out the five areas around the hospital that currently drain the runoff from the NLH property. He cited the plan for the renovation and construction which provide more of a structure and less parking, which in turn reduces pollutants traveling to the wetlands. He outlined the new drainage from the building and parking lots, consisting of the same five areas that are currently present. Dan Allen questioned whether a 100 year event would cause the water to travel across the road. Mr. Thatcher replied that the water would with an 100 year storm event cross the road. Terry Dancy questioned if Clough, Harbour & Associates had discussed improving the current watershed process at the hospital. Mr. Risley said that the current plan meets standards, and that to improve drainage at the hospital construction of ponds would be required, which takes land. Laura Alexander questioned other options for parking lot, such as blue stone instead of asphalt. Mr. Risley stated that Clough, Harbour & Associates and NLH had not discussed this topic. Ruth White pointed out the long history of Lyon Brook and Keyser Lake. She then questioned the 10 year storm surge, as the past four years have been 200 year events. Mr. Risley stated the 10 year storm surge is the standard for engineering purposes. Heavy discussion

followed about the runoff and improving current conditions. Laura Alexander asked Bruce King and Marty Risley if they could possibly investigate the implementation of treatment areas where runoff enters wetlands. Les Norman questioned the access road which connected to the small parking lot near the rear of the building which was sketched on the plan. Mr. Thatcher stated the sketch was put on the plan to show where a possible second access could be proposed. The secondary access is not currently being proposed, but it is present to show how it would affect the wetlands around the property. Vicki Koron stated that NLH has an opportunity to raise the bar for standards. She reminded the NLH representatives that the Town of New London is a very conservation minded town. Bruce King asked if it would be fair to say the commission supports the project, but would like to see improved drainage on the property. The commission agreed. NLH and Clough, Harbour & Associates representatives left the meeting. Laura Alexander stated that the NLCC should suggest to the Planning Board to make amendments to zoning regulations which refer to impervious surfaces, runoff and to instruct engineers to use a 25-50 year plan instead of a 10 year. Discussion ensued about impervious and pervious surfaces, runoff, and multi-level parking. A suggestion was made to create a statement to give to the Planning Board regarding the Master Plan. The commission decided to complete more research before moving ahead with a statement. Dale Conly pointed out that the Planning Board can ask NLH to update the drainage before the plan will be approved. Discussion seized, the agenda continued.

3. Spring Walks: Ruth White proposed four dates for spring walks. May 2<sup>nd</sup>, of which she cannot attend, but will ask Peter Stanley if he would be interested; May 23<sup>rd</sup>, which will be a bird viewing and listening event; June 6<sup>th</sup>, which will be a walk through the bog and June 13<sup>th</sup>, which will be a walk through Great Brook. She commented that the weather for the winter walks was part of the reason for low participants.

4. Board Walk: Dan Allen will enlist high school student Eian Prohl to work on the board walk through the bog. There will be numerous work days to complete the project and more information will follow. Discussion followed about asking other service organization, other students, and the Boy Scouts. The issue of liability was questioned.

5. Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust(ASLPT): Les Norman referred to a letter from Debbie Stanley, Executive Director of the ASLPT. The letter stated that the ASLPT had received a donation of \$2,600.00 to “promote, highlight and enrich natural resources within ASLPT’s protected lands.” Dan Allen asked whether the money would cover an inventory of old cellar holes on conservation property. Ruth White asked if the commission would add signs to historical areas that are located on the walks. She stated that people enjoy learning the history as they walk. Both ideas were discussed and the commission will ask ASLPT if these project would be covered.

6. Duck Boxes: Bob Crane commented that someone had installed duck boxes, one on Bog Road near Messer Pond, and the other on County Road. The commission was concerned about who would maintain the boxes and if they were properly setup.

7. Lands Summit: Laura Alexander notified the board that the ASLPT will hold a Lands Summit on October 27<sup>th</sup> at Kearsarge Regional High School. The summit will include workshops for Conservation Commissions and Planning Boards in the area. More information will be available soon.

8. Board of Selectmen: Les Norman and Peter Stanley will be attending the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss:

- Schultz Property

- Low Plain Easement; to be placed in the name of Fish & Game Department.

- Easements on all town conservation property.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Submitted by Kelsie Lee