

TOWN OF NEW LONDON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MAY 18, 2005
(approved 6-15-05)

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

Eight items of business were addressed at this meeting.

1. Minutes

Peter Stanley moved to accept the minutes of April 20, 2005. Dale Conly seconded. Motion approved.

2. Milfoil Prevention Funds

Laura Alexander confirmed that prior to this meeting, Conservation Commission members had received copies of applications from Little Lake Sunapee Protective Association requesting \$5000 from the Town's Milfoil Prevention Reserve, from Pleasant Lake Protective Association requesting \$7000, and from Lake Sunapee requesting \$5000.

To date, neither Messer Pond nor Otter Pond have submitted applications.

Conservation Commission members noted that there is still time for them to apply. Last year, Messer Pond applied for \$2,000. They returned an end of the year balance, as did Little Sunapee Protective Association.

Pleasant Lake Protective Association

Dick Clayton, representing Pleasant Lake Protective Association, said that the State's subsidy has been reduced. PLPA has been informed that it will receive a state grant of \$4000 this year. PLPA's philosophy is that more grant money translates to more protection for the lake. He noted that last year, PLPA's lake hosts inspected 1000 vessels, and he added that one of the biggest benefits to the hosting program has been in education.

Virginia Johnson said that statewide, last summer, the hosting programs made 16 "saves," and no lakes were added to the list of milfoil infestations.

Terry Dancy pointed out that there is a higher fishing load on Pleasant Lake than on others, and those boats are more likely to have come from other lakes.

Vicki Koron pointed out that, by comparison, big Sunapee which is requesting \$5000 from the town, staffs only on week-ends, while PLPA staffs from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day during summer.

Little Sunapee Protective Association

Laurie DiClerico, representing Little Sunapee Protective Association, said that with the grant money anticipated from the New Hampshire Lakes Association, Little Sunapee Protective Association would be able to have a lake host for 297 hours; if they receive the requested Town grant, that number would increase to 809. This year, they have hired a high school student as lake host, and she will be able to stay through Labor Day.

Virginia Johnson, also representing Little Sunapee Protective Association, added that last year, the Little Sunapee Lake Host inspected 639 boats. (Laurie DiClerico pointed out that, by comparison, they inspected 81 boats in 2003.) With the anticipated funds from the Town, they would be able to staff their boat launch twelve hours a day on week-ends and eight hours a day during the week in July and August. She added that last year,

the Little Sunapee inspection program did find a new weed on an incoming boat. As it turned out, it was not an “exotic,” but it was one which had not previously been seen in this area.

Peter Stanley suggested the possibility that if LSPA had more hours (i.e. more grant money), they, too, could inspect more vessels. He opened discussion on bringing Little Sunapee’s request closer to the amount requested by Pleasant Lake PA. He pointed out that New London has relatively little control over Sunapee’s program, as that lake does not have boat launches in this Town.

Conservation Commission members agreed that fishing vessels which usually arrive early in the morning, probably pose the biggest threat of milfoil, as they frequently come from other lakes.

Both LSPA representatives agreed that with more funds, they could staff more hours, including perhaps some early morning hours popular with fisher men.

Conservation Commission members expressed some concern that the Town’s allocation for milfoil prevention not be completely depleted at this stage. Messer Pond may still submit a request. After some further discussion, it was agreed that Little Sunapee Protective Association will modify their request to \$6000, and will submit the revised paperwork to the Selectmen’s Office.

In conclusion: Ruth White moved that the Conservation Commission recommend to the Board of Selectmen approval of Lake Sunapee’s request of \$5000 for milfoil prevention, Little Sunapee Protective Association’s request for \$6000, and Pleasant Lake Protective Association’s request for \$7000.

3. Myra Ferguson- Proposed Modifications to 583 Lakeshore Drive (within fifty-foot buffer for Pleasant Lake).

Myra Ferguson explained that her family has recently purchased this property, and would like to make several modifications for enhancement of safety, esthetics and erosion control. She presented to the Commission a written plan of action, two diagrams, and numerous photographs. Almost the entire parcel is within the fifty-foot setback.

She is proposing improving the access from the parking spot across the road to the house by installing stone steps from the edge of the road down to the house site, creating a pea-stone walkway from there along the front of the house, with perforated pipe beneath it to divert water. She would like to add a knee high retaining wall of native stone between the road and the house, and she would like to replace the wood retaining wall in the area of the fuel tank with a stone one.

She said that Richard Lee does not have objections to this, including the cutting of hemlocks along the road, as long as more hemlocks are planted a little further back from the road. In response to comment from the Commission, she said they will be addressing the ice problem that occurs on the road, at the bottom of their driveway.

She described the proposed continuation of the retaining wall along the south side of the house, as well as proposed enhancements with pea-stone and quarried-stone steps, of the existing paths to basement and dock. They would like to put a layer of pea stone under the deck and add some 6”x 6” timbers to hold that in place between the piers.

Regarding vegetation, she proposes cutting the trees in front of the deck as they have already been lopped off at the top, but saving their roots, and adding bushy deciduous plants.

Peter Stanley suggested that the perforated pipe with the filter fabric on top of it—both to be placed beneath the pea stone walkways, discharge to a five by two-foot level area of one-foot deep crushed stone, to allow the water to settle and sheet flow toward the lake. He suggested keeping that flow separate from the current culvert.

Myra Ferguson asked about placing some rocks behind the current culvert on the road to prevent splashing and erosion of the bank there.

Laura Alexander said the work across the road falls under Richard Lee's purview. The Fergusons should check with him regarding the outlet of the culvert, too.

The Conservation Commission's understanding is that the entrance end of a culvert is the Highway Department's responsibility, and the discharge end would be the property owner's.

Myra Ferguson asked about an outdoor shower below the deck.

Peter Stanley said there are no town regulations regarding plumbing, but it would be addressed by the Town if it becomes an erosion problem, He suggested a shower which allows control of the volume with a pull string.

Terry Dancy said no detergent should be used in the lake.

Peter Stanley said the changes being proposed are all permitted uses, upon review and approval from the Conservation Commission, noting that both retaining walls and walkways are permitted within the fifty-foot buffer as long as they create space for plantings, not for recreation. The space beneath the deck can be improved with the pea stone and retainers as that will not be increasing the volume of the structure. All of the items in this proposal enhance erosion control.

Terry Dancy noted that they would not be creating a precedent.

The Ferguson will not need a building permit to replace the roof, or the deck floor as long as they are not altering it. They will have to submit a building permit application for some of the work proposed, and that application should include an erosion control plan. The erosion control must be put into place before the project is begun. Peter Stanley recommended using hay bales rather than silt fencing in that area.

4. Low Plain

Peter Stanley said that Proctor student Brittany Stratton is doing her senior environmental studies project at Low Plain. As part of her project, she has already removed two downstream beaver dams. In addition, she will be cutting some of the coniferous trees near the entrance to keep that a deciduous woodland, doing some minor repairs, and designing and installing new, lightweight metal roofs on the blinds, with latches to hold them down in the wind.

Ruth White referred again to the need to improve, or relocate, the "Trail Closed" signs.

She has taken several photographs of Brittany at work, and will submit them along with an article to the *InterTown Record*. She will refer to the beaver pipe as a "water level regulating device."

5. Web Site

Bob Crane reported that he continues to add to the web site, including most recent trail maps which indicate which trails are closed now.

He suggested the photographs and a write up regarding Brittany's work be added in the section titled "Projects."

He asked about a natural history for each of the trails. He suggested there are a number of features on the various trails as cellar holes, and cascades, which could be described.

No change will be made in the procedure for minutes.

6. Trails

Dan Allen reviewed his current list of adopters and monitors, and reviewed with Conservation Commission members the old list for other potential volunteers. He had several comments and questions:

- o Have landowner permissions been obtained for the Clough-Ohler Trail?

Terry Dancy said that verbal permission has been given by the Cloughs and the Ohlers, and written permission was obtained from the Puglieses'. The trail does not cross the Messer property, and crosses only a small corner of the Granger property.

- o Roy and Sara Smith have adopted the Lyon Brook South Trail, and Roy Smith has volunteered to repair the "run away bridge."
- o Several trees are down on Morgan Hill Trail and the Dura Crockett Trail

Ruth White asked if some directional—an arrow or something, could be placed on the sign near the entrance to the Bog which indicates to people that there is an alternate, dry route they may use in wet conditions.

Also, she said the third board in from the entrance to the Bog needs replacing. There are boards on-site that could be used. Dale Conly and Terry Dancy said they will take care of this when they are they putting up the new sign dedicated to Ted Parkhurst.

The Commission authorized Dan Allen to purchase the orange paint for the blazes. If possible, the metal disks will be removed from the trees.

7. Invasive Species

Laura Alexander presented a mock-up of a brochure for the Invasive Species Program. The color brochure including both text and photos was designed as a student project by Stacey Philbrook.

Conservation Commission members commended her work, and agreed that the size of text, choice of photographs, and spacing is perfect. Several links to additional information are provided. They authorized Laura Alexander to obtain some estimates for cost of printing.

Members agreed that the brochure should be distributed to local landscapers and nurseries, real estate offices, and the library, among others. Also, Bob Crane will add it to the web site under "Projects."

8. Granger subdivision

Dale Conly reported that the Planning Board subcommittee will meet again tomorrow, and the Public Hearing has been scheduled for June 28.

Right now the subcommittee is focusing on reducing the number of lots to be built.

Peter Stanley said that the Planning Board needs to act on quantifiable information, instead of subjective.

Conservation Commission members agreed that with proper restrictions and monitoring, this project may have minimum impact on the lake. Note was made that the increasing amount of impermeable surfaces being created on waterfront properties does far more harm.

Dale Conly said the developers claim they can meet the requirements with one septic field for the whole project.

Terry Dancy said it would have to be inspected annually.

Dan Allen expressed concern that they do not have enough of a receiving layer there. He believes that an 18-inch natural layer, and four-feet of built up material is required above the impermeable substrate.

Peter Stanley said that concern should be submitted to DES, though the Conservation Commission will not be in the loop with this application.

Ruth White said the Planning Board should know about it.

Other

- o Conservation Commission members authorized Peter Stanley to proceed with work on the field at Phillips Preserve.
- o There was some discussion regarding how to proceed with printing the new trail maps.
- o Emma Crane reported that she, Bob Crane and two representatives from Newbury have perambulated the New London/Newbury town line. They have submitted a report to the New London Selectmen, and Bob Crane e-mailed that report to the Newbury office.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next meeting will be June 15 at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S.A. Denz
Recording Secretary