

**TOWN OF NEW LONDON  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
May 16, 2007  
Meeting Minutes - Approved**

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

Guest: Peter Blakeman

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

1. Minutes of August April 18th meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Peter Blakeman of Blakeman Engineering presented two proposals. On behalf of Mr. Snow (Tax Map 111, lot 8) a location of a driveway crossing wetlands – it is not in the best location because of previous work done on the lot so is not proposed for the narrowest crossing of the wetlands. There was concern expressed by Commission members about setting a precedent for future proposals. Mr. Blakeman was reminded of the new regulations for driveways. It was also recommended that contractors obtain a driveway permit before work is begun. The proposal was approved with reluctance, making an exception because of the pre-existing conditions on the lot. No letter of support will be written. Mr. Blakeman has filed a request with the Wetlands Bureau.

On behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas (Tax Map 103, lot 18) – a new proposal for a driveway – the new proposal creates less disturbance to wetlands, an easement has been obtained from the abutters, and a request has been sent to the Wetlands Bureau. The NLCC agreed that it was a much better plan than what had been presented at a previous meeting. The next step is to submit the proposal to the Zoning Board.

3. The Commission received two proposals (Dartmouth and Harvard) from graduate research fellows requesting permission to take samples at the Cricenti Bog. Sampling material is needed to support their respective research projects. While the NLCC supports such educational endeavors, concern was expressed about disruption to the Bog, and the fact that the Bog has very public access and is well publicized. CC members felt that if research fellows were sampling off trail, that others would get the idea they could walk all over. Les will draft a letter expressing the Commission's concerns and offer suggestions of other areas in the state that samples could be taken.
4. Trails: Dan has bought lumber (\$130) to add to the Bog. He requested authorization for another \$500 for additional lumber. He asked for volunteers to help carry it in. The Lyon Brook Bridge is in place. Knotweed is coming back on King Hill Road. Given the experiment that was carried out last year, the only effective treatment to eradicate or control knotweed is injecting "Round-Up" into the root system of the plants. Foliage spray also works if done two years in a row. It was suggested that something be posted at Low Plain about fire danger.
5. Spring Walks: Peter's Woodcock walk was very well attended. Bird walk is next.
6. Other Business:

- a. Phillip's Reserve – there was a squatter on the property but it turned out that the individual was a Phillip's relative and he wasn't sure where the boundary line was. He was shown where the property line was.
- b. Clark Pond – Peter is meeting with Eric Schultz about a land acquisition.
- c. It was suggested that the NLCC form a "project committee". This would allow individuals who were no longer directly involved with the CC to remain involved and active. Motion was made and passed unanimously.
- d. Ruth White and Terry Dancy are alternate members of the Conservation Commission. Ruth replaced Peter Stanley. Bob Brown is a new member replacing Ruth. Peter will remain involved with the CC as the Zoning Board liaison. The turn over of members occurred at the Town Annual Meeting.
- e. Terry Dancy received a survey from the Dept. of Environmental Safety requesting information about the effect of the last storm on dams in the area. He will pass along to Richard Lee.
- f. Ruth White obtained natural resource inventory reports from the towns of Wilmot and Newbury. They have been reviewed by Peter Stanley and Bob and Emma Crane. The town of Springfield is in the process of developing a similar report. The question posed was whether or not New London should be developing a similar report or should such an effort be folded into the Master Plan that is currently being developed. It was decided that it should be a separate project since state statute requires that each town have one. Les will include this as a standing item on future NLCC meeting agendas and Ruth White will present a plan to accomplish the task at the next NLCC meeting.
- g. There was a brief discussion of putting a "Look For" column in the *Intertown Record* on a periodic basis and this would coordinate with the NLCC website information.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30

Submitted by Linda Hanlon  
Recording Secretary