



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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MEETING MINUTES TOWN OF NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION May 21, 2009

Present: Andy Deegan, Laura Alexander, Dan Allen, Bob Brown, Sue Clough, Emma Crane, Terry Dancy, Vicki Koron, Ruth White.

Other: Terri Bingham, Messer Pond Protective Association; Dick Clayton, Pleasant Lake Protective Association; Bob Crane; Peter Stanley- Zoning Administrator, Bob Crane; Webmaster

Chair Deegan opened the meeting at 1:00P.M.

Minutes: The minutes of the April 14, 2009 meeting were approved as presented.

Milfoil Grants: Chair Deegan reviewed the applications for the Town's Milfoil Grants. The Messer Pond Protective Association has applied for a grant of \$4000, the Pleasant Lake Protective Association has applied for a grant of \$7000, and Little Lake Sunapee Protective Association has applied for \$7913. At Town meeting in March, the residents of New London voted to approve Article 16 which allocated \$18,500 towards the Milfoil Prevention and Treatment of New London water-bodies. Since the total of the three applications exceeded what was approved by the Town, the request of the Little Lake Sunapee Association was reduced by \$413 to reach the targeted total of \$18,500. Ms. Alexander moved that the Conservation Commission approve the three requests, this was seconded by Ms. Crane. There being no discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Bingham said that on June 26, the Lakes Congress, sponsored by the New Hampshire Lakes Association will be held at Colby-Sawyer College. She said that the Messer Pond Protective Association is prepared to donate up to two tickets for any of the Town employees who would like to attend. Chair Deegan said that all the Commission members should have gotten an e-mail from Jessie Levine announcing this Congress. He said that he will be unable to attend, but encourages other to attend. Mr. Dancy said that the Pleasant Lake Protective Association will be running water sampling boat tours of the lake as part of this meeting.

Trails: Chair Deegan reported that he did a baseline documentation report for the Clark Pond Easement and said that the trails and bridges were in good shape and expressed his appreciation to Bob Brown for his hard work. Mr. Dancy agreed and said additionally, the Middle School trail work was incredible and expressed appreciation for the pictures of this effort which were available on the web. Mr. Brown said a lot had happened on that trail this week and he thanked Peter Stanley for the use of his tractor. Mr. Allen said there was still more work to do and would schedule a work day next week. He will notify all Commissioners when this will be scheduled. He said he needs help with pitching brush and would like to get this done this summer.

Mr. Deegan said that he was contacted by Girl Scout Troop 2 regarding the adoption one of the trails. Mr. Allen said that he had been contacted as well and has proposed a particular trail which had been adopted by Mr. Freeland, but who might be moving from the New London area. Mr. Allen will check on this. Ms. White expressed the need to tighten up the expectations of what adopting a trail means and thought that there should be a set structure in place regarding expectations and how often the trail is to be monitored. Mr. Allen said that he has a set of guidelines and that these were distributed to those who adopt the trails. These suggest that the adopters should go out in the spring and the fall and that the trails should be kept 4 foot wide, by 8 foot high and cut back to the signs to improve visibility. He added that the growth needed to be cut back aggressively in order to comply with these measurements. Ms. Clough said that she and her husband were taking over a trail and that she had received information on trail blazing. She agreed that the adopters needed to tend to the trails more than spring and fall. Mr. Deegan said that he would get back in touch with the Girl Scout troop and is willing to give them the opportunity to be trail adopters. He said he would impress upon them that they need to walk the trail every other week and let members of the Conservation Commission know what needs to be done to maintain the trail. The Commission will then schedule a work day with the troop to accomplish those identified tasks. He said he will periodically check in with the troop to see how they are doing.

Mr. Brown reported that he had sent some photos of the west loop of the KCC trail. Three major bridges had been replaced and the remaining 8 foot bridge is 80% functional and will eventually need to be replaced. He reported that he, Mr. Allen, Chad Denning of the Recreation Commission, Scott Brown and John Kiernan, moved two bridge frames and about 150 feet of boardwalk. He said he and Scot Brown moved about another 150 feet of boardwalk taking the trail almost out to the ball field. The material for finishing the west side of that loop is there but it has not yet been taken into the woods. He commented that the 14 foot bridge that was put in last year had shown some signs of damage to the railing. Mr. Brown reported that this had now been fixed. He also noted that there was considerable debris along the creek bed which needed to be cleaned out. He concluded his report by thanking Chad Denning, Scott Brown, and John Kiernan for their great efforts.

Ms. Crane asked about the schedule for repairing the bridge on the Lyon Brook Trail. Mr. Allen said this will need to be done before the Girl Scouts come.

Clark Pond Easement: Chair Deegan said that this document, which had been e-mailed to all Commission members, has been reviewed by Jessie Levine and Peter Stanley. He asked if there were any comments or concerns about the easement. No Commission members expressed any concerns or had any questions. Mr. Stanley said that this document will then be reviewed by Town counsel and following that will be signed by the Selectmen. Mr. Deegan said he would e-mail the latest version to Ms. Levine and inform her that the Commission has approved this document.

Spring Walks: Chair Deegan reported that his Spring Walk was on May 9 and that no one showed up, possibly due to the rainy weather, and the fact that it was graduation day at Colby-Sawyer College. Mr. Allen will host another Spring Walk next week.

Master Plan: Chair Deegan announced that the Master Plan workshop on Conservation will be held on June 9 at 7:00P.M. He requested that Commission members attend to provide as much input as possible.

Any Other Business:

Chair Deegan shared a letter that was received by Ausborn Sargent Land Preservation Land Trust (ASLPT) from segTEL notifying them of their intent of running a fiber optic cable over properties that have conservation easements on them. The backup to ASLPT on some of these properties is the Conservation Commission which is why he is bringing this to the attention of the Commissioners. Mr. Stanley said there a number of issues of concern about this but one is that it had been agreed that there would be no commercial development on these properties. This amounts to accepting the existing public service power easements, which were granted in 1915 and 1916 and only allow for lines of specific high and low voltage. SegTEL has decided to sue in an attempt to get access to those poles to run their fiber optic cables. Briefs were filed on May 15 and they have until June to file answers to the briefs. Chair Deegan said the Public Service Utility Company is taking the lead on this and the Conservation Commission will be following the developments closely.

Two receipts for supply reimbursement were presented to the Commission by Mr. Brown for reimbursement. \$99.84 was paid to R.P. Johnson for the third wheel which was added to the two wheeled transporter in order to provide better stabilization. The other was for \$56.64 to Northern Tool and Equipment for nails, deck screws, and a roll of felt paper. Mr. Brown added that over 6500 board feet of lumber had been delivered earlier this spring to improve the bridges and trails and all that remains is about 28 feet. Ms. Alexander moved that Mr. Brown be reimbursed for the expenses. This motion was seconded by Ms. Clough. There being no discussion, the motion was unanimously passed.

Chair Deegan said that he had received several plans that were to be reviewed by the Conservation Commission. The first regarded the Fairway Motel which is being considered for student housing by Colby-Sawyer College. Mr. Stanley said that he did not think this was of concern to the Conservation Commission since there was no wetland involvement. The second regarded the building of the new Windy Hill School on the Colby-Sawyer College campus. Mr. Stanley said there was no wetland involvement but it would mean the addition of more impervious surface materials which would mean more run-off. The question was raised as to whether or not this would impact Susan's Swamp. After reviewing the map, it was determined that there would be no impact. Chair Deegan summarized the concerns of the Commission which focused on how the run-off was to be handled and how this structure would impact the wetlands. The third plan which was reviewed was submitted by Camp Walulla. Mr. Stanley reported that this is the final submission from the Camp which will include a total of 17 sites and provides for infiltration. He reported that the soil perks at an approximate rate of 2 inches per minute and the effectiveness of the infiltration device will be outstanding. There will be no run-off which will leave the development going to the lake. He added that the camp is complying with set backs to the extent that they can and that everything appears to be in order.

Ms. White asked why we have not perambulated with Sunapee. This is overdue and needs to be done. Ms. White suggested that Sunapee be contacted and arrange a time then let the New London Selectmen know what has been arranged to see if any of them would be interested in participating. Chair Deegan asked Ms. White to coordinate this and report back to the Commission regarding the final plans.

Mr. Stanley reported that the bird skins collection which had been stored on the second floor was borrowed, apparently on the approval of a member of the office staff. He said that considering the importance of these irreplaceable samples, the Commission should develop a way to store these safely and appropriately and develop a standard that will regulate their handling, transportation and storage. He suggested that these not be lent out until these standards are in place. Until these are established, Mr. Stanley will lock up the specimens for their safe keeping. Ms. White will contact local and regional museums to get input on ways to handle and store these specimens.

Chair Deegan presented a letter from the Chair of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Director of ASPLT to the Commission thanking them for their help with the Clark Pond Easement.

Ms. Crane said that she and Mr. Stanley have put together guidelines for tree cutting in the shore land overlay district waterfront buffer. The plan now is that anyone who needs permission to cut trees within the 50 foot waterfront buffer zone would first need to come to the Town Hall and complete an application then call Ms. Crane. These guidelines are now available on the web. Chair Deegan thanked Ms. Crane and Mr. Stanley for accomplishing this.

Mr. Crane asked if anyone had a copy of the March meeting minutes to be placed on the web site. Ms. Colby said that she had the version that was sent to Mr. Norman and she would e-mail it to him.

Mr. Deegan thanked everyone for their willingness to change the meeting date to accommodate his appointment schedule.

There being no other business, Ms. Alexander moved that the meeting be adjourned. This was seconded by Ms. Koron. There being no discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Colby
Recording Secretary