

Town of New London Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes May 19, 2010

Present: Andy Deegan, Sue Clough, Vicki Koron, Ruth White, Peter Stanley, Bob Crane, Emma Crane, Laura Alexander, Bob Brown, and Dan Allen. Dave Cook appeared for discussion of his issue.

The meeting was called to order by Andy Deegan about 9 am

Recording Secretary Judith Guyer, has resigned to pursue an academic program. NLCC meetings will continue to be held Wednesday mornings.

Minutes of the last meeting were late and were not considered at this meeting.

Milfoil grants were discussed at a recent Board of Selectmen's meeting. Bob Brown voiced the opinion "we felt the crux started with the budget." If the applications are accurate, there is not enough money to go around. Selectman Peter Bianchi favors a rating system. Next year's appropriation will require more money because of the upcoming change in the fiscal year. It appears that the lake associations should go before the Budget Committee to make their cases. The opinion was expressed that volunteer hours should count. The NLCC believes it should give an opinion as to how the funds are distributed.

Andy Deegan announced that he is stepping down as Chair. Bob suggests that there needs to be a discussion with Jesse about the process.

Peter suggested the need for a **New London lakes Association**, a group that would work to represent the interests of all the lake associations. Sue suggested that there be one member from each of the four lake associations and one member from the Conservation Commission. The latter could make a list of factors to be weighed. The percentage of a lake that is less than 15 feet deep is important, since milfoil doesn't do well at greater depths.

Trails: Bob reported that it rained the day scheduled for movement of the boardwalk sections into the Bog. There are new signs on the Lyon Brook Trail from Pleasant Street to Parkside. Ruth reports that the Concord Monitor didn't carry the photos of the last boardwalk effort, but someone pointed out that the Intertown Record did publish photos a day or two after the work. The Rec group did a great job unloading the sections. Something like 3000 board feet of lumber was recently acquired and is drying. It was noted that Scott's Yard Care should be thanked for their assistance in the work on the trails as well.

Dan reported that, with John Clough's help, substantial roofs have been placed on the two blinds at Low Plains, and that Dan and Dave Dunning spent a morning clearing brush at Clark Lookout.

Trail Maintainers: Dan Richardson and Bob Friedlander no longer are able to care for their trails and new adopters are needed. Adopters are also needed for the upper Lyon Brook Trail. Ruth suggested that there is a need for a schedule of the work the adopters are supposed to

accomplish and a procedure for reporting that they have performed the indicated tasks. Vicki reports that there is a need to reprint the maps for the Bog and a need to check on the relevancy of the signs that are there. She also said that she and her husband no longer wish to maintain the Bog trails.

The Messer Pond Easement has been drafted, reports Andy, and it will look a lot like the Clark Pond Easement.

NLCC Nursery: Bob reports that he bought a number of saplings and bushes to be potted and stored at the Sewage Pumping Station.

View Clearing at the Cook Easement : Dave Cook asked permission to cut trees and brush to open views. It was voted to approve the clearing.

Knotweed: Dan asked permission to establish study plots on town land where knotweed would be cut in late July and salt placed in the hollow stems as a possible way of killing the plants. Different amounts of salt would be used in several plots to try to determine a minimum dose. Locations suggested were the Stump Dump, Whitney Brook Road, Sewer Plant and Low Plains.

Land Acquisition: Peter presented data regarding a parcel of land that he believes the town should acquire. It is adjacent to an existing town owned parcel. The Commission voted to proceed with arrangement of a meeting of the principles. If we go further, we would need to obtain an appraisal; that cost would probably be in excess of \$1000. There are sufficient funds on hand. We need to be prepared to answer the question about why the town needs this property. Peter will contact the owner's attorney to let him know we are interested. Andy will contact other interested parties, and he proposed the meeting be at the ASLPT offices.

There is a need to check the Natural Resource Inventory, prepared by CSC students, with our wish list.

Fund Management: Andy Hager wants to know whether we want to put our funds in 3-year CD's instead of one-year CD's. It was suggested that Andy Hager should talk with Carol Fraley.

Dan Allen, secretary pro temp