



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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APPROVED Minutes of the May 17, 2011 Conservation Commission Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Brown (Chairman), Andy Deegan, Dan Allen, Sue Clough, Emma Crane, Terry Dancy, Peter Stanley (Zoning Board Administrator)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ruth White, Rick Anderson (new member), Laura Alexander

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Crane (Webmaster)

Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Approval of Minutes from April 19, 2011

No one had had a chance to review the minutes of the meeting and so they would be reviewed at the next meeting.

New member - Rick Anderson

Chair Brown shared that Mr. Anderson was quite interested in filling Ms. Koron's term, which was one year in length. He has been officially appointed to be a new member and will take over the water sampling and other things Ms. Koron had been doing. Mr. Anderson plans on attending the next meeting. A previous commitment kept him from being present that day.

Budget

Chair Brown said that they have spent about \$900 so far.

Bulletin board (Town Office Building)

Ms. White thought the board that had been donated in memory of Mr. Butterfield was sort of awkward. She thought they should take the plaque off of the board and get a 2x2 bulletin board instead. On this board they could post something such as "Nature Notes" and then put the plaque back up on the wall. She offered to pay for the new bulletin board herself. The members of the Conservation Commission agreed that this would be fine to do.

Forest Nursery

Chair Brown said they have received a new stock of 60 trees. They were able to get 20 Sugar Maples, which had been rationed. Others included Elderberry, American Plum, Scotch Pines, and Norway Spruce. 15 more of various apple varieties and some flowering trees are on their way from Arbor Day.

Chair Brown indicated that they are purchasing some seven-gallon planting containers from Springledge Farm. Scott Brown donated 75 containers as well, so they won't have to purchase them. Mr. Lee (Public Works Director) has agreed to accept this stock of trees and keep them watered.

Land Acquisition

Mr. Stanley said the letter was ready to be sent to the land-owners, who possessed land of interest to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Deegan said he has been in touch with some of the land-owners. He said the Hunter Hill property owners are split on their decision to go forward with an easement.

Mr. Deegan noted that after checking with the attorney for the Philips property, he found that there was no change in their status. He would remain in contact with the attorney from time to time to keep checking.

Mr. Deegan said he held a conservation workshop in Grantham recently and that Mr. Hale (owner of the Newport Road parcel of interest) signed up but did not attend. Mr. Deegan forwarded an email to Mr. Hale to let him know he could contact him with any questions.

Mr. Stanley went through the list of 43 properties/owners on the initial list they had come up with. Mr. Deegan commented that some of the top priority parcels will need to be purchases, and funding would be difficult since LCHiP is gone and FRPP is very difficult with strict regulations. Mr. Stanley said if they have landowners who they'd like to approach from a donation standpoint, they should be approached as such. There were several parcels whose owners would not consider giving anything as a gift. There were property owners he thought would be willing to donate an easement. He also indicated that some of the owners may simply need someone to go talk with them instead of a letter. He opined that the Conservation Commission should be a strong advocate about conservation, but they also need to recognize areas where development would be appropriate.

Out of the 43 properties/owners on the initial list, nine were chosen to receive a letter from the Conservation Commission, due to their desirability. Six owners would be approached by various members of the Conservation Commission to discuss their plans for the properties.

Map/Lot #	Address	Owner	Acres	Description	Stat
010-001-000	Morgan Hill Rd.	Bucklin, C. M. et al	121.9	Current/potential working forest, stream buffer	D/C
011-003-000	Morgan Hill Rd.	Bucklin, C. S.	303.3	Current/potential working forest, stream buffer, open field	D/C
017-001-000	Burnt Hill Rd.	Crowell, P.	40.9	Stream buffer, aquifer, scenic, wetlands	D
023-010-000	Pingree Rd.	Baxter, D.	38.2	Current/potential working forest, stream buffer	D/C
023-011-000	Pingree Rd.	Vernon, A.	72.3	Current/potential working forest, stream buffer	D/C
028-001-000	Goose Hole Rd.	Putnam, A. Tr.	15	Adjoins Phillips Preserve on Otter Pond, aquifer, wetlands, undeveloped shoreline	D/C
036-016-000	Pleasant St.	Kidder, D.	17.3	Stream buffer, aquifer, undeveloped shoreline, wetlands	D/C
037-008-000	Lakeshore Dr.	Cantor, C.	129.9	Current/potential working forest, stream buffer, wetlands	D/C
046-002-000	Little Sunapee Rd.	Harris, M. J. Tr.	22.2	Open agricultural land	D

046-004-000	Little Sunapee Rd.	Messer, M. Rev. Tr.	82.3	Open agricultural land, scenic views	D
047-001-000	Morgan Hill Rd.	Bucklin, J. Rev. Tr.	99.2	Open agricultural land	D
051-015-000	Lakeshore Dr.	Anderson, J.	119.9	Current/potential working forest, stream buffer	D/C
058-025-000	Newport Rd.	Chilld Tr.	16	Stream buffer, wetlands, scenic	D/C
058-026-000	Newport Rd.	Hale Tr.	34.3	Scenic	D/C
059-005-000	County Rd.	Cricenti	39.6	Open agricultural land, stream buffer, wetlands	D
060-005-000	Little Sunapee Rd.	Messer, M. Rev. Tr.	88.4	Open agricultural land, scenic views, stream buffer, wetlands, current/potential working forest	D
061-005-000	Pleasant St.	Liittlefield, R.	46.9	Current/potential working forest, stream buffer	D/C
068-010-000	103A/Davis Hill Rd.	Howard	40	Current/potential working forest, open fields	D/C
068-019-000	Davis Hill Rd.	Woodruff	71.2	Wooded land adjacent to Clark Lookout, undeveloped shoreline	D/C
078-009-000	Wilmot Center Rd.	King, J.	35.3	Stream buffer, aquifer, wetlands, open fields	D
081-015-000	Farwell La.	Ginerre Tr.	18	Scenic view from Burpee Hill Rd., agricultural soils	D
081-016-000	Farwell Ln.	Harris, A.	9.9	Scenic	D/C
087-003-000	Andover Rd.	Ballin, L.	54	Current/potential working forest, stream buffer, agricultural soils, open fields	D
088-006-000	Andover Rd.	Pratt, Harold	21.9	Adjoins Low Plain, on town approach, aquifer, stream buffer, wetlands	D/C
093-019-000	Williams Dr.	Gallagher, D.	14.9	Stream buffer, wetlands	D/C
096-015-004	Main St.	Ewing, R. Tr.	79.5	Scenic views, Lyon Brook Trail, current/potential working forest, stream buffer, open fields	D
097-001-000	Main St.	Cleveland Family Tr.	127.7	Open agricultural land, scenic views, on town approach, current/potential working forest, wetlands, stream buffer	D
098-014-000	Andover Rd.	Darraha, Rev. Tr.	29.5	Adjoins Low Plain, on town approach, stream buffer	D/C
098-019-000	Andover Rd.	Dalton, L.	10	Stream buffer, scenic, open fields, wetlands	D
100-002-000	Mountain Rd.	Lynch, C. & M.	50.6	Adjoins Low Plain, wildlife habitat, wetland, aquifer, current/potential working forest	D/C
101-003-000	Mountain Rd.	Town of NL	32.3	Current/potential working forest, aquifer, wetlands	D
101-009-000	Mountain Rd.	Kidder, M. Tr.	132.1	Wetland, wildlife habitat, gravel well areas, aquifer, current/potential working forest	D
109-007-000	Main St.	Cleveland, H. Tr.	18.1	Open agricultural land, scenic views, on town approach	D
110-007-000	Andover Rd.	LSCC	24.8	Open field (driving range) on town approach, stream buffer, agricultural soils, wetlands	D

114-001-000	Between Baker Rd. and Kearsarge Valley Rd.	Cleveland	80.1	Current/potential working forest, stream buffer, aquifer, gravel well areas, agricultural soils, wetlands	D
117-013-000	Tracy Rd.	Brewster, E. J. Tr.	77	Open fields, wildlife habitat, wetlands, current/potential working forest, agricultural soils	D
120-002-003	Old Main St.	Green, P.	12.6	Stream buffer, undeveloped shoreline	D/C
120-002-004	Old Main St.	Green, W. & B.	15.7	Adjoins town owned land on Clark Pond, undeveloped shoreline, stream buffer, scenic	D/C
127-001-000	Soo Nipi Park Rd.	Soo Nipi Lodge	63.6	Current/potential working forest, undeveloped shoreline	D
127-002-000	NH103A	Soo Nipi Lodge	57.9	Current/potential working forest, agricultural soils, scenic	D/C
130-006-000	King Hill Rd.	Clark, I.	33.9	Current/potential working forest, agricultural soils, scenic	D/C
136-007-000	Soo Nipi Park Rd.	Carr Land Hold.	102.9	Wetlands, agricultural soils, stream buffer, current/potential working forest	D/C
137-005-000	King Hill Rd.	Miller Tr.	2.02	Stream buffer, wetlands	D

D=Desirable/not protected

D/C=Desirable/not protected/contiguous with conserved land

Mr. Stanley noted that the shopping center is currently for sale. He has no idea what would happen with it. The Conservation Commission will doubtfully be able to raise enough funds to conserve the land behind the center. Mr. Deegan has had people come to him expressing their interest in that parcel, should it come up for sale.

Mr. Stanley shared that the last chapter that was reviewed for the Master Plan was the Land Use chapter. There was a proposal of a Ridgeline Ordinance, which he lobbied against, as the ridgelines in New London are either developed, or are located in another town. He suggested the concept of a Gateway Ordinance. Those properties that are gateways to New London would be subject to specialized approaches to development that would lend only minimal impact to the land.

Chair Brown said some money was set aside for Philips Preserve for an easement. Mr. Stanley added that their contribution of \$5,000 for the Low Plain easement would be coming due. It can be paid up front or over two years. He thought the work would begin this summer.

Mr. Stanley said there is a follow-up that should occur with the Board of Selectmen and Chair Brown regarding the Mountain Road property, opposite the land-fill. They'd like to manage that forest. Chair Brown said he would work on this.

Trails & Projects

Forestry Plan – Mr. Stanley noted that Mr. Platt has looked through the property, done most of the field work, and he is going to be starting on it soon.

Phillips Preserve clean up – Mr. Stanley said this would begin once the property has dried up a bit.

Adopter list/e-mail/memo/date – Ms. White said she could monitor the Shepard Spring trail. Mr. Deegan said that the Phillips Preserve trail was the only one left without a monitor. Mr. Allen had sent him a monitoring guide, which gives suggested time that trails are to be monitored, along with contact information for Mr. Deegan who would be the person the monitors are to report to. Mr. Deegan emailed this guide to the adopters. He said he would also email it to the Conservation Commission members so they would know who was in charge of each trail.

Ms. White asked about the parking lot at the Low Plain area, as there tends to be a lot of trash and aluminum cans around. She wants to pick it up and get rid of it, but fears that if the monitor sees nothing there (because she has already cleaned it up), they won't know that there is a problem and if the polluting will keep happening. It was suggested to contact the trail monitor(s) to let them know about the problem. It was noted that a garbage can should not be placed in the parking lot, as it could attract a lot more trash and may be seen as a dumping site.

Mr. Deegan asked if there was a dog waste ordinance in the town, as he sees a lot of dog waste along Main Street when he is running. Ms. White commented the same is true on the Low Plain trails. Mr. Deegan asked if they thought they could put a sign up that says "Please Clean Up After Your Dog" or to install one of the signs that provides the dog waste bags. Ms. Crane added that there is a leash law in town that is not enforced or obeyed. Mr. Lee would be contacted to get information about these signs.

Trail work intern Doug McKenna

Mr. Allen said a letter or memo needs to be sent to the adopters to ask if they mind having Mr. McKenna work on their trails while he is here and/or if they'd like to work with him. Chair Brown agreed and said that they know of some major things that need to be done, like replacing a bridge, which may be better for Mr. McKenna to do. Mr. Stanley said they should send an email to people before their trails are being worked on so they can be there to help if they want.

After some discussion, it was determined that they needed to find out the current policy regarding blazing the trails in town. Jerry Gold would be contacted to find out the details. Mr. Allen suggested that Ralph Spofford be contacted.

Chair Brown said that they ended up with a total of 13 contacts in response to the ad for trail help. They were fortunate to have two excellent candidates. Mr. Allen, Mr. Stanley and himself conducted the interviews. They would have been happy with either of the candidates and it was a hard decision. Mr. McKenna is a Colby-Sawyer College student who has had some prior contact with the Town and will start in a couple of weeks after moving back onto campus.

Bucklin Brook Wetland

Chair Brown said he made a large sign to incorporate the requested names. It would be put in the ground soon.

Signs

Chair Brown informed Ms. White that he had two signs for her in his truck.

P/C Bog, Low Plain, Shepard Spring, Messer Pond trail

Chair Brown said there was a lot of brush cutting needed on Low Plain. There was a work session coming up in June where this could be worked on. Ms. White asked if there were planks available to go around the dam where it is wet. Mr. Stanley thought it would be helpful to get the highway department to bring in a load of crushed stone in that area. Chair Brown said he would contact Mr. Lee to see if he was willing to help with this. Ms. White commented that the parking lot was in bad shape with some large potholes.

Mr. Allen said Mr. Lee promised within the next week he would get the loader down to Shepard Pit and evaluate the telephone poles he may provide to them. Mr. Stanley said he would be able to move the poles to the site, once they were designated. He asked if anyone had asked Peter Messer if he could use his horses to move the poles through the woods and brook to the site where they were needed. Mr. Allen said he would do this.

Ms. Crane said the Rock Garden Society will have their annual meeting in New London in June. They will be going to the Cricenti Bog. She recalled there was a sign at the bog which mentions the short-cut that they had decided to abandon. It was decided that “Trail Closed” signs could be put in the areas where the short-cut had been.

Chair Brown said that JP Paquette has agreed to take over the maintenance of the Messer Pond trail. There is a lot of debris that has come down and he would help him with the clearing it out. He was unclear of where the trail ended. Mr. Deegan said if that the Town’s property is a very narrow piece that triangulates along the shore and heads to the stone bound.

Clark Pond trail head parking

Chair Brown wondered if they wanted to clear the shoulder out on Bog Road so a couple of cars could park there. Perhaps Mr. Lee could bring in some ditching material to fill it in. Others on the committee thought that would be a good idea.

Project list and priorities

Mr. Deegan said that he is getting together a work day for the Coordingly Preserve. They will do some trail work, take down a building and do some invasive species removal.

Chair Brown wondered about putting a project list together and establishing priorities. Mr. Deegan thought after the monitors send in their reports, they’d know better what needed to be done. Chair Brown said they know the bridge at Lyon Brook needs to be repaired, as does the bridge at the Pingree Connector.

Chair Brown asked what needed to be done at Clark Lookout. Mr. Stanley said that last year someone who wanted their wedding there mowed it and cut brush and it looked really nice. He

hasn't been there yet this year but didn't think there was much that needed to be done. If there was anything more to be done, he would take care of it.

Trail work volunteer list

Chair Brown wondered if the volunteers on Mr. Allen's email list are active. Mr. Allen said that most do not reply to requests. Scott Ellison (attorney) and Steve Allenby should be added.

Mr. Allen said that Ms. White, Ms. Crane and himself identified a possible place for a ski trail at Clark Pond. They identified a large deeryard and he recently saw two deer in that vicinity. Mr. Allen proposed to take the blue flags down and scout a trail between the Norman Trail and the interstate.

Mr. Allen said someone has been down the Dancy trail with a mountain bike. People who purchase mountain bikes in town are sent to the book store to get maps of trails. Mr. Deegan said he would check to see if they could post against such use on the trails. Mr. Allen said it is posted as "Foot Traffic Only." Chair Brown felt they should evaluate the situation a bit further.

MCDC work dates Fridays, June 3, 10 & October 7, 14, 2011.

Programs

Ms. White said the three walks through were recently submitted to the Intertown Record for posting.

Ms. White also wondered if they could perhaps create a nature almanac on the website to note what things had been seen, when they were seen and where. For example, orchids in the Bog or lilies at Low Plain. After that, they could list some natural history references. She had multiple references that could be noted on the website. She was willing to take a stab at it if the commission thought it was a good idea. Mr. Crane suggested one update every two weeks would be good, and noted that they have the photos to back up the descriptions. Everyone thought it was a great idea. Mr. Crane said that much of the website is designed to accommodate this type of thing. He suggested setting it on a page or two and that would be what she could post on the new bulletin board.

Other

Mr. Deegan said they have an easement on a property in Town and New London is the back-up. Before the easement was placed on the property, the neighbor put their garage on the easement property. This was before they required a survey of a parcel of land. Mr. Stanley said this was his family's property on Little Lake Sunapee. It is an area of the property they never go to and when they went out with the easement monitors last year, he found the neighbors had built their garage and drilled their well on his family's property. The building was put up in 1995 and the easement was established in 2003. They are working out a resolution which will most likely be a lot line adjustment. This would avoid moving or tearing down buildings close to the water. Mr. Deegan said that since the town has an easement, any agreement or amendment would have to be signed by the town. This is viewed by the town's attorney as a correction of a mistake or ambiguity. Mr. Deegan said he will need to contact the Attorney General's office due to the familial relationship with the land trust. They believe it will be resolved and the Town will have to sign off on it.

Right now, both parties are in agreement on the terms of the solution.

Next meeting dates

June 15, 9:00am

July 13, 9:00am.

No August meeting

September meeting: tentatively set for Sept. 28 at 9:00am.

IT WAS MOVED (Andy Deegan) AND SECONDED (Emma Crane) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London