

**TOWN OF NEW LONDON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OCTOBER 19, 2005
MEETING MINUTES**

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

GUESTS (at various times of the meeting): Jessie Levine, Bob Andrews, Ross Stevens, Don Ballou, Paul Lazdowski.

Les Norman, Chair, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes of previous meeting.
Les Norman moved to approve meeting minutes of September 21 and October 5; Dale Conley seconded. No further discussion and motion unanimously approved.

2. Land for Community Center.
Bob Andrews, Jessie Levine and Ross Stevens discussed the purchase of land to build the proposed New London Community Center. The Outing Club is also looking to expand their field space. Along with the activities of the Recreation Department, there seems to be a lot of overlap between the three. The three groups are now looking to purchase the full 27 acres of the Kidder-Cleveland parcel to meet their respective expansion and development needs. The question posed to the Conservation Commission was whether or not the capital reserve funds set aside by the Commission could be used to purchase the land. The following primary concerns were discussed:
 - Use of public monies for private enterprise
 - Use of conservation funds for development rather than their intended purpose of nature conservation
 - Possible increased allocation of capital funds to the recreation land fund

After much discussion, it was determined that allocation of funds from the Conservation Commission's capital reserve fund for development of the Community Center would not be viewed favorably. There was consensus among the Commission members present.

It was further recommended that while the Conservation Commission could not support allocation of their capital reserve funds for the Community Center project, they do support the concept of the Community Center itself. Therefore, the Conservation Commission does support

additional allocation of capital funds to the recreation department specifically for use in the development of the Community Center.

3. Ballou, Bunker Road – Concrete pad for lifting dock.
Mr. Ballou wants to replace his existing 20' x 4' wooden dock with a 30' x 6' aluminum crank up dock. This will require a new 6' L x 2' H x 2' D concrete pad to accommodate the dock hinge. Concrete must be poured around an existing large shoreline rock. Walkway will remain at 4'. It was determined that this would be allowed under current zoning and state regulation. Mr. Ballou must apply to the state for a permit. The Conservation Commission will sign off on it.
4. Dan Allen – Board Walk and other items.
 - The Messer Pond Trail was cleared yesterday (10/18/05). A neighbor in the area asked if he could use his ATV and snowmobile on the trail. The Messer Pond Protective Association wants use of the trail limited to foot traffic only. Commission members agreed, and Terry will prepare a sign to that effect. It was recommended that town land boundaries be delineated. Bob Crane offered to work on this.
 - There is an auto chassis in the trail. Les will ask the highway department to remove it.
 - There is currently 16" of water on about 100' of the path no doubt as a result of recent heavy rains. The question posed was should the trail be raised or should a boardwalk be put in. It was decided to wait until summer 2006 to re-assess how much water is there.
 - New signs have been provided by Terry.
 - Dan circulated a letter of agreement between the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) and the NLCC. The agreement delineates management of hiking trails on the Little Sunapee Forestry Associates (LSFA) land in New London. The agreement may have to be reviewed by town legal counsel.
 - Dan asked about the knotweed around town and how best to get rid of it. The only way to get rid of it is spraying Roundup. Peter has done in the past. The town can not do it so it must be done by volunteers.
 - November 19th is a workday.
5. Ross Stevens – Bo Quakenbos Proposal

- Les clarified the proposal discussed at last month's meeting regarding request to relax buffer zones and location of septic systems. It was decided the Conservation Commission is not interested in relaxing buffer zones.
6. Progress on Master Plan.
This item was not discussed specifically. However, the recent Granger subdivision proposal withdrawal by the developer and subsequent commentary has left an unclear message. Development criteria are needed to more clearly define what is and is not suitable for development. It would be important to get information out to town residents about Conservation Commission activities. Terry Dancy will draft an information piece.
 7. Paul Lazdowski – Boat house repair.
Mr. Lazdowski has an old (1910) boat house that is falling down and needs to be rebuilt. There are several major conservation concerns about how the boathouse will be re-built. Unfortunately, Mr. Lazdowski's builder did not attend the meeting so discussion of this topic was postponed until the November 16th Commission meeting.
 8. Other.
 - Vicki has new maps of the Bog.
 - The new trail map is at the printers. The Commission would like to keep the cost at \$2-\$3.
 - The July and August minutes are posted to the town website.
 9. Meeting was adjourned at 2:50.

Submitted by

Linda Hanlon
Recording Secretary