

**TOWN OF NEW LONDON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
September 19, 2007
Meeting Minutes – (Final - approved)**

Present: Laura Alexander, Dale Conly, Bob Crane, Emma Crane, Terry Dancy, Vicki Koron, Les Norman, Peter Stanley, Ruth White.

Guests: Chad Denning, John Clough, Lorie Underwood

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

1. Minutes of August 15th meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Recreation Department Proposals: Chad Denning and John Clough were present to discuss a town cross country ski trail that could also serve as a teaching program for the schools. They are potentially looking at the Kidder-Cleveland-Clough trail along with the Middle school fields and have a finishing field behind Spring Ledge Farm. Parking would be at the school. The Middle School Interpretive area would be used for shoe shoeing. Preliminary discussions have occurred with Pine Hill (John Schlosser), which is now classified as a non-profit organization. Pine Hill would groom the new Middle School trail. Spring Ledge is having an Open House in October and Chad will ask for volunteers to help with clearing and widening the trail areas. The recreation department would maintain thereafter. The NLCC supported the program concept.

The second proposed project from the recreation department was an expansion of the Upper Valley trail running series with the addition of an 8 km race in New London called the "Pleasant Climb". A motion was made and approved unanimously to support the addition of this annual race in New London. The likely date of the race would be the second weekend in October.

3. Low Plain -Lynch Survey Proposal: Pierre Bedyard has submitted a proposal for surveying the Lynch property. The estimate is between \$6400 and \$6800. It would be an additional \$4400-\$4700 to survey the rest of Low Plain. In addition, The Clark-Schulze property needs to be appraised. Clark Pond is the next logical expansion of the Conservation Commission's trail system. A motion was made and approved. Les will sign the contract.
4. Trail Maps: The supply of the Webb Forest Trail maps has been depleted. It was decided to re-print additional copies with updates to the map to be done at a later time. Terry Dancy will update. The supply of Low Plain maps is low but not necessary to re-print at this time. It was suggested that the CC have maps laminated and posted at the most popular trail sites.

A question was raised as to whether or not the CC has too many trails to maintain without adding even more. This requires more thought and discussion and will be placed on meeting agendas in the coming months. One suggestion made was the possibility of creating a summer job for a college student. It was also suggested that a sign be made and posted at the Cricenti Bog site that walkways are not stable and to use caution.

5. Americorps Application: After further review, it was determined that it would require funding of \$16,000. This is not within the NLCC budget allocation.
6. Climate Change and Culvert Capacity: NLCC supports this project and will write a letter indicating support. Peter Stanley discussed anticipated upcoming changes in rules and

regulations that will incorporate Low Impact Development (LID) concepts. Terry Dancy also discussed the six town watershed coalition. Presentations will be made to the Planning Boards of the six towns (dates to be announced).

7. New London Hospital: Lorie Underwood presented changes being made to materials to be used in the new parking lot. The hospital will now be using a porous concrete instead of asphalt. While more expensive, there are significant advantages to using the new material.
8. Expansion of Park & Ride: The DOT is proposing to expand the exit 12 park and ride area from 45 to 200 spaces. Members of the CC expressed concerns about this expansion. Les will write a letter in addition to responding to the questionnaire sent out. While the CC values the objectives of park and rides and encourages car pooling, there are sensitive issues related to the environmental impact of such an expansion. The CC wants to encourage cooperation with local agencies in this project and the use of low impact development principles in order to have a positive affect on the land, lakes and the community. Terry Dancy will mention the project to the LSPA.
9. Master Plan Announcement: There have been three meetings/workshops set up, all at the Presbyterian Church. The dates are: Friday, 10/12, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10/13, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, 12/1, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
10. Phillips Preserve Plan: will be done by Thanksgiving but probably not completed by then.
11. Extended Wetlands: Peter will draft possible rules and regulations for discussion and reaction.
12. Trails: No report
13. AOB: 103A subdivision – the dry hydrant for fire protection needed to be moved to Newbury from Herrick Cove.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40

Submitted by Linda Hanlon
Recording Secretary