



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF NEW LONDON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
September 16, 2009

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

Absent: Vicki Koron

Guests: Peter Stanley, Zoning Administrator
Robert Crane, Webmaster
Hannah Bright, Colby-Sawyer College student
Jeanne Clark, Colby-Sawyer College student
Andrew Francis, Colby Sawyer College student
Heather MacIntyre, Colby Sawyer College student
Jamie Trombley, Colby Sawyer College student

Chair Deegan opened the meeting at 1:02P.M.

Minutes: The minutes of the August 19, 2009 meeting were accepted, with the minor corrections suggested by Ms. Crane and Ms. White which were forwarded to the Chair.

Chair Deegan presented two bills to be paid by the Conservation Commission.

- Bill for \$15.00 to cover the cost of a water test for LSPA
- Bill for \$19.98 to Mr. Allen for the purchase of two pipes

Ms. Alexander moved that these bills be paid. This motion was seconded by Ms. Crane. There being no discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Alexander introduced her students to the Commissioners. She said that these students would be conducting the Natural Resource Inventory for the Town of New London. She said that, one week into class, they have started learning GIS and are beginning to learn what a natural resource inventory is through a publication from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and have obtained natural resource inventories from other towns. She said that Harvey Pine, the other instructor in the course was unable to be here today as well as one other student. She then asked each student to introduce themselves, tell their year at college and where they were from:

Jamie Trombley,	Junior, Warner, NH
Jeanne Clark,	Junior, Henniker, NH
Heather Macintyre,	Junior, Mt. Holly, VT
Andrew Francis,	Junior, South Berwick, ME
Hannah Bright,	Senior, South Yarmouth, ME

The Conservation Commission members then introduced themselves, giving their specific areas of interest. In summary, Mr. Allen and Mr. Brown said they are primarily interested in trails; Ms. Clough is interested in woods and hiking; Ms. Crane is interested in wild flowers, hiking, and the outdoors in general; Ms. White is interested in birds, and has been a naturalist for the AMC; Chair Deegan is interested in bird watching and is currently working with the New Hampshire Audubon Society doing an inventory of dragon flies; Mr. Crane said he has completed a GPS of all trails and is the webmaster for the Conservation Commission web site; Mr. Stanley has had extensive conservation experience and is on the staff of the Town of New London and assists the Commissioners with whatever they need.

Ms. Alexander said that the students will be back at the end of the semester to make a presentation of their projects and to overview what they plan to do next semester. It was recommended that the students speak with Fred Sladen; Chris Martin for raptor birds; Brian Faughnan of Wilmot who helped draft the Natural Resource inventory in Wilmot; and Cynthia Bruss for frogs and amphibians. Chair Deegan suggested that those Commission members who know these individuals give them a call to let them know that they might be contacted by the students with regard to this project.

Trails- Mr. Allen proposed building a short loop in the borrow area between the two trails on the Clark Pond Trail. He said this is smooth ground and this quarter mile loop would connect the upper trail with the Norman Trail. He said most of the vegetation is grassy and it would only require the cutting of some tree limbs to make this trail. He said that he has been told that this is an El Nino year which could mean that we will not have a great deal of snow, but could have more rain than usual. If this proves accurate, this smaller trail will be easier to groom with only 6 inches of snow to cover the trail surface. He said that looking at the problem of creating this loop, Mr. Stanley has mentioned getting a grant to fund an ADA accessible trail. He thought that this might change the concept of a simple nature trail tone to one that is graded similar to a rail trail, but he thought trail construction would go a lot more easily if heavy machinery were able to assist with this project. He requested the input of the Commissioners. Ms. White thought that there were trails in the center of Town that were geared to skiing and she liked the idea of leaving this as a nature trail to the pond. Ms. Clough thought that we needed some trails, other than sidewalk trails, where people can walk or run without stumbling, where perhaps wheel chairs would be accessible. She thought that nature trails were important but also thought that a diversity of trails could come under this Commission as well. Mr. Stanley said when he spoke to Mr. Allen regarding a possible ADA trail that purpose was to at least have something so that people who are reliant on smoother, more stable footing, would have the opportunity to experience some sense of outdoor life.

Mr. Allen said the issue for him is what kind of treatment should be made on the Norman Trail. Working by hand, he said he could eventually make it smooth enough to ski on without paving and thought the Commission would go in that direction. He did say, however, that he thought it would be helpful and quicker to have a small backhoe. He will come back to the Commission for further discussion.

Mr. Allen added that in marking the trails, no blazes have been put on the trail yet. Regarding the Norman Trail, he asked if the traditional Cross Country blue diamond blaze should be used since it is a ski trail rather than the red blaze. It was agreed that the blue blaze would be appropriate. Mr. Allen said there were two signs that have been made to designate the Norman Trail as a cross country trail and the Dancy Trail a snow shoe trail.

As an aside, Ms. Clough shared a copy of a brochure from Upper Valley Trails Alliance, which works with Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, and has established a program, Valley Trails For Life, sponsored in part by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. These are dual purpose trails and some are handicap accessible. She thought perhaps that the Recreation Commission and New London Hospital might be interested in joining with the Conservation Commission in this initiative. She suggested that this discussion take place at another time, however, since Commission members have not had the time yet to read the brochure.

Mr. Allen then initiated a discussion of the prevalence of Knot Weed in New London. He said that Chris Perrin of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation has informed him that the State does not have the resources to control this invasive weed on state property. He said he thought the Commission could get approval from the State to control this weed ourselves. Mr. Allen also thought we could hire a landscaper who was licensed to use herbicides to address this issue. It was noted that it would probably take at least two years to control this weed. Mr. Allen said that he has heard that the licensing criteria for the control of knotweed might be loosened up soon by the State Pesticide Control Board. The question arose as to whether or not the Commissioner or Town could apply the herbicide to Town property. Chair Deegan said he would research this and let the Commissioners know what he found out.

In other trail related issues, Ms. White said that the high water detour section of the Low Plain is now open and that one sign post needed to be replaced. She further suggested that all trails be reviewed by their respective trail adopters to gage the status of the trail blaze marks and thought that perhaps some had faded and would need repainting. Chair Deegan said he will contact the adopters to determine the status of these blazes. Mr. Allen reminded the Commissioners that he has the paint to accomplish this. With regard to the adopters, Ms. White thought it would be helpful to contact them all, asking if they are still willing to serve in this capacity. It was also suggested that if anyone should have a question or problem regarding a trail, they should e-mail it to Chair Deegan through his work e-mail address www.aslptandy@tds.net.

Mr. Crane reported that pictures of the beaver pipe construction are now posted on the Conservation Commission web site.

All Other Business:

- Chair Deegan reported that the New Hampshire Departmental of Environmental Services application submitted by Windy Hill School is determined to be incomplete. They will have to reapply with more information regarding, in part, their impact on the pond.
- Chair Deegan received a call regarding an Impact Expedited application for the addition of 6 cubic yards of sand on a beach. He said that after review, the application met all requirements and it was therefore approved.

There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Alexander, and seconded by Ms. Crane. There being no discussion, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 2:00P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen K. Colby
Recording Secretary