

**TOWN OF NEW LONDON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 11, 2006
MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)**

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

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

The annual donation from the Butterworth family on behalf of their uncle was received. A letter has been sent.

Les passed around a draft of the 2005 NLCC Annual Report for review and comment.

The purpose of this Special Meeting was to discuss recommended changes to the Zoning Regulations for 2006 and consideration for changes the NLCC would like to see in the future.

Dale Conly updated Commission members on the January 9th Planning Board's disposition on the proposed amendments to the Zoning regulations. The Planning Board made some revisions to amendments # 4 and #5 based on testimony received from the public hearing on January 3, 2006. Jesse Levine made available the minutes from the Planning Board meeting of January 9th.

There was discussion of the zoning regulations for the six surrounding towns, particularly the regulations related to erosion control plans.

It was decided that the focus of the NLCC should be possible zoning board amendments for 2007 and changes to the next Master Plan to effect longer term environmental protection. The Planning Board would like to see specific goals with a way to achieve them. The following is a list of issues that the NLCC would like to focus future discussions and recommendations:

1. Buffering of intermittent streams
2. Building restrictions on impervious surfaces and soils
3. Restriction on building (including paving, etc) that would give rise to impervious surfaces
4. Tree cutting restrictions on steep slopes
5. Building restrictions on ridge lines
6. Restrictions on cell towers and similar
7. Increasing the town shoreline restrictions from 50 feet to 100 feet (to be consistent with existing 100 ' restrictions on streams)

8. Progressive slopes zoning. (Presently there is a 25 degree slope restriction, but this does not help with erosion on or from steep slopes of less than 25 degrees)
9. Habitat corridors and the broader issues surrounding them

There was a suggestion that the NLCC prepare periodic educational pieces for local papers to help towns people better understand the goals and objectives of the Commission.

Les Norman asked Bob Crane and Terry Dancy to review the local regulations they have accumulated and come back to the next meeting with recommendations as to how to divide up tasks to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Commission in addressing the Planning Board and Zoning concerns.

Les Norman asked members to re-read the CC chapter in the previous Master Plan and come to the next meeting with comments. The CC should review the goals of the previous Master Plan and determine which have been accomplished and what still remains to be done.

Laura Alexander suggested the following resources to review:

NH Everlasting (<http://www.spnhf.org/aboutus/>)
Colby Sawyer student 3rd year report available on the college's website
<http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/academic/ces/curriculum/thirdyearprojects/index.html>

Submitted by

Linda Hanlon
Recording Secretary