



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## MEETING MINUTES TOWN OF NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION APRIL 3, 2009

**Present:** Les Norman, Chair, Laura Alexander, Bob Brown, Emma Crane, Terry Dancy, Vicki Koron, Andy Deegan

**Absent:**, Dan Allen, Sue Clough, Ruth White

**Other:** Bob Crane; Peter Stanley, Zoning Administrator; Dale Conly.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the April 3<sup>rd</sup> special meeting were approved as presented

Chair Norman called this special meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 9:03A.M. He asked Dale Conly to summarize the role of the Conservation Commission member who also served on the Planning Board. Mr. Conly said that the Planning Board met about two times per month, in the evening, from about 7:30P.M. to 9:30 or 10:00P.M. depending on the topics under discussion. He said he enjoyed attending the meetings and thought that the presence of a Conservation Commission member resulted in significant impact on zoning issues and zoning regulations in New London, as they relate to the Master Plan. He added that in his opinion the members of the Planning Board were dedicated and fun to work with and he believed the plans for the Town of New London were in good hands. He added that he thought the Town Planner was excellent. He commented that the drawbacks were that you could get into some issues that were sometimes difficult and could result in some antagonism, but he said for the most part it gave you the opportunity to participate in some constructive legislation.

Chair Norman asked if there was any problem between the tree cutting work and the Planning Board. Mr. Conly replied that there were no problems in that regard. He said that the regulations had changed so that there was a tree count which made it more objective. He added there was a 50 by 50 formula that was used, with each tree getting so many points. These points were then added up by the owner and presented to the Conservation Commissioner who then verified what the owner had already done. He said that for the most part he had tried to respond promptly to calls that came in, adding that the calls usually came through Peter Stanley. When he visited the site, he then verified what the owner had provided, looked over the situation and finally presented his evaluation to the Planning Board. He said the Planning Board generally went along with his recommendation. He said that as a procedural thing, the Planning Board generally did not get to discuss these issues until the end of their meeting, adding that the tree cutting discussion did not usually take more than a few minutes. He said that for the most part the residents along the shore line were concerned about the shore line as much as the

Conservation Commission, so there were few disagreements.

Mr. Stanley said that he now had more time available and could provide assistance to the individual who will undertake this responsibility. He said he could also provide aerial photographs and tax maps of properties under consideration.

Chair Norman asked if there were any further questions or discussion. Ms. Koron asked if the same person had to both conduct the site review and attend the Planning Board meeting. Mr. Stanley said that from a practical stand point it would not be impossible for this to be divided between two individuals, with a good line of communication between the two. He also thought that perhaps this topic could be moved to the beginning of the Planning Board agenda in order to more efficiently use the Conservation Commissioner's time. Mr. Conly thought that sharing these responsibilities would be possible and would decrease the burden on any one person.

Mr. Dancy asked if there was a proposal on the table. Chair Norman replied that there was not. Mr. Brown reminded the members that at the last meeting they had asked Mr. Deegan to consider this position. Mr. Brown then moved that Mr. Deegan be asked to assume this position on the Planning Board as the Conservation Commission representative. This was seconded by Mr. Dancy. Mr. Deegan said that he did not think this was a good fit for him right now. He said that he had commitments to his family and with his work at ASPLT he did not think he had the time. Mr. Conly said that beyond the meeting there were only a few hours of work, reviewing the agenda and other documents. He said he was on the Planning Board for two years before he felt comfortable saying anything at a meeting. He said that for the first year, he just took it all in and reviewed planning documents.

Ms. Crane asked Mr. Conly how much of the discussion at the Conservation Commission went back to the Planning Board. Mr. Conly replied that on issues of subdivisions, where the Conservation Commission got the plans as well as the Planning Board, generally there was a recommendation from the Conservation Commission regarding the plans to the Planning Board. It was this individual's responsibility to convey those views to the Planning Board. In most instances the two boards had been in tune with each other.

Ms. Koron volunteered that she would do the tree requests if someone would agree to attend the Planning Board meetings. Ms. Crane responded that she would be interested in assuming both roles, with the help of Mr. Conley regarding the tree reviews. Dr. Alexander then nominated Ms. Crane to be the Conservation Commission representative to the Planning Board. Mr. Brown seconded the nomination. There being no further discussion, the members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Dr. Alexander reminded the members that a Chair still needed to be voted on. Ms. Crane suggested the nomination of Andy Deegan. Mr. Deegan asked Chair Norman about the responsibilities of this position. Mr. Norman replied that it meant checking the mail at least once a week, or perhaps more often, and working with Mr. Stanley in reviewing simple wetlands permits, especially those that involve culverts that do not need to go before the full Commission, signing or not signing depending on the nature of the request. He also mentioned that standard dredge and fill applications would be reviewed and then come before the Commission. Mr.

Norman added that there was a good deal of mail that came which needed to be sorted and reviewed. Mr. Dancy said, speaking from experience that he thought there was a great deal of work, due to the key role that the Conservation Commission played in the atmosphere of the Town. He noted the need for trail maintenance in relation to making certain things happen. He cautioned Mr. Deegan that if time were a consideration, in his opinion, this job took a great deal of time.

Mr. Norman said that he found the Conservation Commission members very cooperative and that the Chair needed to make sure all the jobs got done, but the members could be relied upon to carry out their individual responsibilities, so he saw his role as one of shared responsibilities. Ms. Crane said that being Chair did not obligate him for evening meetings, which might be a consideration for him and his family. Mr. Stanley continued that the Chair would need to draft letters from time to time in response to questions, conduct site plan reviews with the Planning Board to determine if there was any environmental impact, and draft position letters voicing the position of the Commission. He added that he would be available to help with any of these. Chair Norman added that he would have to occasionally attend a Planning Board or the Board of Selectmen meeting.

Dr. Alexander asked if Mr. Deegan was interested in this position. He replied that he was and that it would fit in with his work schedule, but commented that he would need help from the Commission members. Dr. Alexander said that she was certain he would have the cooperation of everyone and any member would be willing to cover a meeting for him if he needed to be somewhere else.

Mr. Dancy then asked Mr. Brown if he would be willing to consider the nomination for this position. Mr. Brown replied that he would rather continue to focus his efforts on trail maintenance and construction, assisting Mr. Allen in this work. He also added that he would be away for two and a half months this summer. Mr. Dancy added as an aside that we really needed to get more volunteers to assist with trail maintenance.

Mr. Deegan said that since he had been coming to meetings since January, he noted that there were the trails report and the tree person who reviewed tree cuttings along the water edges. He asked if there were other responsibilities. Mr. Dancy replied that there was also the monitoring of easements, handling of distribution of maps, planning and organizing spring and winter walks, overseeing the Conservation Commission budget, and keeping on eye on spending. Dr. Alexander added that there were also special projects that arose from time to time like the Master Plan and overseeing the Colby-Sawyer natural resources inventory project. Mr. Stanley added the wetlands project and that hopefully we would be talking about funding that for next year. Mr. Norman noted that two organizations to keep in touch with were the Lake Sunapee Watershed and Upper Valley Planning.

Dr. Alexander asked if Mr. Deegan was willing to entertain his nomination. Mr. Deegan replied that he was but that Mr. Dancy had brought up some very valid points. Mr. Crane said the Mr. Brown did a great job with the trails and he would hate to see him taken away from that. He noted that many of the trails were in need of work, especially the Bog trail which is the most used. Mr. Brown noted that most of the trail work he did was done mid-week last year, but said

that Mr. Allen had a more regular schedule. The Commissioners agreed that they needed to get back to a regular trail maintenance schedule which utilized the volunteers for each trail, perhaps including the Boy Scouts and possible Eagle Scout projects.

Mr. Norman brought the members back to consideration of the nominations for the Chair position. Mr. Deegan was again nominated by Ms. Crane. This was seconded by Ms. Koron. There being no further discussion, Mr. Deegan was elected unanimously. Mr. Stanley reminded the members, now that there is a Chair, that the Land Use and the Conservation chapters of the Master Plan were coming up for discussion by the Planning Board and he thought it would be desirable to have as many members as possible present for those discussions. He said the meetings were the second Tuesday of May (May 12<sup>th</sup>) and June (June 9<sup>th</sup>), but he will confirm these dates with the Commissioners. Regarding the Conservation Commission chapter of the Master Plan, Mr. Norman said that he was still waiting for the tables from Mr. Stanley and Dr. Alexander. Both promised to get them to him soon. Mr. Dancy said he would get his changes to Mr. Norman soon. Mr. Norman said he would send the up-to-date version of this chapter to Mr. Stanley.

In other business, Mr. Dancy said that he had been approached by John Kiernan of Village Sports who called him regarding the donation of two kayaks to the Conservation Commission for use on Clark Pond. The members thought this was a very generous offer but that the trails to Clark Pond probably would not be completed for use this summer. After some discussion it was thought that this offer should more appropriately be made to the Recreation Commission. Mr. Dancy said he would communicate this to Mr. Kiernan.

Dr. Alexander thanked Mr. Norman for his service to and leadership of the Conservation Commission. The other members joined in expressing agreement and appreciation of his efforts.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Colby  
Recording Secretary