



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## **Minutes of the October 21, 2015 Conservation Commission Meeting**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Brown (Chair), Laura Alexander (Vice-Chair), Mark Vernon, Michael Gelcius, Jane McMurrich, Andrew Deegan, Dan Allan, Ruth White, Tim Paradis

**STAFF PRESENT:** Lucy St. John (Planning & Zoning Administrator)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Scott Blewitt (Recreation Director), Frank Anzalone (Planning Board), Laura Lorio (Recreation Commission)

**Call to Order:** Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 8:35am.

**Roll Call:** Chair Brown called the roll. The meeting had been properly noticed.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Mark Vernon) to approve the minutes of September 16, 2015, as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Permit Applications & Summary Sheets**

Tree Cutting Application within streams overlay conservations district on Lamson Lane was submitted to the Planning Board, who approved it contingent upon further ordinance that they get a recommendation from the Conservation Commission.

- A merger of two lots for the purpose of building a new home.
- Many of the trees are a hazard. Pictures were circulated. Located in the streams overlay. No permit is needed, but held off cutting in order to show the board.
- The intent wasn't to cut any trees, however, looking over their lot they noticed a lot of trees are unsafe. A sign was posted to alert the public.
- The land is considered their grandchildren's fairy land. They bought this land to preserve it for them.
- A tree count was made in order to meet the shore land tree cutting provisions and it exceeds it.

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Planning & Zoning Administrator's Report – Lucy St. John**

Ms. St. John gave a brief update. The planning board is looking at possible zoning amendment ideas

- Making changes to the nonconforming
- Sign Permits are still ongoing
- Edits for the Shoreland overlay have been reviewed and approved
- The next Planning Board meeting is a work session and is open to the public. All materials are posted on the Town web site under Planning Board.

Elkins Beach is in need of tree stump removal due to a safety issue brought to the attention by Scott Blewitt, who is the Recreation Director. Some time ago, bushes were cut back and the stumps were left. Now they are hollow and need to be cut flush or completely removed. Ms. St. John and Mr. Blewitt went to the site and took pictures. This was considered a safety issue therefore it was brought to the Planning Board and they decided that the stumps should be cut flush and fill the hole. DES was notified to let them decide if any more action is needed to secure the area.

### **Easements and Land Acquisitions**

Andy Deegan gave a summary of two lots on Little Lake Sunapee shoreline that Ausbon Sargent acquired, total .93 acres to the west of the existing Evergreen Point property that Ausbon Sargent owns. We pay taxes on the land at the current use rate because the Town has a conservation easement. By adding these two, the tax is more than the current use rate. An amendment to include the two parcels is needed. Easement amendments have a process that the Attorney General's office follows. They then send a letter of 'no action' when granted. Ruth White agreed to do the work for this amendment process.

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY to continue with the process and gather more information on the financial responsibilities.**

Mr. Blewitt proposed to the board to consider buying land on the east side of N. Pleasant St. It's a possible site for a community center and other town purposes. Located on the other side of the road is the Kidder/Cleveland/Clough trails. There are many benefits for the Town to gain this land. This land is 26 acres, zoned commercial and residential with wet lands. Acquiring the land, which has been on the market at different times, is the proposed first step. The asking price is \$449,000, but the Town has it assessed at \$229,000. After talking with two of the land owners, they are interested in selling. The board commented on the wet lands and the potential for connecting trails.

### **Trail Maps/ Updates**

The master zoning map will be updated with a trails overlay in March. The trail adopter list is needing to be updated, along with a volunteer list. The list will be circulated soon. Merrimack program will be looked into next year for volunteers.

- *Lyon Brook /Hospital Trail*
  - ✓ An Eversource worker came out to assess the right-of-way portion of the trail. He is favorably inclined and is drafting an agreement document.
  - ✓ Their main concern is height clearance where the trail might cross under the lines.
  - ✓ The partner at New London Hospital has resigned her position.
- *Lyon Brook Trail South*
  - ✓ No new updates.
- *Low Plains*
  - ✓ Brush clearing proposal was granted and will happen upon getting volunteers for cutting and hauling.
  - ✓ Gather poles to use for trails.

### **Other Business**

- ✓ The budget request for 2016 has been submitted to the Budget Committee.
- ✓ The next meeting of the Conservation Commission would be held on November 18, 2015 at 8:30am.

**Motion to Enter Nonpublic Session**

**IT WAS MOVED (Dan Allan) AND SECONDED (Michael Gelcius) to enter the Nonpublic session for RSA 91- A:3, II(d) Consideration of acquisition sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.**

**Roll Call:** Chair Brown called the roll. Laura Alexander - Yes, Mark Vernon - Yes, Michael Gelcius - Yes, Jane McMurrich - Yes, Andrew Deegan - Yes, Dan Allan – Yes

**THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Entered nonpublic session at 9:30am.

Public session reconvened at 10:24am.

**Motion to Adjourn**

**IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Mark Vernon) to adjourn the meeting.  
THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:26am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Richtmyer, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London