

**Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**April 10, 2010**  
**7:30am**

**Meeting Attendees:**

Tina Helm (Chair), Mark Kaplan (Selectman), Peter Bianchi (Selectman), Robert & DJ Lavoie, Peter Messer, Bob MacMichael, Jack Harrod, Dave Payne, Ray Ettenborough, Ann Loeffler, Karen Hoglund, Noel Weinstein, Rick Anderson, Howard Hoke, Joe McCarthy, Rich Anderson, Paul Gorman, Richard Lee (Public Works Director)

Chair Helm called the **MEETING TO ORDER** at 7:30 AM.

She acknowledged and thanked the members of the committee who would be ending their terms, including Barbara Brown, Bill Clough, Paul Gorman (who would be taking an alternate position with the Planning Board), Marilyn Kidder, Hugh and Judy Chapin, Peter Messer, Cindy Snay, Noel Weinstein, and Stephanie Wheeler. Chair Helm shared that the Citizen's Advisory Committee Meetings were some of her favorite meetings to attend, as they represented classic democracy. She added that the minutes from the last meeting were approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Chair Helm informed the committee of the SB465 bill that may extend the education funding transition until July 1, 2012. They hope to be able to have that time to review the formula they use to determine funding to cover the gap left between now and fiscal year 2012. The bill has passed the Senate and will go before the House Finance Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April at 1:00pm. Both she and Mark Kaplan will be attending this meeting.

Mr. Kaplan shared that the reason behind this bill is to hold off changing the way the formula works for one year. If they don't get the bill to go through, in 2012 their taxes will go up by over \$1 million. He added that the money raised will go to Manchester and Nashua. The gap is created because there was Federal money that was being given to those cities, which is not available any more. The State is trying to raise taxes to fill that gap. Mr. Kaplan said that they are trying to get Representative Randy Foose to pass this bill and not let it happen. Chair Helm said that all three members of the Board of Selectmen are trying to advocate for the Town on this issue.

Chair Helm explained that another bill, SB492, continues to promote exemption of property taxes on poles and conduits that belong to the telephone companies. Jessie Levine has testified against this bill. Additionally, Representative Dave Kidder will support New London on this issue. She explained that exemptions are given to people who fall in the disabled, elderly, or non-profit category, but businesses should still be responsible for the taxes and in this one industry, the businesses are exempted from property taxes.

Chair Helm shared that HB1242, a bill to allow municipalities to borrow money to build broadband infrastructure is in interim study currently. They want towns to be able to borrow money to build this infrastructure, as they would be able to for any other economic infrastructure that was needed. She said that they are up against the telecommunications lobby that worry that municipalities will compete with them, which is not the plan of the towns. Chair Helm explained that they are nowhere near asking the town for money and noted that it is still a work in progress. She opined that the broadband infrastructure bonding bill would be advantageous to the town and said that the committee members should stay tuned for further progress on the issue.

Chair Helm also shared that the Board of Selectmen learned last week that there was a glitch in the funding for the sewer bill. Ms. Levine attended a meeting with the RDA and learned that New London

did not qualify for the funding they had anticipated. This was disappointing. This decision was made due to the median income of residents in New London. Chair Helm noted that from the get-go they understood that New London did not qualify, but tried to craft the proposal so that Sunapee was the recipient of the funding. Sunapee is in the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile for income in the State and New London is in the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile. Chair Helm indicated that the RDA saw through the language in the proposal and denied New London the grant money. She added that the good news was that the Town of Sunapee is 100% behind New London and wants to help them find a resolution to this obstacle. Chair Helm assured the committee that they had no intention of going back to the Town to ask for more money and explained that it was still a work in progress. She added that it may work out that they can tweak a new proposal so that New London becomes more buried. Mr. Kaplan added that when they went to Town Meeting, the vote was passed to go forward with the upgrades, based upon the contingency of getting the grant. If they didn't get the grant, they wouldn't go through with the bond. He said that they are trying to get the RDA to renegotiate.

Peter Bianchi said that on Article 3 at Town Meeting, they voted to raise \$5.2 million only if they got 35% funding from RDA. They'd still have to raise \$3.38 million dollars. Mr. Kaplan said that if they don't get a grant for 35% of \$8.5 million, they can't do the project. Ms. Levine sent a statement to be read at the meeting, explaining that there was no blame to be placed on anyone. They were hoping this wouldn't happen, but it has happened. They are cautiously optimistic that the engineers, Ms. Levine and the people from Town of Sunapee can find a different way to word the proposal and in so doing, will eventually qualify New London for funding. Chair Helm asked the committee members to stay tuned and to be sure they get all the facts before talking with others in Town about it.

Mr. Lavoie asked if the entire grant was denied. Chair Helm said that Sunapee still qualified for the grant, but that they can't do the work with just their funding. Mr. Weinstein asked why the possibility of this not going through wasn't brought up in any meeting up until now. Chair Helm said that the engineer assured them that it would go through but they were still aware that as a Town, New London did not qualify for the grant.

At this point in the meeting, Chair Helm turned the floor over to New London's Director of Public Works, Richard Lee. He was to give some updates to the committee regarding recycling in the Town, highway projects for the summer, and Main Street.

Mr. Lee was asked about the moose that had been seen hanging around the Post Office recently. Several people had seen the animal and were shocked that people in town were getting so close to it, and were also bringing their children with them. Mr. Lee said that the moose was believed to be suffering from Brain Worm and was put down. He noted that when an animal hangs around an area like that for an extended period of time and does not act as it should, it is considered sick and must be put down for the safety of the people in the area.

Mr. Lee began his discussion by talking about recycling in Town. He shared that at Town Meeting they brought up the possibility of going to Single Stream (SS) recycling. Both Mr. Lee and Ms. Levine are still reviewing this possibility and they currently have three options for vendors. Mr. Lee opined that the overall operation of recycling runs well but if they try to expand their efforts further they will run into space and storage problems. They currently bail their plastic (gallon jugs, soda bottles) and store it in a shed until they collect enough to ship it out. It generally takes about one year to gather enough.

Mr. Lee explained that the two biggest complaints he hears about recycling at the Transfer Station are the traffic, and it not being convenient to get in and out quickly. To remedy this, they either need to make more lanes for traffic to flow through, or make it easier to recycle. Mr. Lee said that there was no way to

make the recycling easier currently, with the way it is designed. He said that they have tried changing it around to make it go faster but nothing has really fixed the problem. The other alternative is to go with something like SS. Residents will put everything into a paper bag or plastic container and dump it in one place. At the facility, they would need a small compactor to consolidate it, and would then pack it into a small trailer to haul it to the co-op. They could also haul it to Belmont. The materials would be sorted out at another facility.

Mr. Lee explained that SS would allow them to take in all kinds of plastic instead of only the ones that there is a good market for. They get about \$.07 per pound with what they do recycle and are trying to get the maximum amount of revenue for their recycling efforts. He shared that in 2006, they recycled 799 tons, and in 2009 they recycled 748 tons. Mr. Lee said that they believe going to SS will increase recycling in the Town by 15-20%.

Mr. Lee noted that they may possibly go "Pay As You Throw" (PAYT) later on, but feels they should go with the SS recycling first. They need to either build more storage space and add on to the Transfer Station or go to SS. He explained that they are still working on logistics and are still meeting with vendors to discuss details. Mr. Lee said that this method of recycling would probably cut the revenue down a bit from what they are currently making, but it would also increase their cost avoidance. Mr. Harrod asked if they would still separate out glass. Mr. Lee said that they would still have the option to do that. They could still be a collection site and currently have plenty of glass. Mr. Lee explained that they are listening to the people saying it is not convenient to recycle the way it is set up currently.

Mr. Payne commented that compared to where he had lived in Connecticut, the people at the New London Transfer Station were wonderful and even though one might have to wait sometimes, he felt they were really good. Mr. Lee said in the summer sometimes the cars are backed up onto the street. The station sees about 700 cars per day and was designed for 300-400 cars per day.

Mr. Lavoie said that the recycle place is congested and they should have a bigger area with more access. He asked about the possibility of being able to get rid of everything metal in one place, for instance. Mr. Lee said that they did look at that possibility when they first built the Transfer Station and he wasn't sure why it didn't happen. Mr. Bianchi said that to his recollection, they had thought about building something like this at the landfill, but were not able to. Mr. Lavoie said for a long range plan, it seemed inefficient; they could operate a recycling center with more hours if it was separate from the Transfer Station. Mr. Lee noted that the Town owned the pit near Baker Road, which was about 20 acres in size. This was a possible location for such a recycling center once, but it was also a possible site for a wastewater treatment plant. This helped them decide to build the Transfer Station on the land it is currently on.

Mr. Lee commented that when they were looking for sites to build the Transfer Station, many people did not want it near their homes. People didn't want "the dump" in their back yards. He felt that people now seem to be a little more understanding and tolerant of a "Transfer Station" in their neighborhood. Mr. Kaplan noted that there is no sign reading "Transfer Station" at the site because people who live in that area do not want to draw attention to it.

Mr. MacMichael explained that when people say "the dump" he remembers how the dump used to be. In those days, no one ever referred to him living by little Lake Sunapee. They always said that he lived "by the dump." They used to dump dead animals there and there were lots of rats. He recalled a lot of people who were against having all the traffic a Transfer Station would bring, going down Shaker Street. He said there are more people living there now on that street and opined that it wouldn't go over well if the Transfer Station were moved there.

Mr. Bianchi said the people in Berlin had offered to cap the tipping fees for New London until 2017. This meant that for the next 5-7 years, they wouldn't see any increase in tipping fees at that facility. He thought they should take that into account.

Karen Hoglund made a request to get the Transfer Station open on Sundays again. She felt this would help with traffic at the station on Saturdays and felt it would be a benefit to those who work during the week. Mr. Lee said they have thought about it. He said that in order to do this, they would have to hire part time people (who may not be as reliable as their regular staff) to staff the Transfer Station. He was worried that he would still be called in to work if these part-time workers decided they couldn't or didn't want to come in on a weekend day. Mr. Lee added that after working 24/7 all winter long, his staff look forward to having their Saturdays and Sundays off. Ms. Hoglund suggested compensating, perhaps closing the Transfer Station one day/week or offer shorter hours on Saturday to be able to add a few hours on Sunday. Mr. Lee said that he was inclined to stick up for the people who work for him so they could get their weekends off. Mr. Harrod said that it would be an added expense to have the station open more hours, and that the Town couldn't afford it. Mr. Lee said that they have to figure out how to expand their function and keep their costs down. They are looking at other avenues to get more lifetime out of their current facility.

Mr. Weinstein suggested that if they map out the pluses and minuses of each plan they are considering to take in mind the benefits or costs to the Town, the employees, the Earth, etc. Mr. Lee said that that is what he and Ms. Levine are currently doing. They are trying to look at costs/benefits of doing it different ways. He explained that the article went to Town Meeting this year because they knew it would take a lot of time to get it up and running. They are trying to keep ahead of the game a bit but wanted to have permission so if it came up in the middle of the year to sign a contract, they have the OK to move forward.

Mr. Bianchi encouraged anyone with any input on things in Town to let the Board of Selectmen know. The more information they have from the public, the better. Chair Helm said that they try to be extremely transparent and good listeners. She said that as the chair she would try to insure transparency and the Selectmen need to hear their ideas.

Mr. Hoke suggested that perhaps if the Transfer Station were open on Sunday instead of Saturday that would work. He said that the dumpster at his business fills up on the weekends because people don't have anywhere to put their trash. He said that he found it rather humorous and that it wasn't a big problem. He explained that with rentals, it seems the people want to stay until Sunday and they, like his sister who visits the area occasionally, have to take their trash out on Saturday and then end up bringing a bundle of trash home with them on Sunday because there is nowhere to leave it. Mr. Hoke suggested perhaps instead of being open on Sunday, to stay open one night during the week a bit later (maybe until 6pm) instead of 3pm. That would help cut down on weekend traffic for people who live in New London year-round.

Rich Anderson said he felt the people at the Transfer Station do a terrific job and he finds that he gets in and out of there quickly. He commented that he was visiting some friends in another town recently and at their Transfer Station they had something they referred to as "Le Shed." It was a covered pavilion with some racks and shelves. People could drop things there that they didn't need and people in need could come by and take what they wanted. There were items such as clothing, books and appliances. Mr. Anderson said that having this area kept a lot of things from going into the dumpster. He said that he could not believe how many people were dropping things off and picking things up. Mr. Lee said they tried this a bit with the stump dump and found one problem was that people would say that something

worked (such as a TV) but it really did not; they just wanted to leave it there because they don't want to pay to dispose of it. He said that they do have a table at the Transfer Station for things like this, however. Mr. Anderson said that it surprises him what people throw away at the Transfer Station. Mr. Lee said that having such a place for leaving good items would be nice if they had the space, because he agreed that there are a lot of useful items that people throw out.

Mr. Lee was asked what the small building at the Transfer Station was used for. He said that this was called "The Cottage" and was where their bathroom facilities were and that it was winterized to keep their light bulbs and cans and bottles. Mr. Lee noted that they take in about \$300/month on returnable cans and bottles, which was something that people were not generally aware of.

Regarding the topic of Main Street Mr. Lee said that the project was in the Ten-Year Plan with the State of New Hampshire for 8-9 years. It was taken out a couple of years ago. He went on to add that if anyone had been following the news, the Ten-Year Plan they had believed to have been able to pay for in 10 years is now 15 years out. Mr. Lee said that the State was supposed to do some work on Main Street at the end of this month. They are currently working on some drainage and culverts have been replaced on Newport Road. The plan now is to fix as much of the drainage as they can until the 26<sup>th</sup> of April. Pike will come in and start work at Parkside Road on the 26<sup>th</sup>. They plan to mill off 1/2" of pavement to Squires Lane and then re-pave it with about 3/4" of pavement. They will start at the roundabout and do an inch overlay until the construction job at Four Corners. On Newport Road they will start at about Burpee Hill and grind the pavement all the way to South Cove Road and will add 6" of stone at the deep dip by the lake and put something in it to give the road some body. They will repave the street with 3" of asphalt and an inch on the top of the road from South Cove Road to the end of the construction at the roundabout. Some of the drainage will get done but Mr. Lee was told it would be impossible to get it all done. There is 300' of culvert that needs to be replaced.

Mr. Lee explained that New London has been after the State to do something at Seamans Road and Parkside Road and the school driveway because the drainage is problematic. They want to finish the base coat of pavement by the end of April and gave the top coat by the end of May. Traffic will be backed up on the street but he thought it would only be about four days if they were able to stay on schedule.

Mr. Kaplan asked if they it came that they don't have the time between now and the 26<sup>th</sup> to do all the underground work, was there anything from a practical point of view that New London's own Public Works Department could do to help. Mr. Lee said that they've offered numerous times over the last ten years to help the State of New Hampshire with this project. They have offered to give them the grader and an operator for two weeks/year to do it. They have never picked up on the offer. Mr. Lee said that the drainage on Seamans Road was so bad that it affects a lot of people on the Town-owned roads.

Mr. Gorman said that by paving over the existing problems with Main Street, it was like putting frosting on top of a cake that was rotten in the middle. Mr. Lee said that \$2 million was being spent on this paving project. Ms. Loeffler asked how long the paving would last. Mr. Lee said that the one section where more pavement would be added would last about 3-4 years. The other parts with only one inch of new pavement would most likely crack the next year. He added that the milling of the road would create the right crown of the road to help drainage go where it is supposed to go, however, once the water gets to the side of the road, there is nowhere for it to go. The drainage pipes are filled with dirt. Mr. Kaplan felt it would work so much better if the State would work with the Town to get it done.

Mr. Weinstein wondered if the representatives for New London would work with them to get Main Street repaired. Mr. Kaplan said he wasn't sure who they could call. Mr. Weinstein commented that it wasn't that they want something FROM the State; they want to give something TO the state. Mr. Bianchi said

that at this point, the Town doesn't have an extra \$.5 million to give to the State this year for this project. He felt Mr. Lee's frustration was well-deserved. He said that he'd love to know the answer as to why they have decided to do this paving project and that it drives him crazy to see them wasting this money. Chair Helm said the good news is that they are fortunate to have the leadership of Mr. Lee who keeps the Town at the highest level of maintenance. She asked how it would affect the good work they have done with the drainage with the sewer system. Mr. Lee said that this project would not affect their upgrades at all. He added that nationwide, they are spending billions of dollars across the country to separate wastewater and stormwater. Cities are growing and the treatment plants can't take all the stormwater on top of their regular wastewater. Both wastewater and stormwater need to be treated before it can be discharged anywhere.

Joe McCarthy said that Pike gave the Dispatch Office a list of days they would be paving and he reported that they won't be affecting the Colby-Sawyer College graduation.

Mr. Lee said that with regards to the Crockett's Corner project, they began saw-cutting the previous day and are supposed to be finished by June 18. There would be islands going in down towards I-89. Ms. Levine and Mr. Lee have an on-site meeting with the State on the 14<sup>th</sup> to talk about the landscaping. Mr. Lee said that they are trying to keep on top of what is going on with the project. Mr. Gorman asked if they were not going to have a traffic light there any longer. He said that people go too fast on that road and he felt that a light was necessary there. Mr. Lee said that they thought they would leave the conduit there in case they wanted to put the light back in at some point. He wasn't sure what happened but last summer many people expressed that they wanted the light put back in. They were told that they made no provisions to put it back in. Chair Helm recalled that it was recommended at a CAC meeting that the Selectmen write a letter to the State to ask them to put the light back in. The letter was written.

Mr. Lavoie asked if, when the State proposes something, did the Town have a chance to review the specifications and agree upon it? Mr. Lee said that they do not. Mr. Kaplan said that they can give opinions but the State makes the final decision and they are so behind in their scheduling, they give decisions with little time to plan or be aware. Mr. Weinstein asked that if the implication came if they don't do a perfect job and things start cracking again, would New London have to fill in the potholes and maintain it. Mr. Lee said that the State would be in charge of that. Mr. Weinstein asked why it mattered to them then if they fixed the road or not. Mr. Kaplan said that it is their tax dollars being spent on this project. He added that he felt the State is only concerned with the main roads (89, 101, route 11) and that the other roads were not their focus and were considered secondary roads.

Mr. Ettenborough said that it wasn't a good idea to offer to do something for the State. He opined that if they offer to do four drainages the State will ask them to do 10. Main Street belongs to the State. They have to just live with it and hope it doesn't get so bad they'll need tanks to drive on it!

Mr. Bianchi said that if they spend \$2 million on this project, he could envision the State saying that they spent money in 2010, and would then remove New London from the list. Mr. Lee said that if they get the work done, they'll still have to keep the pressure on the State to make a case to keep New London on the 10-year list. Chair Helm said that they agreed at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting to keep on top of this project.

Mr. Lee commented that 75% of all stimulus money went to the airport road, Conway and I93. Everyone else in the State is suffering because they want to do those roads instead of maintaining State-owned roads in the Towns. Bob MacMichael asked where their representatives are and wasn't it part of their job to represent the Town? He remembered when the State highway commissioner used to live in New London during the time that he was a Selectman. He said it was nice to have John Clements to talk to. Mr.

Bianchi said that when Bill Kidder was chair of the Ways and Means Committee, if you had an issue and called him, he would fight hard to get it done. Unfortunately, he doesn't think anyone has that much power any more.

With regards to summer projects, Mr. Lee said they plan to grind and pave Wilmot Center Road. If they get the Elkins grant, they can grind and pave it to get to the sidewalk. They are trying to get the projects to work together. Mr. Lee said that grinding and paving will continue for about 4-5 years on the budget and then it will be dropped to shimming to keep roads in good shape. He said there is about 1700 feet of sidewalk on Pleasant Street to create (with the Safe Routes to School program), and work to be done on Rowell Hill Road. They plan to pull ditches there and clean them out. They plan to put pavement there at some point. He added that there were multiple places to put culverts. In addition, there were about eight miles of road to ditch this summer.

Mr. Bianchi noted that the MESA building was taken out of the Elkins project.

Mr. Hoke said that he's noticed some Town crews trimming brush and chipping along the side of the roads. He wanted to know what the reason was. Mr. Lee commented that it was a maintenance thing. The branches start slapping the mirrors of the plow trucks when they are covered in snow. This winter they had two broken mirrors because of the low-hanging branches.

Ms. Helm asked if anyone knew what was going on in Elkins with the tree cutting. Mr. Lee said he heard they were logging and perhaps went over the property line and claims had been filed. Mr. MacMichael said that Peter Stanley was down there taking pictures and that it was a real mess. Mr. Bianchi said that this was the difference between good logging and bad logging.

Mr. Lee said that the DES is writing new stream crossing regulations for culverts. He testified a couple of times because he disagrees with the point behind the regulations. They wanted to replace a culvert on Lamson Lane and were told they had to replace it with a culvert that would accommodate a 100-year storm. They chose an elliptical-shaped culvert that was 7'6" wide by 6' high. Under the new stormwater regulations the State wanted them to put in a 10' culvert. This size culvert makes a ridge and they would have had to design a new bridge. They ended up, after a year and a half, with a 9'6" x 4'6" culvert. Mr. Lee stressed that he is environmentally sensitive as well as financially sensitive. The culvert ended up costing \$14,000 at the end. He considers that to be an extreme in the regulations. The culvert has about two gallons/minute running through there now, which makes the size of it unpractical. This sort of expense was driven by the regulations. Mr. Lee said that he can see nine or more of those culverts coming up for replacement over the next 10-15 years. He said he is trying to get the extra \$10,000 as an unfunded mandate put upon the Town by the State of New Hampshire. He added that the DES is blaming Fish and Game. Mr. Lee said that at budget time, this hurts his department because he only has \$6,000 to spend to replace culverts each year. Chair Helm asked if Mr. Lee felt he had been heard at his testimony. Mr. Lee said he felt that he was heard. Chair Helm asked if there were a lot of representatives for other communities. Mr. Lee said there were several. He commented that a lot of communities don't give the time to let their public works representatives give input as New London does.

To recap on the winter, Mr. Lee said there were 84 inches of snow that fell, which is less than usual. Generally there are between 110-120 inches. They put out 32,000 yards of sand, 214 tons of salt, and there were 65 town roads maintained. That boiled down to 25 yards of sand per lane mile and 1.64 tons of salt per lane mile. The cost of per lane mile was \$318. That came out to \$3.79 per inch of snow per lane mile of road. Mr. Lee said he was staggered by the amount of sand that was used.

Chair Helm thanked Mr. Lee for coming to the meeting to share the information on the details regarding the Public Works Department.

The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:04 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London