



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 2010

### PRESENT:

Tina Helm, Chair  
Mark Kaplan, Selectman  
Peter Bianchi, Selectman  
Jessie Levine, Town Administrator

### ALSO PRESENT:

Paul Gorman, New London resident  
Richard Lee, Public Works Director  
Morris Edwards, Northeast Shakespeare Ensemble  
Michael Doheny, New London resident  
Debbie Cross, Reporter for *The Villager*  
Leigh Bosse, Owner, *The Messenger*

Chair Tina Helm called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Interview with Volunteer Candidate Paul Gorman: The meeting began with an interview of volunteer candidate Paul Gorman, who is interested in a position on either the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Adjustment. By academic training, Mr. Gordon is a psychologist. Currently Mr. Gorman is employed as a Senior Research Associate at the Dartmouth Psychiatric Research. He has held a number of high-level, management positions in his long and distinguished career including: President and CEO of West Central Behavioral Health, Director of The West Institute at the New Hampshire Dartmouth Psychiatric Research Center, Director of the Division of Behavioral Health in Concord, and CEO of New Hampshire Hospital in Concord. In all of these positions, he has been involved in Strategic Planning, and considers it an important process. According to Mr. Gorman, one of the challenges the Town faces is to figure out how it will manage growth, and balance economic development with the other elements of the town that make it an attractive place to live.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) that Paul Gorman be appointed to the position of alternate of the Planning Board. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Levine told Mr. Gorman that Linda Jackman would prepare an official appointment card, and that afterwards he would be sworn in. Mr. Gorman mentioned that he would not be able to attend the next meeting of the Planning Board on April 27.

Meeting Minutes: It was MOVED, Mr. Kaplan, and SECONDED, Mr. Bianchi, to accept the Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting on March 1, 2010. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was MOVED, Mr. Kaplan, and SECONDED, Mr. Bianchi, to accept the Minutes of the Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting of March 6, 2010. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was MOVED, Mr. Kaplan, and SECONDED, Mr. Bianchi, to accept the Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting on March 8, 2010. Chair Helm noted the following correction:

- Correction on page 2, Old Pending Business, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, the “ms” regarding Article 4 should be removed
  - Correction on page 8, Discussion, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, the word “modal” was misspelled
- THE MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AS AMENDED.

It was MOVED, Mr. Kaplan, and SECONDED, Mr. Bianchi, to accept the Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting on March 22, 2010. Mr. Kaplan noted the following correction:

- Correction on page 4, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph, clearly state who “he” is, and “local” bank.

Chair Helm noted the following corrections:

- Correction on page 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, change “Chair Helm suggested shelving this discussion” for another time” to “Chair Helm suggested shelving this discussion until the Selectmen discuss board and committee appointments”

Mr. Bianchi noted the following corrections:

- Correction on page 4, regarding the Skateboard Park, replace “they” with Committee
- Question on page 2, second bullet point under Projects and Priorities 2010. He asked that the final grant approval be more clearly defined (i.e., as it relates to the Elkins project).

Mr. Kaplan noted the following correction:

- Correction on page 6, 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, clarify the use of “terms and people”
- Correction on page 6, 8<sup>th</sup> paragraph, replace perspective with prospective
- Correction on page 9, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph, 7<sup>th</sup> line, thought was misspelled
- Correction on page 10, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, add “after the grant” to 1<sup>st</sup> sentence

THE MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AS AMENDED.

Main Street Update: Chair Helm welcomed Richard Lee who was present to give the Selectmen an update on Main Street. Mr. Lee said the focus of the repair would be the repaving of Main Street and Newport Road. Newport Road work will start at 189 by the Transfer Station to the roundabout. The Main Street work will start at the roundabout and end a couple hundred feet before Parkside Road, and from Parkside Road to a couple hundred feet past Squires Lane. The milling work should begin around April 26<sup>th</sup>, and the paving after that. The roads will be open for about 20 days. Some of the drainage on Main Street will be fixed, but not all of the drainage problems will be addressed. The sites where drainage will be fixed are currently marked with bright florescent orange. If all goes according to plan, Main Street will be done by May 19<sup>th</sup>, and Newport Road by May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Bianchi wanted to know what would happen if they cannot complete the project within the allotted timeframe. He wanted to know if they would come back next year. Mr. Lee said he didn’t know. He said it’s not a good time to be putting in drainage in New London, and that it should have been done last year. He also said that he doesn’t think Main Street’s drainage problems can be fixed by attending to just a few spots. The proposed plan may temporarily solve the problem, but it probably won’t last.

Mr. Bianchi asked Mr. Lee if he thought it would be worth it, as Public Works Director, to give a summary of how the project went, and voice any concerns the Town might have with the way the project was executed and the quality of the work performed. Mr. Lee said he thought this was a good idea and would be willing to do this.

Ms. Levine suggested to Mr. Lee, now that he has attended the preconstruction meeting, to send an email to the State DOT to reiterate the Town’s willingness to help with the project if required.

Chair Helm said that it was a difficult situation because the Town doesn't have any input in the matter.

Chair Helm thanked Mr. Lee for advocating for the town. Mr. Lee agreed to let Ms. Levine know if there were any changes to the schedule. He said he knew they were going to try and find out when the college commencement activities would be. Ms. Levine said Commencement is on May 8 (Saturday morning).

### **New Business**

Appoint Selectboard Representative to Joint Board for Tri-Town Assessing: Ms. Levine said that in 2010, it's New London's year to have a Selectman for the first of a two-year term. Ms. Levine said that the role of the joint board was to oversee the tri-town assessing agreement, not to oversee assessing itself but the relationship among the 3 towns, allocation of staff time, review of the budget, review and preparation of the budget. She said meetings were held quarterly, and with the exception of the spring and fall meetings (performance evaluations are done in the spring and the budget is done in the fall) the meetings generally were short. Ms. Levine said that the next meeting was this Thursday at 8:00 AM.

Ms. Levine said there were 7 members on the committee: the managers from the three towns, 2 selectmen, and 2 residents on a rotating basis.

Chair Helm wanted to know how long the term was. Ms. Levine said it was a 2-year term.

Chair Helm said it was probably her turn since Mr. Kaplan is on the Budget Committee and Mr. Bianchi is on the Planning Board.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) that Chair Helm be appointed to represent the Town of London on the joint board. There was no discussion, and THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Northeast Shakespeare Ensemble – Shakespeare Month: Mr. Edwards informed the Selectmen that Northeast Shakespeare Ensemble would be returning to New London in May. Mr. Edwards said he had joined the group many years ago because he was excited about the prospect of bringing Shakespeare to the community (both to the theatre and educationally). He said that their first season was in 2004, but they weren't able to secure the theatre at Colby Sawyer that year. They used the Norris Theatre at Proctor for their first production, but it didn't work out all that well due to various reasons. The following year and for the past six seasons they used the Lebanon Opera House. This year he said they were pleased to announce that they had been able to secure the Colby Sawyer theatre, and were very excited to be returning to "their roots." He said he has been working with two groups to commemorate the event: Rob Bryant (Chamber of Commerce), Gusta Teach and Annie Ballin from The Center of the Arts. The Chamber is excited about the opportunity to bring in visitor and showcase the community's cultural richness, and the Center of the Arts is all about promoting the fine and performing arts.

Mr. Edwards said they've been working together, and had come up with a series of events in May including a May Day to take place on the Town Green on May 1<sup>st</sup> (celebrating the end of winter, the arrival of spring and the upcoming summer). He said they plan on transforming New London into Olde London at Shakespeare time. Other events will take place leading up to the opening night of Othello. Everyone thought it would be a nice idea to frame all of these events as Shakespeare month in New London, and he would like to know if the Board of Selectmen would be willing to declare the month of May in New London as Shakespeare month.

Ms. Levine asked Chair Helm to read out loud the proclamation that they had written.

**Proclamation of Shakespeare Month in New London  
May 2010**

***WHEREAS**, the Northeast Shakespeare Ensemble, a non-profit professional repertory company based in New London, is returning to its roots with eight performances of Shakespeare’s Othello at the Sawyer Center theatre from May 21 through May 30; and*

***WHEREAS**, this homecoming will be celebrated with a month-long series of Shakespeare-related events in New London, starting on May 1 with May Day festivities that were popular in Elizabethan England; and*

***WHEREAS**, these festivities will transform New London into the Olde London of Shakespeare’s time with a parade, the crowning of a May Queen, dancing around the May Pole, performances by Morris dancers in traditional costume, the ChocolateFest, and the making of May Day Baskets and games for children; and*

***WHEREAS**, the festivities will include performances by three community groups, with choristers from the Kearsarge Chorale singing Shakespeare madrigals, members of the Kearsarge Community Band playing Renaissance music and the Colby-Sawyer Players selecting and crowning a May Queen and populating her Court; and*

***WHEREAS**, on May 8 there will be a community discussion on how Shakespeare’s plays and the founding of the New World propelled English into the world’s richest and most dominant language; and*

***WHEREAS**, on May 15, the Center for the Arts will screen “Shakespeare in Love,” winner of Best Picture and six other Academy Awards, in Colby-Sawyer’s Wheeler Hall; and*

***WHEREAS**, on May 21, the Center for the Arts will host a gala dinner in New London’s finest restaurants before the opening night performance of Othello, with a post-performance Champagne and dessert reception and meet-the-actors party; and*

***WHEREAS**, this month-long series of events will attract visitors to New London, showcase the community’s cultural richness and provide affordable family-style entertainment and fun for New London residents and visitors alike;*

***NOW THEREFORE**, we, the Board of Selectmen, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2010 as “Shakespeare Month in New London,” and we call upon all citizens to partake and enjoy the month-long festivities to the fullest.*

Chair Helm said she thought the idea sounded wonderful, and the Selectmen agreed to sign the proclamation.

Ms. Levine asked where the gala dinners would be taking place on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Edwards said they would be taking place at the Inn at Pleasant Lake, New London Inn, and the Colonial Farm Inn.

Mr. Kaplan thanked Mr. Edwards for his efforts.

### **Old Business/Pending Business**

1. Wastewater Project Funding: Ms. Levine said she had emailed everyone on Friday about the meeting that had taken place with the USDA Rural Development office. Ms. Levine said that they had been told all along that if Sunapee were the applicant for the RDA grant of the wastewater project that the total project would receive grant funding. Ms. Levine said that they had been told on Friday that the application “had been kicked back” by the supervisor in Vermont. She said that because New London is a 65% owner, New London would not qualify although they all knew that New London would not qualify because income levels are too high for the RDA funding. She said what they were looking at on Friday was that Sunapee’s portion of the project would receive 45% funding, and New London’s portion would receive nothing. She said they spent the majority of the meeting talking about ways they could change the application to meet RDA requirements. She said the RDA representative told them to reapply, and reassured them by saying there have been grants/projects they have been working on for five years that just took a while to administer but did eventually get the funding. Ms. Levine said she was reassured that RDA was working with them, and not against them. Ms. Levine said that she had asked the RDA representative how they had gotten so far in the process without the information, and his response was that the towns had been told all along that it was not a sure thing, just preliminary.

Ms. Levine said that the engineer, Neil Cheseldine, was going to be working on the application. She said they had talked about changing the inter-municipal agreement. She said they also talked about changing the agreement from an inter-municipal agreement to a contract of service. She said they also talked about New London’s reimbursement to Sunapee because New London reimbursement to Sunapee could be interpreted as income to the project.

Mr. Kaplan said that the vote taken at the Town Meeting was contingent, and without the grant the vote is null and void. Ms. Levine said if they had to go back to the Town and ask for 100%, the whole argument for doing it now is gone. Ms. Levine said that the money would be there for a while, and that New Hampshire legislation had been amended to allow towns to hold special meetings with a lower attendance requirement specifically to accept funding. But Ms. Levine said she was not comfortable going back to the voters so soon with a new scenario, and she said that unless they could come up with something to take New London out of the picture to satisfy them she didn’t know how they were going to do this.

Chair Helm said that she understood from the get go that everything was considered preliminary until the grant was actually “in our hands.” Chair Helm said that they had to explore how things could be changed around. She said wanted to know more about re-writing of the inter-municipal agreement and the 50/50 split.

Ms. Levine said that Sunapee had made the suggestion, and it was made in light of the fact that Sunapee may take on Perkins Pond which would very likely change the usage. She said that Sunapee’s argument was basically that they would like to use more of the allocation.

Mr. Bianchi wanted to know what percent of the sewage the Town was supplying. Ms. Levine said 66%, but that the Town was not at 100% of its 66% allotment. She said the plant was built for 600,000 gallons a day, and we contribute about 300,000 on a regular basis. She said they were not planning to add any new capacity, and the new plant would be built for 600,000 gallons, but they are building for improved efficiency which will increase the capacity.

Mr. Bianchi wanted to know what (if anything) could be done with the money that had already been approved by the voters. Ms. Levine said that the Town couldn't go to bid until the project design was final, and there is no money to pay for the project design without the grant funds.

Mr. Bianchi said that it would be nice if the parameters of the renovation could be redefined to bring the price of the project down from \$8 million to \$5 million, but we don't have the money to get to those design specifications.

Mr. Bianchi said "it looks like we're dead in the water for this year." Ms. Levine said that might be true for this year, but that they would keep looking for ways to deal with the situation.

Chair Helm said she was not interested in getting belligerent about this right now, and would like the Board to agree to empower Ms. Levine to do more negotiations. She said she would like to do some more talking, and find a creative way of articulating those requests whatever they may be.

Mr. Bianchi said he would like to give Ms. Levine permission to be tougher if she needed too. Chair Helm said timing is everything, and she thought what Ms. Levine was saying is that the time isn't right. She said she had seen Ms. Levine be a strong advocate for the Town before, and knows Ms. Levine will continue to keep them informed about the progress of this.

2. Pleasant Street Sidewalk: Ms. Levine said that Richard Lee, Rob Faulkner, and she attended a meeting on Thursday morning at the New Hampshire DOT Cultural and Historical Resources Committee and presented the sidewalk plan. She said it sounded like their project would be approved. She said that she had also met with Howard Hoke at Country Press to go over the way the sidewalk would interfere with his current "wide-open arrangement." She said that he wasn't thrilled, but that he understood the purpose of project. She said they talked about ways that the impact could be minimized for him. She said that she would present him with the final design as soon as she received it from the engineer.

Ms. Levine said they also talked about the wetlands on the Kidder property, and what the Town could do to improve the situation. Mr. Bianchi asked Ms. Levine how much was allocated to that project. She said that the grant was \$100,000, and that the engineering was \$33,000 (coming out of sidewalk). Mr. Bianchi said that when the grant was given two years ago it was from the Pleasant Street as well as Parkside, and now Parkside was a "no-go." Ms. Levine said that was correct, and that the DOT had approved reallocation of the money to Pleasant Street. She said that the Town could go back to them and reapply for Parkside. She said the Town was only spending \$33,000 and not \$80,000 as they had originally planned. Mr. Bianchi asked whether the remaining \$47,000 would stay in the capital reserve account for sidewalks. Ms. Levine said it did. Chair Helm asked whether that money could eventually be allocated towards Parkside. Ms. Levine said it could.

Chair Helm thanked Ms. Levine for representing them.

3. CAC and Other Appointments

Ms. Levine wondered if the Board had had any more thoughts about CAC appointments. Chair Helm said that in an email she had told Ms. Levine that the people eligible for a second term all want to stay on (and that's seven people). Chair Helm asked Ms. Levine how many places they had to fill. Ms. Levine said that there is no limit, and currently they had 19 people. Ms. Levine said they had had as many as 33 members at one point in the past, so she recommended appointing about 10 people in addition to the reappointments.

After a discussion, Chair Helm read the agreed-upon names of CAC appointments:

Phyllis Piotrow  
Jack Sheehan  
Ben Cushing  
Terri Bingham  
Carolyn Lockhart  
Will Kidder  
Joe Cardillo  
Bud Dick  
Jerry Gold  
Beth Swanson

Chair Helm said that John Tilley had not yet been approved as a member of the Planning Board. IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) that John Tilley be appointed as member of the Planning Board. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) that Karen Hoglund and Gordon McKinnon be reappointed be appointed Board of Fire Wards. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Levine read the names of the Economic Development Committee members who are being recommended for formal appointment and their terms. She said the committee was formed last year by charter, and that the charter described that there were to be 5 members.

Gary Markoff 2009-2012  
Mike Doheny 2009-2011  
Larry Ballin 2010-2013  
Rob Bryant 2009-2011  
Janet Hutchins (will step out and head up the advisory board)  
Rob Bryant, Chamber of Commerce, 2009-2012

#### 4. Legislative Activity

Ms. Levine discussed the Senate Bill 492 which extends the prospective repeal date of the local property tax exemption for wooden poles and conduits to July 1, 2012 (under the current law it is repealed on July 1, 2010). The bill also establishes a committee to study the exemption of wooden poles and conduits under RSA 72:8-b, and its impact on rate-paying customers and application among utility pole owners and communications providers.

Ms. Levine mentioned that they are still working on the broadband bill. She said she would be going down next Tuesday.

Mr. Kaplan said he would be attending the next Portsmouth Coalition meeting.

Chair Helm asked Ms. Levine if she would prepare a few bullet points regarding legislative items and the wastewater project for the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on Saturday.

#### **Committee Meetings and Reports**

Chair Helm reported that both she and Mr. Bianchi had attended the Planning Board meeting. Mr. Bianchi gave a brief report on the Planning Board meeting.

### **Upcoming Meetings & Special Events**

Chair Helm said that the CAC meeting was on Saturday, April 10 at 7:30 AM.

Chair Helm said she would attend the Scenic Byways meeting on Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00 PM in Newbury.

Chair Helm said the Joint Board of Selectmen meeting would be held on Thursday, April 22 in Bradford.

Chair Helm said the Joint Sewer Meeting would be held on Thursday, April 29, at 5:30 PM at the Town Hall in Sunapee.

Chair Helm said the Budget Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 19 at 7:00 PM.

Chair Helm said the Emergency Management Committee (EMC) Public Info Session would take place on Wednesday, June 2 at 5:30 PM at Colby-Sawyer.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Bianchi said that he would like to have a discussion at a future meeting regarding fees related to building permits, and the possibility of adjusting the fees so that the fee amount is based on the value of the home rather than one set fee regardless of the building's value. Ms. Levine said permit fees relate to the town's costs, and not the cost of the homeowner. Ms. Levine said that she would prepare a package of the last few fee schedules for his review. Chair Helm said that she would put the topic on the agenda for a future meeting. Ms. Levine said that she would review the meeting schedule and put it on a future agenda.

IT WAS MOVED (Mr. Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Mr. Bianchi) to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's meeting of April 5, 2010. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The MEETING ADJOURNED at 10:30 AM.

#### Application for Building Permits:

- John & Patricia Tilley, 139 Main St. (Map & Lot 073-072-000) build arbor over front walkway – Permit #10-023 – Approved.
- John B. Wilson Trust, 299 Main St. (Map & Lot 084-072-000) replace 15 windows – Permit #10-024 – Approved.
- Tracy Memorial Library, 304 Main St. (Map & Lot 084-054-000) interior renovations – Permit #10-025 – Approved.
- Don & Margaret Monticello, Wallula Road (Map & Lot 033-016-009) build new 3 bedroom home – Permit #10-026 – Approved.
- Jennifer Esten, 128 Knollwood Road (Map & Lot 035-051-000) interior renovations – Permit #10-027 – Approved.
- Christopher & Joyce Lee, 72 Wilder Lane (Map & Lot 099-017-000) bathroom renovations and add garden shed – Permit #10-028 – Approved.

#### Application for use of Ausbon Sargent Common & Bandstand:

- Center for the Arts, May 1, 2010 – 9:00 AM – for a May Day Celebration – Approved.

Application for use of Whipple Memorial Town Hall

- New London Recreation Department – yoga classes – Tuesdays & Thursdays May 11-June 3, 2010 – Approved.

Application for use of Sydney Crook Conference room:

- North East Shakespeare Ensemble, May 8, 2010 10:30AM-12:30PM – Approved.

Application for Temporary Sign Permits:

- Kearsarge Chorale, 2 signs, 1 at Information booth, 1 at First Baptist Church – concert Sunday May 2, 2010 4:00 PM – Approved.

Warrant – Land Use Change Tax – Current Use:

- Robert & Brenda Montagna, Westside Drive (Map & Lot 055-012-004) in the amount of \$6250.00 – Approved.

Other:

- Disbursement voucher week of March 22, & April 5, 2010 - Approved.
- Signatures required on veteran's applications – Approved.
- Current Use Application – Carr Land Holdings, LLC (Map & Lot 136-007-000)
- Signatures required on appointment cards.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Guyer  
Recording Secretary