



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES January 15, 2020 6:30 PM

PRESENT:

Nancy Rollins, Chairman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
John Cannon, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Liz Meller, New London Rep. to Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
Jerry Coogan, New London Rep. to Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
Bill Helm, New London Resident
John Raby, Budget Committee Member
Sue Jesseman, Budget Committee Member
Donna Larrow, Administrative Assistant NLPD

Chair Rollins called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM, welcoming Liz and Jerry to the meeting.

Liz Meller and Jerry Coogan, New London's representatives to the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (RPC) met with the Board to update them on activities.

Regional Housing Assessment

Mr. Coogan began by noting that the RPC is now working on a regional housing assessment to come up with information on each of the towns and will then give guidance to the towns. This assessment has been going on for about a year; the need for workforce housing is critical. Chair Rollins asked when the RPC would be looking at New London, Mr. Coogan was unsure but noted that he would check. Ms. Meller noted that this is a grant study and will look at all housing, not just workforce, and they will build out an analysis for each town, as each town is different. They will be bringing in large employers as well. She stressed that it is the beginning of the process so now is the time for New London to get involved.

Chair Rollins asked about the new project in Hanover and how it factored into the housing assessment. Ms. Meller noted that it has not been an issue with the RPC that she knows of. Chair Rollins noted that the I-89 traffic would be a regional impact.

Mr. Coogan noted that there is a state Housing Appeals Board that will hear cases where developers are unable to get local approval for projects, they can file an appeal with the Housing Appeals Board that will have the authority to overrule local land use board; he noted that this is brand new.

Transportation

Mr. Coogan noted that there is a Transportation Advisory Committee that recommends projects for the 10-year plan, and recently recommended the expansion of the Park and Ride; he suggested that Public Works Director Bob Harrington be appointed to the committee. Mr. Coogan suggested a management

plan for the park and ride because people are parking in New London to avoid the park and ride in Lebanon that charges for parking – he suggested a plan that would limit parking and turnover the spaces in a timelier manner.

Surface road management system

Mr. Coogan noted that this is a grant program that assists with road priority system planning.

Brownfield study – Claremont, Lebanon Newport Lempster, Enfield and Charlestown

Ms. Meller noted that all towns are encouraged to look at properties in their town that might qualify under this study/grant program that might turn a site into useable development property. There was a discussion of the town's former landfill; Selectman Kidder noted that the site is currently being monitored and it was doubtful if it could ever be developed.

Culvert inventory

Mr. Coogan noted that this program is a cost sharing program that will assist in identifying culverts to plan for maintenance, rehab and replacement. Selectman Kidder noted that students from Colby-Sawyer are working on sustainability projects who might be interested in this project. The Board noted that the town is currently working on its Stormwater Asset Management Plan. The Board discussed the possibility of getting grants for the town's culverts.

Water

Ms. Meller explained that there was a comic book program for kids that two years ago came out with a comic book to help show the kids how to properly wash their hands, they are now thinking of applying for a grant to produce one on the issue of single-use plastic bags. She also noted that there is a new program: Water Protection Plan from the USDA, that volunteers in the neighborhoods to keep an eye on the water source to identify possible contaminants that may get into the water source.

Upper Valley RPC Foundation

Mr. Coogan informed the Board that a new foundation has been established which is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that could accept tax deductible donations, apply for grants and could potentially develop property and do other projects.

Chair Rollins noted that the housing needs assessment is the area that the town is most interested in getting assistance from the RPC on; Executive Director Steve Schneider will be invited in to meet with the Selectmen after Town Meeting. Mr. Coogan noted that having a charrette done, as was done years ago for the Elkins project, would be very helpful.

Selectman Kidder asked if the RPC could get a grant for the expansion of the Park and Ride, noting that there is a need for 20% matching funds for the project. Ms. Meller noted that she was not aware of any money available from the RPC to go towards the cost of the project.

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator