



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## NEW LONDON PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES Friday, December 18, 2015

### SITE WALK MEETING NOTES

Dorr Family Farms, LLC  
Len Dorr, Owner and Emilie Major, Farm Manager  
Property on Morgan Hill Road and Little Sunapee Road  
Tax Map 047-001-000, 046-004-000 & 060-005-000

**PRESENT:** Bill Helm (Chair), Paul Gorman (Vice Chair), Bill Dietrich, Michele Holton, Jeremy Bonin, Tim Paradis, Elizabeth Meller (Alt.), Marianne McEnrue (Alt.) and Janet Kidder (Selectmen's Representative)

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Len Dorr, owner; Emilie Major, Farm Manager; Tracey and John MacKenna of 168 Little Sunapee Road; Jim Perkins; John Ford of 23 County Road; Bill and Jeannie Berger of 150 Camp Sunapee Road and Deb Langner, Town Health Officer.

All in attendance were asked to disinfect their footwear to protect against the spread of disease and overall safety of the animals and the farming operation. This is a common practice when visiting a farming operation.

Staff noted this is site walk and a quorum of the Planning Board is in attendance. No decisions will be made at the site walk. The site plan application was most recently discussed at the December 15<sup>th</sup> Planning Board meeting and continued to the Jan 14, 2016 meeting.

Emilie Major and Len Dorr provided details, history and proposed uses for the structures and fields. Saw cattle, pig and chickens. Discussed manure management, location of the stream, fencing, conversion of milk house for farm offices, NRCS grazing standards, water system, location of septic, discussion parking, wood pile, vegetation – blueberry bushes and trees, bee hives, safety features when animals arrive or leave the farm and other general farming operational issues.

**Ms. Major explained the proposed uses on the farm to include:**

- Animals will be rotated between fields, have sufficient pasture and feeding areas for the cattle. Currently have nine (9), one heifer is pregnant and an old steer named Walter. There will be 18-22 cows on the property, some won't be visible. She noted this will help to minimize stress to the cows, and will minimize exposure to the public.
- Bee hives (10 currently)

- Breeding via artificial insemination (no bull on-site), will sell calves to other farms
- Buildings used for the storage of farm equipment
- Converting the old milk house for the farm manager and owner's farm office
- Demolition received from Town for the old Messer house on the corner of Morgan Hill Road and Little Sunapee.
- Fencing proposed for 33 acres of the property. Other fencing will be placed and moved about as the cows are rotated between the pasture areas.
- Hay production in the various fields.
- Manure management plan currently working with National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on developing a plan. Manure is to be stored in barn and will be used to fertilize the various fruit orchards. This manure barn is 218 feet from a property line.
- No other housing is proposed for seasonal employees at this time
- Pick-Your-Own blueberries (June to mid-September, depending the varieties, and growing seasons)
- Plan to provide parking adjacent to the house.
- Planted 270 fruit trees
- Specialty cut flowers for wholesale
- Use certified organic fertilizer, including Neptune Harvest (made from seaweed, smells like low tide). No fertilizers will be exposed.

Noted concerns about parking, bee hives, pedestrians visiting the farm, manure management and rotating cattle between fields. Plan showing all that is proposed to be provided (larger scale) for the next meeting, including showing parking adjacent to the house.

Meeting adjourned about 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy St. John, Planning and Zoning Administrator