



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

8:30 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Brown (Chair), Michael Gelcius, Ruth White, Stanley Morano, Joseph Kubit, Andrew Deegan, Maggie Ford

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Michael Kennedy, Mark Vernon

STAFF PRESENT: Nicole Gage

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Grigsby

1. **Call to order** – Chair Brown called the roll
2. **Public comment** - None

3. **Permit applications**

➤ Greg Grigsby - Pellettieri Assoc. -Parcel #090-003-000, 278 Poor Rd.

Greg Grigsby attended the meeting to discuss a proposal to make improvements to a property at the end of Poor Road. An application was filed with DES in early January and was approved on February 5, 2019.

Currently, the property has about 16% impervious area. The plan that was originally submitted to the state showed them pulling the house back, making it compliant with state and town regulations by moving it behind the 150 foot line. In doing that, they were going to encroach on the 640 square feet of unaltered area. At the town level, it was viewed that because they were replacing the area with unaltered vegetation that would be a reasonable swap. However, at the state level, a waiver was filed knowing that they would want that area either retained or replaced somewhere else on the property. After discussions with the property owner and the architect, there were minor modifications made to the house so they were able to preserve the area in its entirety. It is now out of the waterfront buffer entirely so there will be no impact there. They are proposing a pervious pathway to a permanent dock and will apply to do this at a later date.

Since the town does not allow the planting of new grass, there is a restoration plan for areas that will require it. Fern sod, raspberry and blueberry bushes will be planted.

Pete Blakeman has obtained septic approval from the Town and the State. He has also developed a storm water plan. The increased runoff needs to be mitigated as the house has a bigger footprint. The project is going from 16% to 19.2% impervious area. The house will have gutters and drip edges to convey the water to two dry wells.

The next step will be filing a building permit. Mr. Grigsby anticipates this will be done as soon as possible.

➤ Brian Vincent - Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. - Parcel #068-005-000, 235 Pilot House Rd.
Nicole Gage stated she received an email that the applicant would like to defer this until the March Conservation Commission meeting.

4. Approval of the January 16, 2018 meeting minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Michael Gelcius) AND SECONDED (Ruth White) to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2019 meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Forest/Wildlife Habitat Improvement Projects - Mountain Road (#101-003 & 112-006) Ski Trails

Chair Brown stated that he doesn't have a final number for the project yet. There was a lot of low grade, diseased material taken out and sold for pulp. The project is officially done and Chair Brown is pleased with the outcome.

Chair Brown has consulted with Leo Maslan and they have identified three or four parcels that they will review and consider harvesting for next year. They would like to do a parcel every year or two.

Discussions with the ski club continue. Chair Brown does not feel the forestry project caused them any delay as they didn't open until after the project was done and it was more due to weather related issues. We will continue to work with them next year and will work on a different permission process to include more detail and clarify ground rules on clean up.

6. New London Place (Continuum)

Chair Brown has received several phone calls related to the tree removal on Parkside Road. He informed people that the New London Place project has nothing to do with the Conservation Commission as it is privately owned land and not under a conservation easement.

Michael Gelcius and Stanley Morano will work on putting closed signs on trails close to the project.

7. CC Warrant articles - Forestry 50/50 LAF contribution

There was an issue with the 50/50 split warrant article. The state wants to see a dollar amount so the wording will say 50/50 split, not to exceed \$6,000.

The Land Acquisition fund contribution is in the warrant. Chair Brown feels they shouldn't amend this to a higher number and will revisit it next year.

8. Mapping/Website update

Mark Vernon and Michael Gelcius have been working on mapping and updating the website. Chair Brown noted the maps really look nice. Mr. Gelcius stated from a usage standpoint, this will work a lot better and is clearer.

10. Invasive species program

Chair Brown would like to do an invasive species awareness program this summer and look at options for control. He feels there is a need to be more visible in the community and get others involved.

11. CC Land use request form (Clark Lookout & Sheppard Pit)

Michael Gelcius has worked on the form for Clark Lookout and it is being reviewed. The one for Sheppard Pit is still in process.

12. Trails & Projects

- Pleasant Street – East & West, trail & water flow - The water flow is a big concern. When the weather improves, work will be done with DPW to see about getting the water flowing and the Caster Master device back in service.
- Demo Forest – Chair Brown discussed illustration and information boards that can be installed on trails, etc. He would like to consider putting one at Low Plain overlooking the beaver pond providing information about beavers and various water fowl.
- Trail worker volunteers & MCDOC Off-Site Program – Chair Brown has not heard back from MCDOC and will reach out to them again.
- American Chestnut Foundation (seedlings) – The American Chestnut Foundation opened up the ordering of seedlings and we entered our order for 10 seedlings.

13. Other

Chair Brown would like get the actual percentage of conserved land in New London. Andy Deegan will provide this information to him.

14. Important Dates - March 13, 2019 Town Meeting

15. Next meeting date - Wednesday, March 20, 2019

16. Motion to Adjourn

IT WAS MOVED (Michael Gelcius) AND SECONDED (Maggie Ford) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56am

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson
Recording Secretary
Town of New London