



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
February 24, 2020
6:00 PM**

PRESENT:

Nancy Rollins, Chairman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
John Cannon, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator

ALSO PRESENT:

Andy Deegan, Ausborn Sargent Land Preservation Trust
Bob Brown, Chair, Conservation Commission
Jerry Coogan, New London Resident
Evan Weaver, Norwich Solar Technologies
Leigh Bosse, *The Messenger*
Minette McQueeney, *Intertown Record*

Selectman Rollins called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Amendment of Phillips Easement

Andy Deegan met with the Board to review its approval of an amendment to the Phillips Easement. He explained that the current owner is selling the property and before she does, she wants to make sure that the conservation easement is up to date with regard to easement language for agricultural and forestry uses. Additionally, she would like to make protection of the stonewalls part of the easement. Mr. Deegan noted that the amendment has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the Attorney General as required; the Conservation Commission approved the amendment at its last meeting and will sign it as well.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to approve the amendment to the Phillips Easement. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Conservation Commission Selective Timber Harvest

Bob Brown met with the Board to discuss the planned selective timber harvest on conservation land: Ester Currier Wildlife Management Area and the newly acquired 30-acre parcel that abuts it. Mr. Brown explained the benefits of the harvest to the forest including improvement to the future crop of trees that are currently suppressed by removing trees of lesser quality and creating openings in the forest canopy to encourage regeneration of preferred species such as red oak and white pine. Trees that have wildlife value such as mast trees or cavity nest sites will be retained. Mr. Brown noted that the combined estimate of revenue from the harvest is \$8,000. Mr. Brown noted that neighbors will be notified so that they are aware of what is happening. The Board agreed and will sign the Intent to Cut.

Public Comment

There was none.

Retirement of Police Chief Andersen: The Board noted receipt of a letter of intent to retire submitted by Police Chief Edward Andersen, effective March 31, 2020. Ms. Hallquist recommended that the Board first investigate in-house candidates for the open position before deciding whether the position will be advertised to outside candidates. The Board agreed, and noted that a public reception will be held in honor of Chief Andersen.

Sewer abatement request: L. Holmes: The board discussed a request for sewer abatement from L. Holmes asking that the bill from June - December 2018 be abated because a deduct meter was installed in the spring of 2019 and the subsequent water usage was lower, indicating that the high bill was the result of lawn watering. The Board noted that it has not been the policy of the Board to grant retroactive abatements after the installation of deduct meters as it is impossible to say whether some, of all, of the previous water usage actually came from a leaking toilet or faucet; usage that did enter the wastewater system.

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to deny the request for abatement by L. Holmes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

2019 abatement recommendations from Norm Bernaiche: The Board reviewed a memo from Chief Assessor Normand Bernaiche regarding abatement applications filed on the following properties: 1549 Little Sunapee Road, 651 Little Sunapee Road, 465 Little Sunapee Road, 66 Little Cove Road and 1223 County Road.

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to accept the recommendations of the Chief Assessor as presented. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Land Use Change Tax penalty recommendations from Norm Bernaiche: The Board reviewed two land use change tax recommendations as present by the Chief Assessor for two properties owned by Harry Snow on Pond's Edge Lane in the amount of \$19,000 each, representing the 10% penalty.

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to accept the recommendations of the Chief Assessor as presented. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Appointment of Liz Meller to Solid Waste Committee: Ms. Hallquist recommended that the Board consider this appointment now, instead of waiting until after Town Meeting when all committee assignments will be considered, as the Citizen's Advisory Committee has requested some information from the committee. The committee has had some resignations so a new member now would be helpful.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to appoint Liz Meller to the Solid Waste Committee. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Administrators Report

Ms. Hallquist provided the following report:

- Responding to the Board's letter in support of SB 667, to allow town to increase the fee that is charged as part of car registrations to go into a fund to improve roads and sidewalks, Senator Ruth

Ward informs the Board that she will continue to support the bill. Senator Ward noted that as a former Planning Board member, she sees the value of the bill to local governments.

- New London Cleanup Day will be held on Saturday May 2nd.
- The Board received the updated Dashboard of projects the town is currently working on.
- Town Reports are expected on Friday.

Committee Meetings & Reports

Selectman Kidder reported that the Planning Board meeting on the 11th finalized a small 2 lot subdivision and worked on a site plan application for Ben Barton's property on Main Street for an apartment on the second floor of his new addition. The Mountain View Plaza has applied for approval for lights and signs for the former Colonial Pharmacy building – there is nothing new on the former McKenna's Restaurant, negotiations continue with the State for the liquor store to move there.

Selectman Kidder reported on the Recreation Commission and noted that the Jack Frost event was a success at Whipple Town Hall in spite of the bad weather; the day before the event the college informed Scott that the college would be closed on Friday so the event could not be held there as planned. Other Winter Carnival events were well attended despite the bad weather: puppet show, an event at Tracy Library and a snowshoe event led by Mark Vernon that a few hardy people attended.

Selectman Kidder reported that the Tri-Town Assessing Board is talking about the need to replace Norm Bernaiche as Chief Assessor; all agree that the model of having New London, Newbury and Sunapee is working well and it will continue. She noted that New London is in good shape since the town's statistical update was just completed.

Selectman Cannon reported that the Buildings and Facilities Committee is continuing to meet regularly: working on the study being done by Dennis Mires; they met with Scott Blewitt of the Recreation Department and toured his space in Buker and the storage space at the Wastewater Plant on Frothingham Road. They also met with Emergency Management Director Lou Botta to discuss his space needs. Next, and last, will be Bob Harrington from Public Works. Once Public Works is done, the committee will begin to compile all of the information on the facilities of the town to report to the Selectmen.

Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the minutes of February 3rd and 5th meetings. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

Intent to Cut for Solar Project at Wastewater Plant and at Highway Garage: Project Manager Evan Weaver met with the Board to discuss the timber operation that is needed in connection with the town's solar project at the wastewater plant and at the highway garage. Mr. Weaver explained that the trees to be cut were reviewed by representatives of the Energy Committee with the logger present to ensure that only the trees needed for the efficient sunlight transmission will be removed. The Board thanks Mr. Weaver for the explanation.

Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

- Next regular Selectmen's meeting – Monday, March 2nd – 6:00 PM
- Planning Board – Tuesday, February 25th – 6:30 PM
- Master Plan Committee – Thursday, February 27th – 8:30 AM
- Citizen's Advisory Committee – Saturday, March 7th – 7:30 AM

- **Town Election: March 10th 7am-7pm; Town Meeting: March 11th 7pm**
- Recreation Commission – Wednesday, March 18th – 5:00 PM – Whipple Town Hall
- Conservation Commission – Wednesday, March 18th – 8:30 AM

Please see the calendar on the town website for a complete listing of other meetings, including subcommittee meetings, of the various town boards: www.nl-nh.com

Other Business

Items to be signed

- Accounts Payable Voucher
- Appointment Card – Joshua Boone, Patrolman
- 2019 Abatement Requests
- Wastewater Tax Abatement Request – 353 Main Street
- Wastewater Tax Abatement Request – 107 Gould Road
- Warrant – Yield Tax Levy
- Land Use Change Tax – Current Use correction
- Land Use Change Tax – Current Use
- Veterans Credit
- Solar Energy Systems Exemptions
- Notice of Intent to Cut – Frothingham Road, South Pleasant Street & Morgan Hill Road
- Employee birthday cards
- Raffle Permit by Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce for an Ice Out on Lake Sunapee raffle to be held at 328 Main Street held after first inch of natural snow falls.
- Applications To Use Town Property
 - ✓ Whipple Hall – On Saturday, April 4th, 9:00am - 5:00pm for auditions by NL Barn Playhouse.
 - ✓ Whipple Hall – On Friday, July 31st, 4:00pm - 5:00pm for a free community event by the Center for the Arts.
 - ✓ Town Common – On Saturday, May 16th, 9:00am – 3:00pm for fly fishing tutorial hosted by Elkins Fish & Game.

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Temporary Event/Sale Permits – all approved

- Collins family estate sale at 544 Lakeshore Drive, Friday, April 17th from 9am – 3pm and Saturday, April 18th from 10am – 2pm.

Sign Permits – all approved

- Permanent Sign 20-01 – Andrew Hagar, Hagar Investment Management Services, 280 Main Street, TM 084-058-0-0-0 for two signs.
- Permanent Sign 20-02 – Mary Louise Dufault Trustee, Dufault & Dufault PA, 210 Job Seamans Acres, TM 60-12-0-0-0.
- Permanent Sign 20-03 – Concord Orthopedics, 247 Newport Road, TM 59-5-0-0-0.

Building Permits

- S&P Family Trust, 125 Tracy Road, TM 117-8-0-0-0. Add accessory dwelling unit (ADU). BP 20-006 APPROVED 2-5-20
- Nancy Broadhead Living Trust, 559 County Road, TM 82-35-0-0-0. Build 8'x16' shed. BP 20-007 APPROVED 2-10-20
- Katherine & Marilyn Carr, Burpee Hill Road, TM 71-23-0-0-0. Build new single-family house with garage. BP 20-008 APPROVED 2-11-20

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Hallquist
Town Administrator