



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

April 23, 2018

6:00 PM

PRESENT:

Nancy Rollins, Chairman
G. William Helm, Jr., Selectman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Bob Brown, Chair, Conservation Commission (CC)
Mike Gelcius, Maggie Ford, Stanley Morono, Ruth White & Mark Vernon, CC Members
Andy Deegan, Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT)
Richard Lee, Public Works Director
Rob Prohl, Chair, Budget Committee
John Raby, *Intertown Record*
Jaclyn Goddette, *Argus-Champion*
Gerry Gold, New London Resident
John Wilson, New London Resident

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

Pleasant Street Conservation Easement

Bob Brown and members of the Conservation Commission met with the Board to discuss approval of the conservation easement deed for Pleasant Street. Town Meeting voters approved granting the easement to Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust. Mr. Brown noted that the easement has been discussed over the past two years, since the town acquired the property, and it is similar to the other easements the town has given over the years. He noted that one difference is adding uses of a dog park and a community garden to the list of allowed uses on the property.

Ms. Hallquist noted that she reviewed the easement and, with the exception of the two additions noted by Mr. Brown, it is consistent with the easement that town counsel and counsel for ASLPT prepared for the Phillips Preserve conservation easement.

Mike Gelcius noted that the land is a good addition to the town's trail system. Selectman Kidder inquired about parking. Mr. Brown noted that no parking is allowed on the easement portion of the land, but the town owns a small lot abutting the lot in question, that is not included in the easement, could be used for parking in the future. Selectman Helm noted that he had concerns about lack of parking and also questioned whether one acre of land would be enough for a dog park. He noted that he is aware of a dog park in another town that is more than one acre.

Mr. Brown noted that provisions for a dog park and a community garden do not mean that either use will ever be introduced to the property only that it could, should the town want to. Stanley Morono noted that he felt the Board should approve the easement as presented, and as approved by Town Meeting. Selectman Helm noted that he is in favor of the easement but feels that it is important to consider these issues now so that there are not problems in the future and noted that he did not see how waiting for three weeks to discuss these issues would harm anything.

John Wilson urged the Board not to delay entering into the easement as the Pleasant Lake residents have been waiting a long time for it and it is a very important thing for the lake. Gerry Gold noted that his issues have been about the future, by considering what steps can be taken to allow future generations reasonable use of the property while still maintaining the goal of protecting the land.

Rob Prohl noted that at Town Meeting there was no mention of a dog park or community garden so he did not see a problem removing those provisions from the easement. Selectmen Kidder pointed out that the town owns other lands that might be useful for those uses. Andy Deegan noted that it is not a problem to remove the provisions from the easement but noted that the issue of community garden was raised in the past and that is why the Conservation Commission suggested it be added. Mr. Deegan noted that agriculture is an allowed use, so a community garden could be added, but it would have to satisfy the more stringent requirements of agricultural uses; the community garden provision was added as a way to allow them without having to follow the more stringent requirements of agriculture. Mr. Gold noted that Town Meeting did include discussion of a community garden but it did not include discussion of parking. Selectman Helm noted that the discussion at Town Meeting was not extensive so the comments of one or two should not be taken as the will of the majority of Town Meeting voters.

Chair Rollins asked if there was a motion to approve the easement as presented. There was none. Chair Rollins asked if there was a motion to approve the removal of the two provisions at issue (dog park and community garden):

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to remove paragraphs C & D under Section 3 of the draft easement. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to approve the conservation easement on the town owned Pleasant Street property as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Comments: There were none.

Buker Building Study Request For Proposal (RFP)

Ms. Hallquist informed the Board that Bob Bowers has offered comments on what he believes should be included in the RFP and that she felt the Board should review the comments and discuss the matter at their next meeting. The Board agreed, noting that they have not had the opportunity to review the comments in any detail.

The Board discussed whether a committee should be formed to work on this issue. Chair Rollins noted that she is in favor of forming a committee for this project and noted that the Board's positive experience of the Pleasant Lake Dam project, with the assistance of Jud Donaghy and others, is an example of how helpful citizen involvement can be. Selectman Helm noted that he

does not believe that a committee should be formed, and instead the Selectmen should directly be involved in the oversight of this project and he would prefer calling on people as needed for advice. Selectman Kidder agreed with Selectman Helm that a committee is not necessary for this project, although agreeing that Jud Donaghy was very helpful in the dam project, committees often slow the process down.

Chair Rollins announced that the Board will discuss the RFP at the Board's meeting on May 14th.

Public Works Department

Stump Dump Hours: Richard Lee explained that last year Thursday was added to the stump dump schedule to make spring and fall cleanup times easier for residents and landscapers working in town. He suggested having the Thursday hours in May and June, and then in October and November, but not during the summer months when there is less activity. Chair Rollins noted that she spoke with some landscapers and property owners who use the stump dump and they thought the proposed hours were adequate and thus she supported the plan. Selectmen Kidder and Helm agreed.

Summer Intern for Wastewater Department: Richard Lee explained that he would like to hire a college student to work in the Wastewater Department for the summer to assist in gathering information for the Asset Management Plan project that is underway as well as the routine work of the department. Mr. Lee has a student in mind; a person who is currently in a civil engineering degree program. Chair Rollins asked if there are adequate funds in the budget for the addition; Ms. Johnson confirmed that there is. The Board agreed to the request.

Paving Bids: Mr. Lee informed the Board that the paving bids have been opened and Pike was the low bidder at \$61.50/ton and he recommended that the town's paving work be awarded to Pike. Mr. Lee informed the Board that the roads to be paved with this contract include: shimming of Otterville, Burnt Hill and Shaker Street and gravel road paving will be Wilder and Wellswood roads. The Board agreed.

Whitney Brook Road Drainage issue: Mr. Lee noted that he is finalizing his memo on the Whitney Brook water drainage issue and he will be prepare a memo by the end of the week for the Board's review.

Town Administrators Report

Phosphorus Study: The students presented their coursework on the phosphorus study to the public April 12th. The students have been working on this study, with the assistance of public works personnel since September. They did an excellent job and we look forward to the project continuing next year. Members of the Sunapee Wastewater Commission, and plant Director Dave bailey were also in attendance.

Kids to Parks Day: The National Park Trust organization requests that the Selectmen join in on the Kids to Parks Day event by proclaiming May 19, 2018 "Kids to Parks Day in New London" and encourage parents to bring their kids out to enjoy a park on that day.

Permits for banners on Main Street: Eversource has approved the town's request for permission to install banners on telephone poles for 6 months.

Cupola: The cupola fund stands at \$12,653.93, without the addition of the town's pledge of \$3,500. Work is underway on the project; the foundation is in; Richard is working with Eversource to see about getting a light installed on the telephone pole. The school board asked for the light for safety reasons. Chair Rollins asked where funding for the light would come from, Ms. Hallquist noted it will come from the cupola fund.

Administrative Appeal: An abutter of the Carlson property on Lamson Lane, has filed an administrative appeal to the Board of Adjustment challenging the issuance of a building permit for the Carlson's new home. This matter will be taken up by the ZBA on May 7th.

Public Works Director Search Committee: The committee met twice and interviewed 5 candidates. The group worked well together and had some good observations on the candidates that will likely help the selectmen during the next round of interviews by the Board. Those committee members were: Jerry Coogan, John Ryan, Alison Seward, Mike Hansen, Dave Carey, Gordon Marshall, and Public Works employees: John Wilshire and John Early.

Gilman v. Town of New London: Ms. Hallquist informed the Board that the Gilman's are willing to settle the lawsuit they brought against the town for damage to their property due to Davis Hill Road water drainage if the town takes steps to divert the water so that it no longer creates a gully. The Board reviewed the settlement agreement as prepared by counsel for the town. Mr. Lee explained that his department can make the improvements at a small cost that should alleviate the issue of the deep gully that forms when the water leaves the road and goes onto the property. Mr. Lee noted that the town has an easement by prescription to allow the water to go onto the property, but over time a gully has formed which the property owners object to. It was noted that the settlement includes a provision that if the planned improvement does not work, the parties will work collaboratively on another solution.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the settlement agreement in the matter of Nicholas Gilman, Trustee of the Nicholas Gilman Trust v. Town of New London, Docket No.: 217-2015-CV-00453HB1614. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Rollins asked about HB1614, information forwarded to them earlier. Ms. Hallquist explained that the NH Municipal Association (NHMA) sent information regarding the bill, that would give out-of-state semi-trailers multi-year discounted registration fees. NHMA is cautioning local officials and legislators that if passed this would likely have an adverse impact on towns and cities in lower registration fees, which is the largest source of revenue to municipalities after property taxes.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to oppose HB1614 and to inform Senator Ward of the Board's position on the matter. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to approve the minutes of March 26, 2018 as presented. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the minutes of April 2, 2018 as presented. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Rollins noted that the Board received a request for changes to the Minutes of April 6th; she noted that she did not see that the requested changes were substantial. Selectman Kidder agreed and noted that the draft minutes of the meeting accurately reflected the discussion. Selectman Helm noted that he did not have an opportunity to review the requested changes so could not comment on them.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the minutes of April 6, 2018 as presented. Rollins and Kidder in favor; Helm abstained. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

Selectman Helm thanked *Intertown Record* reporter John Raby for his service and honest reporting of the Board's meetings in the past. Chair Rollins and Selectman Kidder offered their thanks as well. Mr. Raby noted that he enjoyed covering their meetings and intended to stay active in town events.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to enter into a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a): the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee.

Roll call vote: Helm: Yes, Kidder: Yes, Rollins: Yes

The Board entered nonpublic session at 7:10 PM.
The Board reentered the public session at 7:45 PM.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to seal the nonpublic session meeting minutes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items to be signed

- Payroll Authorization Voucher
- Accounts Payable Voucher
- GIS Internet Services Annual Maintenance Agreement
- Yield Tax Levy
- Application for Veteran Tax Credit
- Applications To Use Town Property
 - ✓ Whipple Hall on Saturday, April 28th from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm for a fundraising concert by Nicole Densmore for the Hillman Scholarship Concert.
 - ✓ Whipple Hall on Saturday, June 9th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm for "Tea Under the Sea" fundraising by Vincent Davis for the Kearsarge Conservatory of the Performing Arts.
 - ✓ Whipple Hall on Saturday, August 4th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm for Mr/Ms NL Hospital Days 2018 fundraising event by Ashlee Rowley for the Dance Arts Academy.

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Temporary Event/Sale Permits

- First Baptist Church, 461 Main Street for a Rummage Sale Saturday on Saturday, May 12th from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm. APPROVED
- Kearsarge Community Presbyterian Church, 82 King Hill Road, for the Annual Church Yard Sale on Saturday, May 26th from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. APPROVED

Building Permits

- Edward & Jeannette Pearson, Fieldstone Lane, TM 106-016-000. Construct single family 4bdm/4bth. BP 18-015 APPROVED 4-4-2018
- Robert & Kristina Morris, 318 Fieldstone Lane, TM 105-006-000. Replace existing walkway. BP 18-017 APPROVED 4-5-2018
- Margaret Eisenbach, 450 Hall Farm Road, TM 076-053-000. Addition off walkout basement & renovate walk out space. BP 18-019 APPROVED 4-5-2018
- Colby-Sawyer College, 541 Main Street, TM 085-033-000. Remove wood siding replace with vinyl. BP 18-021 APPROVED 4-9-2018

Sign Permits

- Temporary Sign – By First Baptist Church for an 18”x36” sign at the Information Booth for the rummage sale during April 7-14th. APPROVED 4-5-2018
- Temporary Sign – By Kearsarge Community Presbyterian Church for a 4 square feet sign at the Information Booth for the annual church yard sale during May 19-26th. APPROVED 4-5-2018
- Temporary Sign – By Kearsarge Chorale for a 6 square feet sign for the concert during April 9-22nd. APPROVED 4-11-2018
- Permanent Sign – Wood & Wood Signs for Lake Sunapee Bank, 116 Newport Road, TM 059-029-000. APPROVED 4-17-2018
- Permanent Sign – Wood & Wood Signs for Lake Sunapee Bank, 321 Main Street, TM 084-087-000. APPROVED 4-17-2018

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

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Hallquist
Town Administrator