



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 2019

6:00 PM

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Public Works Director Bob Harrington
Police Chief Ed Andersen
Peter Hoglund, New London Resident
Bill & Jane Hopwood, Bunker Road Resident
Pierre Bedard, Bunker Road Resident
Bob Ruggles, Bunker Road Resident
Doug & Charlene Baxter, Hall Farm Road & Bunker Road
James & Kathryn Muirhead, Bunker Road residents
John Ellis, New London Resident
Ron Rakow, Bunker Road Resident
Minette McQueeney, *Intertown Record*,
Leigh Bosse, *The Messenger*

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

Appointments

Guardrails on Bunker Road

Bill Hopwood, a Bunker Road resident, attended the meeting to address the issue of guardrails for crash protection on Bunker Road. Mr. Hopwood explained that a number of residents on Bunker Road met with Public Works Director, Bob Harrington to view the proposed area for installation of the guardrail. Mr. Harrington explained to them what the town wanted to do with guardrails which are similar to those found along the interstate highway. Mr. Hopwood stated his first impression was that having nothing would be better than what is being proposed. At the time of the meeting with Mr. Harrington, there did seem to be a consensus among the residents that everyone was in favor of something more aesthetically pleasing than what the town was proposing. They asked Mr. Harrington to consider some other options and Mr. Hopwood appreciated the fact that Mr. Harrington reviewed the material they provided to him and got additional quotes on some alternative guardrails to those being proposed.

Mr. Hopwood pointed out that Pleasant Lake is a beautiful lake and many people take advantage of this beauty by walking, jogging or cycling around it. Mr. Hopwood asked if interstate type guardrails were really needed since Bunker road has a 25-mph speed limit. He questioned whether they would

take away from the attractiveness of the lake and possibly pose a hazard to pedestrians who wouldn't be able to step off the road when two cars approach from two different directions. He would like the town to consider the use of alternative guardrails if in fact, any guardrails are needed. The area being considered for guardrails is mostly tree lined and the trees would prevent cars from going into the lake which Mr. Hopwood is assuming is the purpose of the guardrails. Where there aren't any trees a dock or boathouse is present and would prevent a car from entering the lake. The previous guardrails, which are wooden posts, were put in many years ago because there were no trees big enough to prevent one from driving into the lake. Mr. Hopwood is asking the town to consider not using any guardrails at all and let the natural barriers act as the guardrails. Or, if a decision is made to use guardrails, he asked that they consider using a more aesthetically pleasing option than what is currently being proposed. Mr. Hopwood thanked the Selectmen, Kim Hallquist and Mr. Harrington for their time and effort in hearing their concerns and reviewing and considering alternative options.

Doug Baxter, Bunker Road property owner, noted that the posts that are currently there are broken and knocked over. He asked if the town decided to not do guardrails, would another alternative be to just replace and shore up some of the wooden posts that are currently there.

Bob Ruggles, Bunker Road resident, stated that he recently spoke at the public hearing for "no through trucking" on Bunker Road. Since that time, a counter was placed on Bunker Road which revealed there are a lot of cars traveling on Bunker Road. In one week, it counted approximately 3,500 vehicles and 70% of these vehicles were going above the speed limit. The counter was placed at a narrow area of the road and if a vehicle happens to be in this area when there is a walker, jogger or biker, you basically must stop. Mr. Ruggles stated that he does not recall any cars going off the road and into the lake in the past 20 years that he has lived on Bunker Road. He feels the problems are related to volume and speed. Mr. Ruggles stated he is opposed to the guardrails because he doesn't think it is solving a problem. He also thinks it would be using tax dollars to solve a problem that doesn't exist.

James Muirhead, Bunker Road resident, stated he has grandchildren that cross the road. He is concerned about the volume of cars as this has increased dramatically in the 20 years he has lived there. The speed has also increased and suggested using speed bumps, stressing that in his opinion something has to be done to slow people down as this is a safety issue.

John Ellis inquired what percentage of the cars went over the speed limit. Chief Andersen replied that this study was done for a week:

- 585 cars were going between 24-27mph
- 417 cars were going between 27-30 mph
- 198 cars were going between 30-33mph
- 56 cars were going between 33-36mph
- 14 cars were going between 36-39mph
- 12 cars were going greater than 39mph

Chief Andersen stated that the issue they have is the speed limit signs are considered reasonable and prudent and the courts won't convict for anything less than 10mph or more over the speed limit. The average speed they write a ticket for is 15mph or more over the limit. Given the numbers above, they would have only been able to write 12 tickets.

Jane Hopwood, Bunker Road resident, commented that pedestrians need to be aware that it is a road and they need to get out of the way when cars are coming.

Ron Rakow, Bunker Road resident, commented that he and his wife also frequently walk Bunker Road and agrees that guardrails would make things more dangerous as it is necessary to get off the road when a car passes and it will be worse in the winter with snowbanks. He also noted that while he understands it is difficult to get a conviction on a speeding ticket, he feels that there is no fear on the part of the motorist. Unless we have enforcement, it will continue.

Public Works Director Bob Harrington stated that the main reason he was looking into guardrails was due to complaints and safety issues. He is aware that there has been one car that has gone into the lake so it can happen. He isn't sure what the liability issues are; he also isn't sure it would be easy to replace the posts that are currently there. Mr. Harrington noted that he researched other guardrail options and they ranged in price from \$18,000 - \$85,500 more than the standard guardrails used in town now, so it is very expensive.

Chief Ed Andersen stated that considering the tree line as an effective barrier for cars leaving the roadway is not the way to think of trees as hitting a tree results in a sudden stop and that's what kills more than anything else, where guardrails deflect cars and the cars absorb the impact over a greater distance. Guardrails reduce the amount of injury within a vehicle.

Kathryn Muirhead, Bunker Road resident, stated she walks on Bunker road daily. She has to be very alert when she is walking as cars are coming in both in directions. She's worried that due to the narrow areas, there wouldn't be room to step aside if guardrails were installed.

John Ellis asked what Chief Andersen and Bob Harrington thought about installing speed bumps. Mr. Harrington responded that it is his understanding that if a motorist increases his speed, he can go right over the speed bump and don't feel them. He anticipates if they were installed, he would receive complaints as no one wants them in front of their house.

Chief Ed Andersen stated that there are three flashing speed signs that are moved around town about every three weeks. Another option would be to reduce the speed limit. There are other lakefront community roads posted at 15 mph. Kim Hallquist will research what is involved with lowering the speed limit.

Charlene Baxter, Bunker Road property owner, asked if there were other traffic related issues on Bunker Road. Chief Ed Andersen said not really.

Selectman Kidder commented that this came up because she mentioned to Bob Harrington that the posts looked unsightly. Since most of the posts are tipped or not there, she felt something should be done.

Public Comment - None

Planning Board recommendation on Continuum permit fee waiver request

Selectman Kidder stated that the Planning Board has a recommendation that the building permit fees for the Continuum project be waived. The building permit fees would be over \$50,000 and the developer is required to hire engineers to do the things that a building inspector would do. Because the town doesn't have a building inspector, the Planning Board recommended waiving the fees specific to the building permits. It was noted that Continuum will be paying well over \$100,000 in wastewater fees and the Planning Board did not recommend waiving any of these fees.

Ms. Hallquist noted that she does not agree that 100% of the building permit fees should be waived as there will be work required on the part of the Zoning Administrator, the Fire Chief and Department of Public Works Director. She cautioned against setting a precedent if waiving the building permit fees 100%. She agrees with the Planning Board that since we don't have a building inspector and Continuum is required to hire inspectors, we should entertain waiving some of the fees. She suggested sitting down with Adam Ricker, Town Planner, Nicole Gage, Zoning Administrator, Bob Harrington, Public Works Director and Chief Lyon to discuss the amount of time they will be spending on the project. She doesn't think we should get in the habit of waiving fees for big projects. Selectman Cannon agrees with Ms. Hallquist that work will still need to be done by the town and doesn't want to set precedent.

John Ellis recommended waiving half of the permit fees.

Consider loan bids for \$750,000 bridge projects – 2019 Warrant Article #4

Chair Rollins stated this includes Pingree, Goose Hole and Brookside. Bids/proposals were submitted by Bar Harbor Bank and Mascoma Savings Bank. Both quoted 15- and 20-year rates. Wendy Johnson recommended going with a 15-year loan to be consistent.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to take out a 15-year loan at 3.4% from Mascoma Savings Bank for warrant article #4 (bridge projects). THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Fire Chief recommendation for station improvements

Chief Lyon recommends purchasing the split heating/cooling system from Walco Mechanical for \$4,800 and a vehicle exhaust system \$20,800 from Clear Air Systems. Ms. Hallquist stated this work was discussed during the FY2020 budget and was approved. The money will come out of the town buildings capital reserve fund. The Board agreed to the expenditures presented.

Town Administrators Report

Ms. Hallquist provided the following report:

- The State of New Hampshire's Attorney General's office responded regarding the issue of having a porta potty at the New London park and ride. Ms. Hallquist sent the draft Memorandum of Agreement to Bart Mayer, town counsel. Ms. Hallquist has concerns about the level of liability the State would like the town to assume in order to place the porta potty on the site, she has asked the State to narrow the provision to make it clear that the town's liability is not for the entire parking lot.
John Ellis stated that the Dartmouth busses have their own facilities on the bus itself so why is a porta potty needed? Chair Rollins replied that the porta potty is not just for those using the bus. It is a park and ride. There is an issue with people inappropriately using the hiking trail to Clark Lookout and the Conservation Commission brought this to the Selectmen's attention.
- The Outing Club's public hearing for a variance is scheduled the next night August 20th); as it turns out, they don't need a variance but a special exception instead. Kim Hallquist will report back on this.
- The lowering of Pleasant Lake will begin on Thursday September 19th. The Board previously agreed to do this since the planned repair work wasn't done last year due to heavy amounts of rain; the lake never got low enough to do the work. The informational public hearing will be held on September 9, 2019. Ms. Hallquist has already informed the Town of

Wilmot, the Chase Pond Condominium in Wilmot, the Pleasant Lake Protective Association, and the State of NH.

- Arch Weathers is slated to start work on the windows in Whipple Hall in November and the work should be completed in December.
- Doug MacMichael called and is wondering why there is not a port a potty on the town green. He stated there has always been one there during the summer months and asked the Selectmen to consider putting one there.
- The State Police bomb squad was due in town today to detonate some material that was dropped off at the household hazardous waste. It was too dangerous to transport so was being held at the Public Works garage until the State could detonate it at the Mountain Road gun range site. Kim Hallquist will follow up with Police Chief Ed Andersen to ensure this has been done.
- Blue Guitar will meet Ms. Hallquist at Whipple Hall tomorrow to provide a quote on a sound system. This will give the Selectmen two quotes to choose from to move forward with that.
- Kim Hallquist provided the board with last year's Budget Committee schedule to see if that timeline looked reasonable to use as a template for this year. The process used for the past several years is for the Board of Selectmen to invite the Budget Committee in to hear the budget presentations from department heads. The Board agreed to the schedule as presented. The first Budget meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 as a training session on how to read the budget.

Committee Meetings & Reports

Firewards

Chair Rollins reported that the committee has been discussing the number and type of calls received. Fire Chief Jay Lyon will be attending a Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the issue of the City of Franklin's decision to discontinue their mutual aid agreement with New London Hospital Ambulance. There are concerns that the cost of ambulance services is going to go up again.

Planning Board

Selectman Kidder reported that the Planning Board met on August 13, 2019. The committee discussed tree cutting applications and Bob Harrington presented a request for tree work on scenic roads that included Pingree and Whitney Brook Road.

Adam Ricker, Town Planner, and Nicole Gage, Zoning Administrator, weighed in on an excavation project on Morgan Hill and felt this should be addressed as the amount of soil being removed shouldn't have to come before the Planning Board.

The New London Hospital Association came for their final site plan review for their parking lot. The parking lot is being extended and per the request of Fire Chief Jay Lyon, another fire hydrant will be added.

The Outing Club requested the installation of a small utility shed on Knights Hill Nature Park and that was approved.

An accessory dwelling unit was approved on Fox Run Lane.

There was discussion with Continuum regarding their request to waive building permit fees, as discussed earlier in the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to approve the minutes from the August 5, 2019 meeting. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

- Next Regular Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, September 9th – 6:00 PM
- Recreation Commission – Wednesday, September 4th – 5:00 PM @ Whipple Hall
- Buildings & Facilities Committee – Thursday, September 5th – 6:30 PM
- Citizens Advisory Committee – Saturday, September 7th – 7:30 AM
- Planning Board – Tuesday, September 10th – 6:00 PM

Other Business

John Ellis asked what the status of the Master Plan is. Selectman Kidder stated that the Master Plan subcommittee will be meeting this Thursday at 8:30am; they will take different sections of the topics covered in the survey and each member will present a synopsis so it can be published. This meeting is open to the public.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) 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: Rollins: Yes; Cannon: Yes; Kidder: Yes

The Board entered nonpublic session at 6:56PM.

The Board reentered the public session at 7:26 PM.

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

Items to be signed

- Accounts Payable Voucher
- Payroll Authorization Voucher
- Warrant – Yield Tax Levy
- Birthday cards
- Applications To Use Town Property
 - ✓ Whipple Hall & conference room – On Friday, September 6th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm for the CFA Board Retreat by the Center for the Arts.
 - ✓ Whipple Hall – On Saturdays, January 11th, February 8th, March 14th from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm for the Winter Performing Arts Series 2020 by the Center for the Arts.
 - ✓ Town Common & Bandstand – On Friday, July 3, 2020 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm for the First Friday Music on the Green by the Center for the Arts.
 - ✓ Whipple Hall – On the first Fridays of every month in 2020 from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm for the First Friday's community events by the Center for the Arts.

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Temporary Event/Sale Permits – all approved

- Summer Party at the NL Historical Society, Old Village Road, Tuesday, August 27th, 5:30 - 8:00 pm.
- Food Truck Festival on the Town Green, Main Street, Sunday, September 15th, noon - 4:00 pm.

Sign Permits – all approved

- Permanent Sign 19-013 – Erica McCullough, Switchback Consignment, 428 Main Street, TM 085-042-000.
- Temporary Sign – By James Bednor for a 2'x3' A-frame sign at the Information Booth for the Springfield 250th Celebration, Art Show & Sale from August 11th to August 17th.

Building Permits – all approved

- William Deacon Trust, 528 County Road, TM 128-002-000. Demolish workshop. BP 19-094 APPROVED
- Mountainview Shopping Center – MacKennas, 277 Newport Road, TM 059-008-000. Interior Renovations. BP 19-095 APPROVED
- Mountainview Shopping Center – Colonial Building, 277 Newport Road, TM 059-008-000. Interior Renovations. BP 19-096 APPROVED
- Amy & Harry Hedison Revoc. Trust, Davis Hill Road, TM 068-019-001. Build new single family residence. BP 19-099 APPROVED
- Gary Anderson, 750 Little Sunapee Road, TM 021-001-000. Roof mount solar array 6.93kw. BP 19-102 APPROVED
- James Perkins, 149 Little Sunapee Road, TM 059-036-000. Roof mount solar array 5.85kw. BP 19-103 APPROVED
- 35 Newport Road, LLC, 35 Newport Road, TM 072-040-000. Resurface deck & steps with trex. BP 19-104 APPROVED

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson
Recording Clerk