



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2019

6:00 PM

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Peter Stanley, Dartmouth Coach
Karen Ebel, NH State Representative
Ed Andersen, New London Police Chief
Ruth Ward, NH State Senator
Mike Pouliot, DOT
Sue Andrews, Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust
Dan Wolf, NH State Representative

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

Consider request from State of NH DOT for a letter of support for the expansion of the New London Park and Ride. The State proposes to add approximately 50 parking spaces.

Chair Rollins stated that the first component of the meeting is to consider the request from the State of New Hampshire, Department of Transportation (DOT), for a letter of support for the expansion of the New London Park and Ride. She thanked Representative's Karen Ebel and Dan Wolf and Senator Ruth Ward for attending the meeting and for supporting the town throughout the process.

The state is proposing to add 50 parking spaces. Mike Pouliot noted that park and rides have become very popular and New London is no exception. There are issues with capacity at quite a few lots. As promoters of public transportation, this is what they like to see, however, the lot right now is running at about 90% capacity on average which makes it difficult for commuters to be assured that they can find a spot there if they need to. The average capacity should be around 60-70% so it can meet the demand and the fluctuations. By adding 50 spaces, a recent study showed this should bring the capacity down to the 60-70% level.

Chair Rollins asked what the process is for submitting an application. Mr. Pouliot explained that the CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality) fund is separate from the DOT. CMAQ funding is available based on whoever is managing the money and periodically they will put rounds of funding out. This month they are looking for letters of interest and will go through the application process. For this project, they will be competing with other municipalities, agencies and departments in the state. It is a very competitive process so a letter of support from the town would be helpful and allow the DOT's application to be more competitive. Mr. Pouliot stated the applications and letters need to be submitted by September 6 and the selection committee will review and would make their

decisions in November. If the funding is approved, it will go through the design phase and the project would most likely begin in summer/fall of 2020 and be completed in 2021.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) and SECONDED (John Cannon) to submit a letter of recommendation to the Department of Transportation in support of expanding the park and ride in New London. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Consider request from State of NH DOT for a financial commitment towards the \$140,000 in matching funds required (total project cost is \$700,000).

Selectman Kidder asked if they wanted the town to help support this financially. Mr. Pouliot stated that at this time, they are estimating the total project to cost \$700,000. The CMAQ grant only funds 80% of the application so a financial commitment of \$140,000 is needed as well as a letter of support. Mr. Pouliot stated that it is his understanding that they will move forward with the application process, but funding commitments do help to make an application more competitive. Those who have funding and are ready to go are more competitive than others. Selectman Kidder asked if other municipalities or communities contributed to funding for park and rides. Mr. Pouliot stated they looked into this and there is only one other that they are aware of and that was Hampstead.

Selectman Kidder noted that the bus company maintains the park and ride by plowing it in the winter months and mowing it in the summer. Selectman Kidder asked if Dartmouth Coach is still willing to do this with the expansion; Peter Stanley, representing Dartmouth Coach, responded yes. Mr. Stanley also believes the bus company is negotiating with the state and is willing to make a significant contribution financially to the project. Chair Rollins felt it would be helpful to know what that contribution would be if there is an expectation for the town to contribute as well. Town Administrator, Kim Hallquist noted we wouldn't need to know the number until the budget process began, it could be included in the process as late as January if the town was considering it.

Sue Anders asked about the right of way cost of easement, acquisition and or land acquisition in the amount of \$10,000 on page five of the application. Mr. Pouliot stated they include funding in the area in the event there is a need for driveway permitting or right of way work that needs to be done. He stated there is no property acquisition involved.

Senator Ruth Ward had a question on page three with regards to resources within project limits. Mr. Pouliot noted that at this time, there are no known cultural, archaeological, natural resources or hazardous material within the parking lot expansion project area, but it must be included in the application. On page five for design and engineering, they have included an engineering study and environmental review, easement preparation and final design services. She is questioning why if they own the spot and have checked it out in the past, why would this be required again. Mr. Pouliot stated this will be part of the environmental process; they do a review and if they do find something, they will follow the process to do the appropriate reviews. At this time, there are no known issues.

Selectman Kidder asked what points they should highlight to include in their letter of support. Mr. Pouliot stated they should include that this town and surrounding towns have a need for transit services for their citizens. He also stated they should include their intent to financially support the project. Karen Ebel feels it would be best to emphasize the regional nature of the park and ride. She suggested reaching out to other towns to ask them to write letters of support as well. Ms. Ebel asked if they ever use turnpike toll credit to go towards matching or does it have to be cash. Mr. Pouliot stated it is an option, but it is a process and DOT would have to apply for it.

Selectman Kidder stated that she met with Lakes Sunapee Protective Association and they made the point that the three contributors to harming the lake quality are parking lots, state roads and town roads. There is concern with expanding the park and ride and they want to make sure that the engineering took into account the increased sand and salt from that lot going into the lake.

With regards to the financial contribution, the Selectmen will consider this, and it will be dependent on the amount. Selectman Kidder is concerned that the state is asking the town to fund a project that the state should be funding. She suggested waiting until the budget season and if Dartmouth Coach could let us know how much they are supporting the project then the town could talk about what the town might consider contributing. Selectman Kidder feels the voters in town would be in support of this if it is not an excessive amount. Chair Rollins would like to state in the letter of support that we would consider financial support but without a specific dollar amount.

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) and SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to include the town's intent to consider financially supporting the project in the letter of support. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board asked the Town Administrator to request letters of support from surrounding towns and organizations.

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

Items to be signed

- Veterans Tax Credit
- Applications To Use Town Property
 - ✓ Town Common & Bandstand – On Saturday, October 5th from 10:00 am – noon for the Cub Scout Round-up Recruiting Event & pumpkin crafts by the Cub Scouts Pack 71.

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Temporary Event/Sale Permits – all approved

- Allioops 10-year celebration at Allioops, 432 Main Street, Saturday, Nov. 2th, 4:00 - 8:00 pm.

Sign Permits – all approved

- Temporary Sign – By James Bednor for a 2'x3' A-frame sign at the Information Booth for the Springfield 250th Celebration, Late Summer Walk from August 26th to September 7th.
- Temporary Sign – By James Bednor for a 2'x3' A-frame sign at the Information Booth for the Springfield 250th Celebration, Meeting House Re-Dedication from August 26th to Sept. 7th.

Building Permits – all approved

- NL Outing Club, 463 County Road, TM 083-008-000. Build 8x12 shed. BP 19-067
APPROVED

- Ben Barton, 52 Main Street, TM 073-045-000. Build 24x32 garage. BP 19-068 APPROVED
- Colby Sawyer College, 541 Main Street, TM 085-033-000. Renovate Gordon Hall & restrooms in Sawyer Center. BP 19-106 APPROVED
- Thomas & Mary Miller Trust, 359 Wilmot Center Road, TM 052-001-001. Re-roof with metal & change skylights. BP 19-107 APPROVED

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:27PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson

Recording Secretary
Town of New London