



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES September 23, 2019 6:00 PM

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Leigh Bosse, <i>The Messenger</i>	Minette McQueeney, <i>Intertown Record</i>
Bob Bowers, Buildings & Facilities Com.	Ed Andersen, New London Police Chief
John Lewis, Buildings & Facilities Com.	John Wilson, New London Resident
Peter Bianchi, Buildings & Facilities Com.	Michael Williams, Buildings & Facilities Com.
Rip Cross, Buildings & Facilities Com.	Linda Kilar, New London Resident
Steve Lawson, New London Resident	Dennis Lambert, New London Resident
Jean Traver, New London Resident	Jeremy Bonin, Planning Board
Colin Beasley, Buildings & Facilities Com.	

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

Master Plan Update

Jeremy Bonin, Vice Chair of the Planning Board, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Master Plan. Mr. Bonin explained that the goal is to have a summary at town meeting that describes where they are headed with the suggested planning changes. That means the final document needs to be at the printer by the end of January, the final draft for edits and review done by end of December and the first draft for edits done by the end of October. The summary document is somewhat modeled by what Newbury used. He explained that New London's will be a little different and will be more of a prologue and will include what we have learned and where it will lead us. The intent is that it will be easy to understand.

In addition to the survey and charrettes, the Master Plan subcommittee has met with Colby-Sawyer College, New London Hospital, Chamber of Commerce, Recreation Department, Fire and Police Departments, Public Works, Conservation Commission, Energy Management, Water Precinct, Regional Planning Commission, Town Planner, Zoning Administrator, Library Director, LSPA, and Little Lake Sunapee Association. There have been a lot of meetings and information gathering in addition to the survey and charrettes.

Chair Rollins requested to see the draft as soon as possible and thanked Mr. Bonin for coming to the meeting with an update on the project.

Traffic on King Hill Road

Linda Kilar attended the meeting to discuss concerns about traffic on King Hill Road. Ms. Kilar explained that she has been a resident of King Hill Road for 42 years. Last spring the road was newly paved. The high rate of speed in which cars, dump trucks, trucks, flat bed trailers, and double

flat beds carrying tree length logs travel very quickly make it very dangerous. The rate of speed that these large trucks travel would make it almost impossible to safely stop when needed. Ms. Kilar stated that they take their lives into their hands each and every time they exit their driveway. All senses are needed when doing this. Once they exit, they must do so quickly because the cars and trucks come up quickly. Entering the driveway is also tough as they are crossing traffic that seemingly comes up out of nowhere.

King Hill Road is hilly and windy. It was zoned agricultural but there are very few farms or open space and it is mostly residential, multifamily homes and driveways leading to four or five homes. The speed limit is 35mph except for a very dangerous curve beyond her house where there are several accidents every year. She fears for the lives of her loved ones and neighbors. There are also several families that have young, school aged children. There are only two bus stops posted yet there are several stops along the road. Not only are there only two stops posted but the children are crossing the road. The bus driver gives them a thumbs up when it is safe to cross. This is a problem since the bus driver can be easily distracted.

It is evident that this problem is not unique to her area and affects the entire length of King Hill Road. She would like to have this studied and would like to come to an agreement to find a solution before something really tragic happens.

Dennis Lambert is a resident of King Hill Road and also expressed his concerns. He agrees with Ms. Kilar. Mr. Lambert shared that if you are going 35mph you are going 51 feet a second, 40mph is 58 feet a second and 45mph is 65 feet per second. He has concerns about trucks that have gravel on board being able to stop. He has seen the speed sign posted on that road as high as 48mph and believes people are using it as an instrument to check their speedometer. He had these same issues when he lived on Kearsarge Valley Road in Wilmot. People believe that it is a shortcut from exit 10 to Route 11 as opposed to going up to Route 11 and east on Route 11 to that same intersection. The mileage is shorter but if you are going the posted speed limit, it is 12 seconds longer to go up 89 and east on Rt 11 as opposed to going on Kearsarge Valley Road. He didn't have any success when he expressed these concerns in Wilmot with the Board of Selectmen and Police Department.

Mr. Lambert stated that although the road has been paved, it has not been fixed. Proper drainage was not done so in 2 or 3 years it will need to be done again. The speed on the road is definitely a problem. People pick up speed coming down the hills so they can get up the next hill.

Jean Traver lives on King Hill Road. She reported that she clocked a small car recently going 50 mph. She is concerned about trucks going that fast.

Chair Rollins asked Police Chief Ed Andersen to comment and asked if there are any restrictions that the can institute to address these concerns. Chief Andersen responded that no, it is a state road posted 35mph zone. He explained that the speed limit signs in New Hampshire are what are considered reasonable and prudent taking into consideration traffic, road and weather conditions. The police department is not condoning speeding but the number that is enforceable in court is generally 15mph or more over, however, they will stop cars going over the speed limit to give warnings.

Chief Andersen stated when he first started with the police department they were averaging 5,000-6,000 calls a year, a few years ago it was 12,000 calls per year and already to date this year they are at 15,000 and he projects they will hit 18,000 calls for service this year. They have purchased three speed signs and they are out on the road as much as they can be. They are currently at 4,000 traffic stops for this year. They've received complaints on many different roads in New London due to speed. They have a new black box that is a speed counter. It doesn't display numbers and is hidden so they can clock cars and speed. They used this on Bunker Road and less than 10% of the 4,000 cars

that travel that road were at an enforceable speed that they could write a ticket. He will ask his Sargent to put this on King Hill Road for a week so they can get traffic data.

Linda Kilar asked if the speed could be lowered to 25mph. Chief Andersen replied that this is a state road, not a town road and doesn't know of any state road posted at 25mph. He is unsure of the process to lower the speed limit and stated the Board of Selectmen could write a letter to request it. Chair Rollins thinks putting the black box out is a good start in data gathering.

Steve Lawson stated he walks in the morning. He observes traffic coming from Newbury off 103, up the hill and around the corner and there is no visibility. He doesn't like signs but would like a blind driveway sign because exiting his driveway is almost impossible. He noted that he appreciates the Police and their efforts in what they do.

Linda Kilar feels that King Hill Road is lacking signage including school bus signs for bus stops. Chief Andersen commented that studies have shown that signs do not help. He noted that when he first started his career and was running radar, people would ask if he had anything better to do, and to focus on arresting real criminals. Now he is dealing with a lot of arrests and he is hearing the need to go out and stop cars for speed.

Colin Beasley asked what percentage of tickets are challenged in court. Chief Andersen did not have this data available but he estimated pretrial 50-60 tickets per month. Mr. Beasley suggested that officers should issue tickets and let people challenge them as this may make people less likely to speed. Chief Andersen recommended having people do a 'citizens ride-along' to get a better understanding of the decision making process.

John Lewis noted that King Hill Road is hilly and winding and suggested lowering it to 30mph. Burpee Hill tops out at 30mph and isn't nearly as winding so King Hill Road should be lowered. Minette McQueeney commented that the state doesn't like to change speed limits, noting that there was an issue in Sunapee several years ago and Sunapee was not able to change the state road speed limit.

Bob Bowers, Buildings & Facilities Committee: Update on committee work

Bob Bowers provided the Board of Selectman with a draft of the preliminary report from the Building and Facilities Committee. He explained that the committee visited five departments and three buildings and reviewed what their current situation and needs are. All of them seemed to be in good shape. A few department heads touched on the need for storage of records and is part of the reason for the recommendation of a records and retention policy. Another main issue is the roof of the Academy building and the Fire Department will need to be attended to. Solar Energy should be considered at the same time.

The committee is currently looking at the Buker Building and Whipple Hall. They will talk with the Department of Public Works about any roofing issues there. They are discussing the possible need for a building and facilities manager or supervisor designated to keep track of all of this. The Building and Facilities Committee also recommended making significant contribution to the buildings capital reserve account to be able to tend to these needs as they come up.

Mr. Bowers explained that the committee is working through the Buker Building issues and they will then begin looking at the Department of Public Works and will get a handle on that. They don't currently have any specific budget recommendations.

Selectman Kidder stated it was her understanding that Bob Bowers was going to make a recommendation by tonight with regards to the Police Department. They had the Police Department on the agenda for their September 5 and September 19 Buildings and Facilities Committee meetings and those minutes have not been posted. Ten members of the Building and Facilities committee toured the Police Department back in August. Mr. Bowers stated they have toured it and looked at the building. There was concern with regards to the September 19th minutes as there were major changes that took place at the next meeting and didn't feel it was appropriate to post them. They have been waiting until the next committee meeting to review and approve them and he tries to send them out within a day or two of final approval.

Selectman Kidder asked Mr. Bowers if the committee is going to make a recommendation as to whether or not the Police Department should stay in the facility they are in. Mr. Bower replied that they are now at the point where they have looked at the Harriman report and are in the process of looking at the options that had been presented. They feel the options are to do nothing, build a new building, make an addition or redoing the internal system including the Recreation Department space. The committee has not reached any conclusions on what a recommendation will be. He is unsure why the Selectmen thought there would be a recommendation given tonight. Selectman Kidder replied that the Chair asked them to have it ready by the end of September so if there were any budget implications they could plan and start making recommendations to the budget committee. Mr. Bowers stated it was his understanding that if there were any budget requests, they would need them by the end of September. Right now they don't have any as they aren't in a position to make a budget request. Chair Rollins asked when they felt they would be ready to make a recommendation in terms of what direction the Selectmen should be headed.

Colin Beasley observed that the committee has been going through the Harriman report and it is not easy to read and the data is not accurate. They believe they have to look at the assumptions and validate those assumptions so they can come to the board with an appropriate recommendation. They also hope to provide the total costs and this is complicated. This could take a while and won't happen by the end of September. Chair Rollins realizes this is a volunteer process but would like a recommendation of the direction they should go by the end of October. Bob Bowers reiterated that their charge wasn't to just look at the Police Department and they focused on other buildings first.

Peter Bianchi stated that this committee meets weekly and has put in many hours and extremely thoughtful and detailed discussions. He understands the Boards frustration, but this is a major project and involves a lot of money. The committee may seem to be going slow but there is a lot of information to process. Chair Rollins stated they don't mean to imply that the Committee is going slowly but there was a different expectation.

Police Chief Ed Andersen expressed his frustration because Harriman was asked to force fit a police department where it currently is. If they were given the option to have a 4+ acre piece of land that wasn't attached to a historical building and has adequate parking it would be different.

Approve MS-1 - Summary of Inventory Valuation

Ms. Hallquist noted this is a necessary document to get the Town's tax rate. Chief Assessor Norm Bernaiche prepares the report detailing the values of all classifications of property in town.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) TO RECOMMEND THE APPROVAL OF NORM BERNAICHE'S PROPOSAL AND APPROVE THE MS-1

SUMMARY OF INVENTORY VALUATION. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Consider acceptance of 50% interest in land in Elkins - town currently owns 50%, acceptance will result in town owning 100%

Ms. Hallquist stated that landowner Kevin Butler is selling his property in Elkins, and the deed includes ownership of 50% interest in a small parcel of land on the corner of Hall Farm Road and Elkins Road. The potential buyer does not want ownership in this piece and would like to deed it to the town. Ms. Hallquist noted that it is her understanding that this small parcel of land was designed to be a source of water for the Elkins Cemetery and the property currently owned by Mr. Butler. Cemetery Trustee Charlie Haftner was aware of the property. The property is not being used to supply water at this time. Ms. Hallquist discussed this issue with town counsel and there is no liability to the town in accepting the 50% interest given that it already owns 50%.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) TO ACCEPT 50% INTEREST IN LAND IN ELKINS SO THERE IS 100% INTEREST IN PIECE OF PROPERTY. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Consider Request to use Shepard Pit by Pine Hill XC Ski Club for parking and trails

The Selectmen have control of the beginning area of Shepard Pit and then there are trails that the Conservation Commission maintains. The Conservation Commission will talk with Pine Hill Ski Club related to the trails they maintain. The Pine Hill XC Ski Club has used the town property for several years and they provide the town with a certificate of insurance.

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) TO APPROVE THE USE OF SHEPARD PIT BY PINE HILL XC SKI CLUB. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Administrators Report

Ms. Hallquist provided the following report:

- The members of the Emergency Management team gave presentations on Emergency Preparedness to last week at COA and this evening at Fenwood. There is one more presentation at the Library on Wednesday at 1:00.
- The town's financial records were audited last week; the audit took three full days and went very well. Past audits have taken a full week; needing only three days is an indication that the financial records are in excellent shape thanks in large part to Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer.
- This week Wendy Johnson and Ms. Hallquist will be preparing budget packets. They will be available on Monday.
- Ms. Hallquist provided two options for chairs for Whipple Hall. One option is plastic and the other is similar to the ones at the library and are a little nicer. For 125 chairs, the plastic option would cost \$7,245. The nicer option would cost \$18,734.39. This includes dollies to move them. There was discussion and Ms. Hallquist will look into cloth and stain resistant chairs. Chair Rollins suggested putting this on hold for now.

Committee Meetings & Reports

Ms. Hallquist reported that there was a meeting of the Tri-town Board of Assessing on September 17 with Sunapee, Newbury and New London. Chief Assessor Norm Bernaiche did a presentation on the New London revaluation project and that went well. They are working to do the Sunapee revaluation next. They will meet on October 15, 2019 to discuss the budget and they don't anticipate any big changes.

Recreation Department - Selectman Kidder reported that she attended a Recreation Meeting on September 14, 2019. They discussed the budget and the revolving fund and there will be a comprehensive review at the next meeting. Scott Blewitt is creating a list of items that need to be replaced such as picnic tables etc. In an effort to recycle, there will not be any more purchases of plastic containers. Whatever has already been purchased will be used but no further purchase will be made.

Planning Board - Selectman Kidder reported that the Planning Board met on September 10 and it was requested that Joe Kubit be appointed as a full member. There was a vacancy and Mr. Kubit was an alternate.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) TO APPOINT JOE KUBIT AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE PLANNING BOARD. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Kidder noted that John Doyle attended from the Messer Pond Protective Association and discussed the work they have done installing storm water drainage systems, doing a detailed water shed survey and planting vegetative buffers. This work has been done with grant money, money they raised, and help from the Department of Public Works. A septic survey was done but they didn't get a large response. The Planning Board also approved the installation of a ramp for a property on Newport Road.

The Crosspoint shopping center's proposal to put the Liquor store in the former McKenna's building had no windows on the Newport Road side so they were asked to put in windows and more trim and increase landscaping in front of the building. Finally, the Barn Playhouse presented a conceptual of their plans. These plans include improved parking and a front patio.

RPC Transportation Committee – Ms. Hallquist noted that the Board previously appointed Public Works Director Bob Harrington to this committee but he has had difficulty making the meetings with his current workload. Given that he is new in his position he does not believe he will be able to contribute much at this time. Planner Adam Rocker suggested appointing David Kidder. Ms. Hallquist noted that Mr. Harrington could attend the meeting and familiarize himself with the workings of the committee for future appointment. It was agreed to appoint David Kidder for a year.

Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to approve the minutes from the September 9th meeting. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

- Next Regular Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, October 7th – 6:00 PM

- Budget Committee joint meeting with Selectmen – Monday, October 7th – 6:30PM
- Planning Board – Tuesday, September 24th – 6:00 PM
- Emergency Preparedness Forum – Wednesday, September 25th – 1:00 PM @ Tracy Library
- Budget Committee Meeting – Wednesday, September 25th – 7:00 PM
- New London-Sunapee Sewer Comm. Meeting – Sept. 26th – 5:30 PM @ Sunapee Town Office
- Recreation Commission – Wednesday, October 2nd – 5:00 PM @ Whipple Hall
- Citizens Advisory Committee – Saturday, October 5th – 7:30 AM

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) 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: Rollins: Yes; Cannon: Yes; Kidder: Yes

The Board entered nonpublic session at 7:33 PM.

The Board reentered the public session at 7:46 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

- Accounts Payable Voucher
- Arbor Day Proclamation
- Birthday cards

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Temporary Event/Sale Permits – all approved

- Hunger Walk starting at Elkins Beach, on Sunday, October 6th by KLS Community Food Pantry & Church World Service.
- Kittens & Chai (senior project) on the Town Green on Saturday, September 28th, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm.
- Blessing of the Animals on Town Green on Saturday, October 5st from 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Sign Permits – all approved

- Permanent Signs x 2 (19-014 & 015) – Ross Gott, Icebox Work Studio, 228 Main Street, TM 084-064-0-0-0.
- Temporary Sign – By KLS Community Food Pantry & Church World Service for four directional signs around Pleasant Lake for the hunger walk October 6th.
- Temporary Sign – By James Bednor for a 2'x3' A-frame sign at the Information Booth for the Springfield 250th Celebration, Flower Arranging Clinic by Allioops from Sept. 12th to 21st.
- Temporary Sign – By James Bednor for a 2'x3' A-frame sign at the Information Booth for the Springfield 250th Celebration, Free Family Concert from September 12th to 28th.
- Temporary Sign – By James Bednor for a 2'x3' A-frame sign at the Information Booth for the Springfield 250th Celebration, Lecture Series from Sept. 23rd to October 11th.

- Temporary Sign – By James Bednor for a 2'x3' A-frame sign at the Information Booth for the Springfield 250th Celebration, Sip-a-Soup by Blue Loon from October 11th to November 9th.

Building Permits

- Jane Phillips, 325 Little Sunapee Road, TM 048-009-0-0-0. Demo existing house/build new single family 4208 sq. ft. BP 19-115 APPROVED
- Christopher & Pauline Lizotte, 598 Pleasant Street, TM 048-011-0-0-0. Roof mount solar array 6.175kw. BP 19-117 APPROVED
- John Ellis, 37 Old Main Street, TM 095-031-0-0-0. Roof mount solar array 8.4kw. BP 19-118 APPROVED
- Mark Pensgen, 47 Snow Lane. TM 055-019-0-0-0. Roof mount solar array 9.325kw. BP 19-119 APPROVED
- Katrina Wagner, 167 Knights Hill Road, TM 083-006-0-0-0. Ground mount solar array 4.62. BP 19-120 APPROVED
- Marc-Andre Giguere & Michelle Gibbs, 61 Lighthouse View Road, TM 126-008-0-0-0. Build dock with canopy & boat lift. BP 19-121 APPROVED
- Margaret & Jack Eisenbach, 688 Burpee Hill Road, TM 056-004-0-0-0. Finish 568sq.ft. in basement. BP 19-123 APPROVED
- Amy Berg, 44 Beaver Point Road, TM 106-005-0-0-0. Demo/rebuild single family residence. BP 19-124 APPROVED
- Ballin Family Trust, 244 Blueberry Lane, TM 087-003-0-0-0. Finish 30x36 area of basement. BP 19-125 APPROVED
- 35 Newport Road, LLC, 35 Newport Road, TM 072-042-0-0-0. Build handicap ramp. BP 19-126 APPROVED
- Barker Fam Rev Trust, 128 Sugarhouse Road, TM 035-048-0-0-0. Build 10x12 shed. BP 19-128 APPROVED
- Marc-Andre Giguere & Michelle Gibbs, 61 Lighthouse View Road, TM 126-008-0-0-0. BP 19-130 APPROVED

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson
Recording Secretary
Town of New London