



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES June 17, 2014

PRESENT:

Janet Kidder, Chair
Nancy Rollins, Selectman
Peter Bianchi, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Bob Brown, Conservation Commission Chair
John Lewis, New London Resident
Ed Andersen, Police Chief
Phyllis Piotrow, New London Resident
Richard Lee, Public Works Director
Jason Lyon, Fire Chief
Minette Sweeney, *Intertown Record*
Leigh Bosse, *The Messenger*

Chair Kidder called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Land Acquisition – Bob Brown, Conservation Commission Chair

Mr. Brown met with the Board to give them an update on a land acquisition project the Conservation Commission is currently working on. He reminded the Selectmen that the Clark Pond parcel was the last acquisition and was completed about eight years ago. He felt, as a new member to the Conservation Commission at that time, that the project could have been handled a bit better with more communication and he hopes to avoid that issue with the next acquisition by keeping the Selectmen updated.

Mr. Brown explained that the Conservation Commission has about 40 parcels of land on their list of important parcels they feel should be conserved. Additionally, the Master Plan mentions protecting the lands that surround the gateways to Town. Over the last four years the Conservation Commission sent letters to several property owners to let them know their property is important to conservation and invites the property owners to contact the Conservation Commission to look to ways to conserve the property. Some people respond and some do not. The Conservation Commission recently received a response from someone who was contacted by the Conservation Commission in 2011. The property, (Map/Lot # 058-026-000) contains 32 acres on Newport Road, 2000' of frontage and is adjacent to Stanley Farm and Burpee Hill properties, backing up to Carter Road. The parcel is forested and presents an excellent opportunity for silvo-culture and wildlife management.

Mr. Brown said the property is owned by David Hale, a former resident, who now lives in Ohio. Mr. Hale hopes to sell the property so it can be conserved; he is not interested in selling to a land developer. Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust would partner with the Conservation Commission to purchase the property at a bargain price and would then be placed under an easement held by Ausbon Sargent. The

Conservation Commission would like to bring this opportunity to Town Meeting in May of 2015 to ask the voters to approve this purchase. His desire would be to have open lines of communication with the Selectmen, Planning Board and anyone else who has any interest in this project.

Mr. Brown noted that the tax card shows an assessed value of \$345,000. The land is in current use with a taxable value of \$87,488. The Conservation Commission will get a professional appraisal, which will likely look at the potential of the land with regards to its development value. This appraisal will likely cost about \$2,000 and has been started. The property owner is paying for the appraisal to be done. Once the appraisal is complete, the owner will offer to sell the land to the Town at 75% of the assessed value. A survey has been completed but has not yet been recorded. The survey cost about \$500 and, like the appraisal, will be paid for by the property owner. A hazardous waste study will be done on the property, which the land owner will also pay for. Legal fees are yet to be determined. The plan is to work as a partnership with the various groups and to do some fundraising to lessen the cost to the Town. Mr. Brown wasn't sure what to expect; he has heard murmurings about there being a lot of support for the project, but they would have to wait and see.

Mr. Brown said the property is important because it is in the watershed of Little Lake Sunapee. There is one parcel between this parcel and the Philbrick-Cricenti Bog. It does have a power line right of way, as does every parcel on Newport Road. Mr. Brown said the Land Acquisition Fund has about \$450,000 in it but they plan to use as little of it as possible. They would like to pay for the project through fundraising as much as they can. Selectman Bianchi asked if this parcel was one of the parcels on their desirable list of parcels. Mr. Brown said it was in the top 75% of their list.

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Brown for bringing this information forward and would be happy to get more information from him as it becomes available.

Richard Lee – Paving Bids

Mr. Lee met with the Board to discuss the results of the paving bids that were requested. He noted that he put the paving and shimming out to bid with three companies and got just one response. Continental Paving submitted a bid of \$72.50/ton for everything across the board. To grade and compact three gravel roads was \$2,500. Mr. Lee estimated they would pay \$182,000 for shimming and \$63,000 (that comes available July 1st) to pave gravel roads.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the bid from Continental Paving, as presented. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Sewer Abatement Request- J. Flynn

The Board reviewed two requests for abatements of sewer charges. Mr. Lee said the first abatement request was from Jack Flynn. Mr. Flynn reported that a leak in a guest bathroom caused his sewer bill to be unusually large and he requested that it be abated or at least that he be allowed to pay the bill over a four month period. Mr. Lee sympathized with the owner, but noted that the water had to be treated through the treatment plant, which is paid by the Town through sewer billings. Ms. Rollins felt that the Board could agree to spread the payments over four months, but not allow the abatement of the charge.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to deny the request for abatement but to agree to spread the payment over a four-month time period. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Sewer Abatement Request – Teach - 618 Main Street

Mr. Lee said this abatement was for 618 Main Street; the carriage shed in the back of the principle dwelling. The property owners state they didn't use any water over the winter so they didn't feel they should pay the \$195 base charge. Mr. Lee informed the Board that currently the policy is to charge a minimum fee for 0-1,000 gallons, which is \$187. They add a capital improvement fee, which brings the total to \$195. This amount is charged to any property where there is a sewer hookup, even if the connection is not used. Mr. Lee believed that if the Selectmen allowed this abatement, they would be subject to allowing the same abatement for several other residents in town.

Selectman Bianchi said this was an issue with the minimum charge; he wondered if this was a typical way of charging people for usage. It was noted that Sunapee uses this same method. Ms. Hallquist observed that this case is different from the usual case where a property owner doesn't use the system for the period of time because they are not in town, in this case, the property owners are saying they no longer have water going to/from the carriage house, so don't feel they should be paying for a sewer charge because nothing can go into the sewer line. Selectman Bianchi thought they should analyze their billing procedure. Mr. Lee said this has been the method of billing since before he started working for the Town.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to deny the request for an abatement as requested for 618 Main Street.

Selectman Bianchi thought they should deny this request but thought they should reconsider how they handle their billing in the future.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Grant Application for the Purchase of Laptop for the Police Cruiser

Chief Andersen said three of the cruisers have laptops in them, which they utilize for calls for service and even assisting other officers that use the Crimestar program. During traffic stops they can communicate with dispatch more efficiently than with just using their radios. The laptops they have come from a grant called "Car 54" which started in 2003. Through the grant, the Town received a free laptop, radar system and light bar. Their laptops are slowly dying now and he has applied for a 50/50 grant to replace one of them. He put in the maximum for the grant, and estimated \$1,800 could be spent from his budget, assuming the laptop would cost \$3,600.

Chief Andersen said depending on where he is financially, the funding could possibly come from his current budget or it would come from the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget. He would talk with Ms. Hallquist and see if there was anywhere they could move funds from his budget to help pay for this.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the grant for the laptop, as presented by Chief Ed Andersen.

Mr. Bianchi said he was worried that this was becoming something they would need to pay for every year. Chief Andersen said since 2003 they have had laptops in the cruisers and they have lasted 11 years. He didn't anticipate coming before the Selectmen for another 11 years to ask for another laptop. Ms. Hallquist said she understood Selectman Bianchi's concern, however, this is not equipment that is not already being used by the department, such as a Hummer assault vehicle that some police departments have received through a grant, this grant is for standard equipment that the town would purchase through the budget if not for the grant possibly paying 50%.

Chair Kidder called for a vote on the motion.

THE MOTION PASSED. Yes: Janet Kidder, Nancy Rollins; No: Peter Bianchi

Board and Committee Appointments

Chair Kidder observed that the response received from citizens who wanted to volunteer their time to serve on a board or committee within the Town was wonderful. She asked Selectman Bianchi and Selectman Rollins what their recommendations were. After some discussion and consideration, the following individuals were chosen for the following boards/committees:

Planning Board

Bill Helm – move from alternate to a full member
Jeremy Bonin – full member
William Dietrich – alternate
Elizabeth Meller – alternate

Selectman Bianchi said after studying attendance over the last year, there were two alternates who attended four and six meetings, respectively. He thought a letter should be sent to these alternates to ask if they were still interested in being a part of the Planning Board. Selectman Rollins agreed and felt strongly that attendance requirements should be made clear and be mandatory. Chair Kidder thought those not being asked back to serve on the Planning Board should be thanked for their years of service.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Ann Bedard – move from alternate to full member
Cheryl Devoe – move from alternate to full member
Michael Todd – reappointed as full member
Paul Vance – alternate
Thelma Kaplan – alternate

Conservation Commission

Laura Alexander – reappointed as full member
Mark Vernon – full member

Recreation Commission

Janet Kidder – reappointed

Firewards

Pete Lauridson – reappointed

Archives

Tom Little – to finish out Bob MacMichael's term
Ginny Foose
Jim Perkins had asked that current members be reappointed as well.

Energy Committee

Bill Andrews
Tom Little
Bud Dick
Tom Paradis

Citizen's Advisory Committee

Bob Crane
Katherine Fisher
Maryanne McEnrue
Thelma Kaplan
Paul Lanzdowski
Kate Turcotte
John Canon
Rose Bernard
Roger Smith
Elizabeth Klingler

All members finishing their first term were reappointed (those members who served two terms were not reappointed).

Single-Stream Recycling Committee

Joan Lamson
Bob Brown
Doug MacMichael
Alison Seward
Marilyn Andrews
Mark Vernon
Jim DeVeer

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the appointments to the boards and committees, as discussed. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Selectman Rollins suggested having someone from the UVLSRPC come in and do some training, as this is part of what the Town pays for to be members of the commission. Selectman Bianchi agreed but thought Lucy St. John (Planning & Zoning Administrator) and Kim Hallquist should do some localized training as well. The Regional Planning Commission will be more focused on regional issues. Selectman Rollins agreed.

Selectmen's Meeting Calendar

Saturday, July 12 at 7:30am – Citizens Advisory Committee
Tuesday, July 15 at 6:00pm – Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, July 29 at 6:00pm – Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Saturday, August 9 at 7:30am – Non-resident Taxpayer Meeting

Tax Interest Abatement Request from Nancy Reganesse

This was held over from the last meeting. After learning that Linda Hardy (Town Clerk/Tax Collector) was not in favor of granting this abatement for interest, the Selectmen voted on the issue.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to deny the request for tax interest abatement for Nancy Reganesse. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Administrator's Report

Ms. Hallquist said she recently met with the building committee about the RFP they are supposed to be helping the Town with for work to be done at Whipple Hall. Frank Anzalone will be drawing that up and bringing it to her.

The Household Hazardous Waste day is planned for Saturday, June 21st.

Ms. Hallquist attended an emergency preparedness workshop last week.

Ms. Hallquist noted that the Facilities Manager, Bill Granger, and Communications Administrator, Heather Wood, have both submitted letters of resignation.

Ms. Hallquist said she would be meeting with someone on July 1st from Primex regarding a possible avenue for the study of New London's current dispatch model.

Review of minutes of June 2nd

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the minutes of June 2, 2014, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

There were two grammatical errors which were fixed.

Upcoming Meetings

June 24 at 7:00pm, Planning Board

June 30 at 6:00pm, Board of Selectmen

July 8 at 5:00pm, Recreation Commission at Whipple Hall

Other Business

John Lewis met with the Board to discuss various issues. He began by noting that he felt private land, not just conserved land, could be aesthetically pleasing and thought the Town should keep this in mind. Chair Kidder suggested Mr. Lewis participate in Master Plan meetings the next time they are held, as this is where conservation land versus private land is discussed and he could share his thoughts then.

Mr. Lewis commented on the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of March 24th; he recalled saying Tom Anderson should be Deputy Chief of Police, not Sergeant. He also thought the Selectmen had taken a vote or discussed aligning their practices within the police department with those used at the federal level. Selectman Bianchi, Selectman Kidder, and Ms. Hallquist noted that they had no recollection of any such discussion regarding the topic.

Mr. Lewis went on to talk about the cells in New London and how they have just a cement bench and how those arrested are given one pillow and one blanket. His understanding is that people are only kept there a maximum of four hours; however he wondered if it would be possible that due to officers being busy, people may need to stay the night there. Chief Andersen replied that a person would not spend the night in the cell, either the Merrimack County Sheriff's office would do a transport or another police officer would be called in to transport the person to Merrimack County Jail.

Mr. Lewis said he was not happy with the prison cells at the Merrimack County prison and felt prisoners had rights that were not honored in these cells. Chair Kidder pointed out that the Town of New London has no control over the cells at the Merrimack County Jail and urged Mr. Lewis to contact the officials in Merrimack County that could address these issues. She suggested Mr. Lewis could address his comments in writing to his representative, Dave Kidder, to have his thoughts shared with those who can do something about the cells.

Resignation of Communications Administrator

The Board discussed the departure of Communications Administrator Heather Wood and how the vacancy would be filled. Chief Andersen noted that he would be willing to oversee the department, as he

did in the past, until the Board could decide the direction to take with dispatching. Chief Lyon noted his concern that the gains made by Ms. Wood during her tenure would be lost if the department is put back under the control of the Police Department. He noted his concerns that police calls are often given priority over fire calls when dispatching is part of the Police Department so he felt that leaving the department as an independent department was the preferred way to go. The Board noted that in the coming months there will be discussions held about the future of dispatching so they felt the prudent course of action would be for Chief Andersen to assume oversight of the department once Ms. Wood departs, and the Board can evaluate the situation after 6 months.

Resignation of William Granger

The Board noted that the Facilities Manager has resigned and asked Richard Lee if he would be willing to work on a new job description where the employee would work from the Public Works Department on a part-time basis. Mr. Lee agreed to work with Ms. Hallquist and present their suggestions to the Board.

Application for Building Permit:

- Jocelyn Bentfield Trust – 86 Sparrow Hawk Road (065-020-000) – Enclose existing porch – APPROVED
- Julianne Gachelin – 60 Conifer Lane (058-013-008) – Install solar array – APPROVED
- Patricia Matarazzo Trust – 195 Shaker Street (099-003-000) – Build addition and deck – APPROVED
- Joseph DeChant – 39 Blueberry Lane (098-001-000) – Upgrade bulkhead entrance, replace cellar and garage doors – APPROVED
- Arthur & Jane McMurrich – 208 Stoney Brook Road (13-018-000) – Remove old deck and replace – APPROVED
- Barbara S. Troxell Trust – 357 Forest Acres Road (118-020-000) – Install shed – APPROVED
- Marc Bluff LLC c/o John Muchemore – 37 Boulder Road (115-003-000) – Demo existing building and move barn – APPROVED
- Charles & Carol Foss Revocable Trusts – 128 Camp Sunapee Road (045-038-000) – Replace existing shed – APPROVED
- Curtis Hineline/Nancy West – 277 Bog Road (106-003-000) – Rebuild garden shed, build wood shed and overhang – APPROVED

Other Items to be signed:

- Sign Permit Application – St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 52 Gould Road – Sandwich Board at Info Booth and on Church’s property 6/29 – 7/5 – Sandwich Board portion APPROVED.
- Sign Permit Application – New London Garden Club – Sandwich Board at Info Booth 7/21-7/30 – APPROVED.
- Sign Permit Application – Ladies Benevolent Society of Elkins – Sandwich Board at Elkins Chapel and Info Booth 7/12 & 8/2 – APPROVED.
- Sign Permit Application – Mary Lloyd-Evans (Wilmot Farmer’s Market) – Sandwich Board at Info Booth 6/28 – 9/27 – APPROVED.
- Sign Permit Application – Judith Hauck (Wilmot Community Association) – Sandwich Board at Info Booth 6/21 – 6/28 – APPROVED
- Sign Permit Application – New London Hospital – Triathlon directional signage, as described in attachment – APPROVED
- Sign Permit Application – New London Hospital – Hospital Days Signage throughout town, as described in attachment - APPROVED
- Warrant for Unlicensed Dogs per RSA Chapter 466:14

- Intent to Cut – Route 103A (136-007-000) Carr Land Holdings LLC
- GIS Internet Services Maintenance Agreement with CAI Technologies
- Application for Current Use – Clara Cantor, Patricia Cantor – 425 Lakeshore Drive (037-008-000)

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to adjourn the meeting.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London