



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
July 22, 2013**

PRESENT:

Tina Helm, Chair
Peter Bianchi, Selectman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Mag Francis, New London Resident
Doug McMichael, New London Resident
Ed Andersen, Acting Police Chief
Joe McCarthy, Citizen
Merry Armentrout, *The Intertown Record*
Leigh Bosse, *The Messenger*

Chair Helm called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. She welcomed Mag Francis of Wilmot Center Road. **IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to open the meeting.**

Ms. Francis informed the Board that her dog was attacked by some unlicensed, unvaccinated, and unleashed pit bulls. She also noted that a resident of the area had her chickens killed by an unleashed dog and another resident was attacked by a wandering dog. Ms. Francis detailed several examples of dogs wandering in the area, unattended by owners and she has observed instances when these dogs scare people or attack other dogs. She noted that every day starting around noon, there are many dogs in the Elkins beach complex, including the picnic and playground area. Her estimate is that about 80% of the dogs are off-leash with no owner in sight.

Ms. Francis felt the Selectmen should do the following:

1. Understand the data. She has talked to the police many times. They say the dog problems are common and frequent. She was not sure what this meant.
2. Clarify the rules for the whole Elkins Beach "complex." Where do the rules stop with regard to dogs at the beach? To her, it feels like anything goes.
3. Inform and educate the people. Just because they do not have a leash law doesn't mean it is OK for dogs to roam free. There is no control over dogs when the owner is not there.
4. Enforce the rules. This behavior is becoming habit.

Ms. Francis noted that she has heard from people that the area between the boat launch and the dam is meant for dogs to swim and wondered if it was true.

Chair Helm thanked Ms. Francis for her information and suggestions. Mr. Bianchi observed that he is a resident of the area and he has not witnessed the level of unleashed dogs being reported by Ms. Francis. He noted that the town ordinance says that animals are not allowed at the beach and this should be enforced. Ms. Francis said that there are a lot of dogs that hang out near the dam. Mr. Bianchi noted that there is no swimming allowed off the dam but it was not clear in his mind if the existing beach ordinance covers the area of the launch and the dam. Chair Helm said that they are working to post the area at the dam better to prohibit swimming.

Chair Helm asked Acting Chief Andersen to speak to this. Chief Andersen said when he gets calls from individuals complaining of stray dogs, the police respond and catch them if they can. The officer will bring the dog to the Pleasant Lake Veterinary Office, as they have a key to leave found animals after hours. If they have a second offense with an owner of a stray dog, they will have a summons. Chief Andersen explained that since the Town does not have a specific ordinance regulating dogs, the Police Department follow the State statutes. If people are with their dogs, they do not enforce anything. With regard to the dam portion, it does not say that nonresidents can't be there, and State statute doesn't say anything about unleashed dogs being in the area.

Chair Helm asked how often they have to take a dog to Pleasant Lake and follow through with a summons. Chief Andersen said it is not that often but there have been a few habitual offenders who have had to be taken to court. He noted that there were two pit bulls that were put down after an attack. Chief Andersen noted that one option would be to amend the beach ordinance to add the dam area. It could rule out swimming and the presence of animals in those areas.

Mr. Bianchi thought the rules should be more strictly enforced in the areas of the picnic area and the playground. He said that the RSAs are very specific and cover the things that Ms. Francis had described.

Chief Andersen said that if the officer does not witness the offense, they have to ask a witness to provide a statement. Oftentimes, this is not something people want to do, so only a warning can be issued to the offending pet owner.

The Board discussed the park and dam area, where people go to sit on the park benches, and must walk over the dam. The issue of better fencing and signage was discussed. Chief Andersen observed that if no swimming is allowed at the dam, the police department could enforce this by issuing citations for disorderly conduct but warned that people will complain about this.

Chair Helm wanted to discuss this issue further at their August 5th meeting. Ms. Kidder wondered what they could do about the dogs on the beach in the meantime. Ms. Hallquist observed that the Police Department has the ability to address the issue of "nuisance dogs" now under State laws either by observing the incidents themselves, or if people will submit a statement that can be followed up by the Police.

New Business

Chair Helm said the Selectmen received two letters supporting Sunday hours at the Transfer Station: one came from Joan Lamson and another from Kevin Donovan. They also received an email from Marilyn Kidder who was in favor of the Sunday hours.

Chair Helm said the Selectmen received an email from Jeanne Dudley, a resident of Newbury, who would like New London to reconsider their policy of only allowing residents and their guests to visit the beaches in town. Mr. Bianchi said he is not in favor of changing the policy at this time. Chair Helm agreed and said that a lot of time was put into re-crafting the beach ordinance and she did not think it needed to be revisited at this time.

Chair Helm wanted to thank the New London Police Department for participating in the “Stuff a Cruiser” event at Hannaford’s where they collected donated food for the Kearsarge Community Food Pantry. The Board received a letter from the Kearsarge Community Food Pantry, commending the New London Police Department for its work in collecting over 2,000 pounds of food and almost \$500 in donations.

Chair Helm noted that Local Government Center (LGC, the Town’s insurance carrier) staff performed a safety risk assessment of the Town Office building. As a result of the assessment, several recommendations were made on ways to address potentially dangerous issues in the town office. Ms. Hallquist observed that the newly created position of Facilities Manager will be helpful in addressing many of the issues listed. She noted that her recommendation is to address the Tax Collector/Town Clerk office as soon as possible.

The Board asked that LGC be contacted to see if they can offer suggestions on contractors familiar with municipal buildings and designing safer facilities.

Old/Pending Business

Sue Pillsbury requested abatement for water taxes stemming from the additional assessment to water precinct properties. The Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) authorized the additional assessment to correct issues related to the Town’s change to the fiscal year. Ms. Hallquist noted that she spoke with a DRA representative about this request and reported that the DRA does not believe that there is cause for abatement as requested by the property owner.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to deny the abatement request for Sue Pillsbury. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Administrator’s Report

Ms. Hallquist said that she, Richard Lee, and Wendy Johnson would be attending a meeting at the Department of Transportation regarding the Elkins Project. They will be submitting the first request for reimbursement for the engineering work done to date.

Ms. Hallquist reported that she and Mr. Lee had a productive meeting with representatives of Pike regarding the paving needs of the Town.

Ms. Hallquist noted that the Board will be meeting with the Planning Board on July 30th, 2013 at 7:00pm. It was noted that Planning Board appointments are still outstanding.

Ms. Hallquist noted that only seven applications for the Facilities Manager position have received so far.

Mr. Bianchi said in 2011 they received money from FEMA for hazard mitigation on Lamson Lane, but this work has not yet been done.

Committee Reports

Mr. Bianchi said that there was a Planning Board meeting scheduled for the following night, which had a lengthy agenda.

Gazebo Repair

Chair Helm said she had no problems with the synthetic materials suggested by Jim Wheeler for use on the gazebo. It was noted that these materials were much less expensive and last much longer than what they had used prior. Chair Helm suggested going back to those builders who had provided estimates and ask them to give another estimate with using a polymer instead of cedar shakes, as well as a time-frame that the project could be done within.

Upcoming Meetings

July 23rd Planning Board Meeting - 7:00pm
July 30th Board of Selectmen/Planning Board - 7:00pm
August 5th Nonresident Taxpayers Meeting: 8:30am

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to go into non-public pursuant to RSA: 91-A:3, II(a). THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.
Bianchi: Yes, Helm: Yes, Kidder: Yes**

The Board entered non-public session at 7:12PM.

The Board re-entered the public session at 8:12PM.

Application for Building Permit:

- Rebecca & Eric Oxman, 340 Stoneybrook Road (Map & Lot 137-012-000) kitchen & interior renovations – Permit #13-065 – approved.
- Sean & Leigh Bears, 94 Quail run (Map & Lot 108-011-000) remove sunroom and build 4 season room – Permit #13-066 – approved.
- Paul Feinberg/Tatewell Gallery, 255 Newport Road (Map & Lot 059-008-000) interior renovations – Permit #13-067 – Approved.
- Colby-Sawyer College, 541 Main Street (Map & Lot 085-033-000) remove 6 propane tanks, pour concrete pads (2) replace new tanks backfill, loam & seed – Permit #13-068 – Approved.
- Mike & Becca Reeve, 84 Todd Farm Road (Map & Lot 130-021-000) install solar panels & solar water collection system – Permit #13-069 – Approved.
- Roderick & Frederic Prior, 77 Wilmot Center Road (Map & Lot 078-008-000) build new well house – Permit #13-070 – Approved.
- Robin Laughinghouse, 789 County Road (Map & Lot 093-012-000) interior & exterior renovations – Permit #13-071 – Approved.

Application for temporary sign permits:

- New London Hospital – Hospital Days signs – assorted sandwich boards & banners (see emails & notes attached to application) – Approved.
- Kearsarge Presbyterian church – 1 sign at info booth & 1 sign on property – Vacation Bible School – Monday 8/12-16/2013 – approved.

Application for permanent sign permits:

- Kimberly Gallant, permanent sign on Bicknor Wilmot building – approved
- Arrolyn Vernon, permanent sign at colonial building – approved.
- Joe Spaulding, permanent sign at Bonin property – approved.

Application for use of Whipple Memorial Town Hall:

- SKIT – October 21 – 27th, 2013 – evenings during the week, show on weekend – Approved.

Tax Abatements to be signed:

- Pesando NH Trust, 54 Checkerberry Lane (Map & Lot 044-032-000) \$604.19 - approved.
- Bossi, 51 Putney Road (Map & Lot 011-002-000) \$853.70 – approved.
- Thompson, 173 Squires Lane (Map & Lot 096-025-000) \$216.68 – approved.
- Madan, 1615 King Hill Road (Map & Lot 138-010-000) \$1397.79 – approved.
- Sutton/Pratt/Kricko, Otterville Road (Map & Lot 042-018-000) \$282.56 – approved
- Gepfert, 236 Little Sunapee Road (Map & Lot 059-041-000) \$1049.43 – approved.
- Cate Boathouse Realty Trust, 552 Route 103A (Map & Lot 091-027-000) – refund previously granted
- Miller, 74 Pike Brook Road, (Map & Lot 135-011-000) - \$3249.85 – approved.
- Wheeler, 275 route 103A (Map & Lot 080-012-000) \$766.53 – approved.

Other Items to be signed:

- Disbursement voucher
- Raffle permit for Elkins Fish & Game club – June 28, 2014 – approved.
- Pole Licenses – approved.
- Approval to spend funds for the animal shelter – approved.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to adjourn.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London