



Municipal Matters

New London, New Hampshire

March 2016

TOWN MEETING 2016

Election & Zoning Amendment Voting at Whipple Memorial Town Hall, March 8th, 8:00am—7:00pm

Town Meeting at Kearsarge Learning Campus Gymnasium, March 9th, 7:00pm

Voters decide to go back to the traditional March Town Meeting

After four years of holding Town Meeting in May, voters decided they preferred going back to the traditional March Town Meeting. The vast majority of New Hampshire towns hold their annual meeting in March, so New London voters will have plenty of company when they head to the polls on the second Tuesday in March (March 8th) to elect town officials and to hold its annual meeting the following day (March 9th).

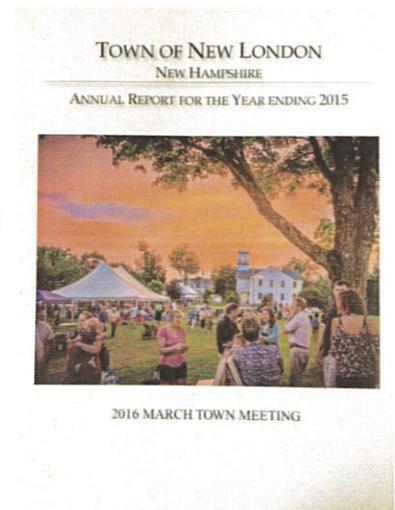
The annual meeting is where voters come together to discuss, debate and vote on matters that will set the course for the Selectmen and all town officials to follow for the coming year.

New London voters are encouraged to participate in Town Meeting 2016!

Annual Town Reports are in!

You may pick up a copy of the New London Annual Report at:

- ◆ The Town Office
- ◆ Tracy Library
- ◆ Transfer Station



Please remember to bring your report to Town Meeting on March 9th at 7:00pm

\$460,000 loan being requested at Town Meeting

The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend that voters approve a \$460,000 loan to allow the town to move forward on four projects: (1) the replacement of one of two culverts on Brookside Drive, (2) complete the GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping project, (3) sewer lagoon closure project and (4) replacement of the sand & salt shed at the Department of Public Works.

Capital Reserve Funds (CRF) are often used for saving over time for large projects, and some of these projects will be supplemented with funds from CRF previously established. Why take out a loan now instead of continuing to save for these projects? Taking out a loan now will allow these projects to be completed sooner and will also allow for the payment of the projects over a period of time (most likely 10 years). Low interest rates, the desire to get these projects done sooner and lowering the tax impact by avoiding larger payments in the CRF this year were factors in the decisions by the Selectmen and Budget Committee to recommend this method of funding.

Long-term financing requests like this one require a 2/3 majority and must be voted on by ballot. This vote will take place at the meeting on Wednesday, March 9th starting at 7:00pm. For more information, please call Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator, at 526-4821 ext. 13 or Richard Lee, Public Works Director, at 526-6337, and see page 4 for more information on the projects included in this appropriation.

Town Meeting Warrant Article Review

For the full text of each article, please refer to your town report or go to the town's website: www.nl-nh.com

Article 1: Election of officers and voting on zoning amendments is conducted on Tuesday. The remaining articles are addressed on Wednesday evening.

Article 2: To suspend the reading of individual articles. Since meeting voters have a copy of the warrant in their annual report, it is common to dispense with the reading aloud of each article.

Article 3: To see if voters will approve a \$460,000 loan to replace a culvert on Brookside Drive, complete the GIS mapping project, replace the sand & salt shed, and for the sewer lagoon closure project.

Article 4: To authorize a lease/purchase for a recreation van and to appropriate the first years' payment.

Article 5: This article seeks funding for General Government Operations: the selectmen's staff, legal expenses, property assessing, cemeteries, planning & zoning, elections and registrations, insurance and advertising and regional associations.

Article 6: This article seeks funding for Public Safety: police, fire, emergency management and communications (dispatching).

Article 7: This article seeks funding for Highways, Streets & Sanitation: public works personnel, street maintenance, street lighting, transfer station and sewer department.

Article 8: This article seeks funding for Health & Welfare which includes the health officer and welfare officer, funds to assist the needy, support of the ambulance, Kearsarge Council on Aging, Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Assoc. and CASA.

Article 9: This article seeks funding for Recreation, Culture and Conservation, including the Recreation Department, Conservation Commission, Tracy Library, patriotic purposes, Energy Committee and funds for the various lake protective associations to prevent invasive species.

Article 10: This article includes funds to make the principal & interest payments on the town's outstanding debt.

Article 11: This articles seeks funding for payments into various capital reserve accounts. These are the town's "savings accounts" for future purchases.

Article 12: This article will ask voters to approve expenditures from capital reserve funds to purchase a loader and a sweeper for the Public Works Department.

Article 13: This article seeks approval to use library capital reserve funds for foundation drainage upgrades.

Article 14 This article seeks approval to use recreation facility capital reserve funds for new docks at Elkins Beach.

Article 15: This article asks voters to change the purpose of the Fire Apparatus Repair Fund to allow the fund to be used for all town vehicles, not just fire, and also to put \$12,000 into the fund. Changing the purpose of a CRF requires a 2/3 vote, instead of a majority vote like other CRF actions.

Article 16: This article will ask voters to appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from the Pleasant Lake Dam Capital Reserve Fund. The selectmen will then be able to spend money from the fund, for the dam only, without a further vote of town meeting.

Article 17: If approved, the Selectmen and Conservation Commission will be authorized to acquire property on Davis Hill Road leading to Clark Lookout. Mary Haddad Trust funds in the amount of \$300,000 will be used for the purchase.

Article 18: The Conservation Commission supports the use of \$250,000 from its land acquisition capital reserve fund to purchase two parcels on Pleasant Street, commonly known as the Kidder-Cleveland properties.

Article 19: This article will allow a K-9 unit to be added to the Police Department if sufficient funds can be raised through donations and grants to purchase the dog and to provide the necessary training for the police officer handler. Additional expenses must be available within the Police Dept. operating budget.

Conservation Commission supports land purchases

The Conservation Commission supports two projects for land acquisition by the Town. If approved, the property acquired will be managed by the Conservation Commission for use by citizens and visitors.

Davis Hill Road and the trail to Clark Lookout—Article 17: This article will ask voters to allow the Conservation Commission and Selectmen to accept ownership of approximately 9.5 acres on Davis Hill Road, including the trail to the town-owned Clark Lookout. In presentations before the Selectmen and the Budget Committee, Conservation Commission members noted that acquiring land at the entrance to the Clark Lookout trail and the trail to the top, will improve the Conservation Commission's ability to improve the public's use and enjoyment of Clark Lookout. If approved by voters the property owners will seek Planning Board approval for subdivision of the land to be sold to the Town. The purchase price of \$300,000 will come from the Mary Haddad Trust.

Pleasant Street properties—Article 18: The purchase includes two parcels, one on the west side of Pleasant Street, containing 19.2 acres, and one on the east side containing 26.38 acres. These properties are commonly referred to as the Kidder-Cleveland property, located near the Ice House Museum and the Bittersweet Apartments. In presentations before the Selectmen and Budget Committee, Conservation Commission members pointed to protection of the Pleasant Lake watershed and the ability to add to the town's trail system as compelling reasons for the purchase. The purchase price for both parcels is \$250,000 and will come out of the Conservation Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund.

Selectmen engage Thornton & Associates to conduct wage & compensation survey

Budget discussions invariably include discussions of whether New London employees' wage and benefit packages are competitive while at the same time at a level that is fair to the taxpayers. The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee have heard from administration, department heads and from the Board of Firewards who suggest that New London is in danger of losing good, well trained employees to higher paying communities. The Employee Committee has consistently cited stable benefits as being important to employees. Not surprisingly, noncompetitive salaries and compensation packages also makes it more difficult to attract new employees.

The Selectmen and Budget Committee agree that a discussion of adequate employee compensation is difficult without knowing more about how the town's employees' compensation compares to other communities. Two steps are being taken by the Selectmen to address this important issue: (1) the hiring of a consultant to conduct a salary and compensation study and (2) including a pool of \$80,000 in the upcoming budget to address salary adjustments that may be identified in the study.

Thornton & Associations will evaluate data from several employers and compare it to New London's salary and benefit packages to make recommendations to the Selectmen for potential changes in employee wages and benefits packages. A pool of \$80,000 is included in the fiscal year 2017 budget (Article 5, in the Executive portion of General Government Operations) to address the recommendations of the consultant. It is understood that not all recommended adjustments may be done in one year and it may be that some positions are adequately compensated at this time, so no adjustment is warranted, while other positions may require adjustments. The cost of the study is \$11,160 and should be completed in May or June; adjustments in salaries can be made at the start of the fiscal year, on July 1st. The pool of \$80,000 as discussed above will be used for this purpose.

Those interested in following this process should check the website for Selectmen's meeting agendas for notice of when the issue will be discussed by the Board—public comment is always encouraged.



The Public Works Department purchased two pedestrian crossing signs that are designed to flash to bring attention to motorists to slow down as pedestrians may be in the roadway. The signs will be placed at various locations in town this summer, starting on Pleasant Street near Slope n' Shore and the Pleasant Lake Inn. Concerns have been raised by residents at Slope n' Shore that crossing the street to get to the beach can be a challenge with the amount of traffic in that area.

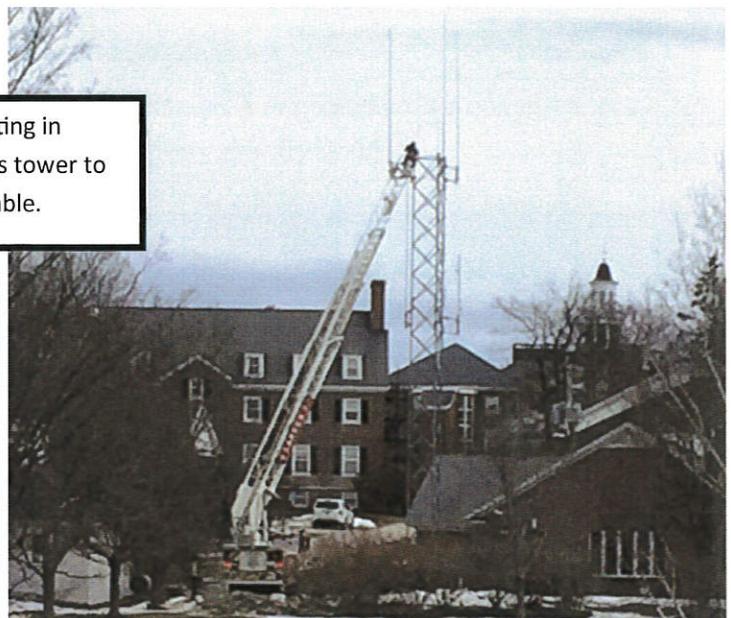
Town residents are encouraged to observe all speed limits and drive with caution around the lakes, especially in the summer months when the population of the town increases with summer residents and vacationing visitors.

Thanks goes to the Town of Sunapee Fire Department for assisting in getting radio equipment staff to the top of the Communications tower to make necessary repairs when the NL Ladder truck was unavailable.

Municipal Matters is published by the staff of the Town of New London. For more information on any of the topics addressed here, please feel free to contact Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator, at 526-4821 ext. 13 or at townadmin@nl-nh.com.

Projects included in \$460,000 loan request

- ◆ Brookside Drive culvert replacement: \$250,000. The State of NH has added the two culvert locations on Brookside Dr. to its "red list" of deficient bridges, indicating that repairs are needed. Public Works Director Richard Lee recommends that one culvert be replaced this year so that in the event of a failure of one or both of the deficient culverts, the residents will continue to have access to their homes. The second culvert will be replaced in the future, subject to the availability of funds.
- ◆ GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping project: \$60,000. The town has been planning, and saving, for this project since 2011 when a capital reserve fund was established by voters. Sunapee and Newbury, New London's partners in assessing, have already completed their GIS mapping. The total project cost is \$115,000; additional funds needed will come from the CRF established for that purpose.
- ◆ Sewer lagoon closure project: \$80,000. The town's sewer lagoons have not been used since the town closed its treatment plant and began sending its sewage to Sunapee in the early 1980's. In 2008 a capital reserve fund was established to begin to save to officially close the four lagoons according to State regulations. An engineering study was completed by Nobis Engineering and a citizens committee has been formed to start the process this summer. The total cost is unknown at this time, so additional appropriations may be requested in the future.
- ◆ Sand and salt shed for Public Works: \$70,000. Replacement of this building has been part of the Capital Improvement Program for several years; recognition that a stable, safe structure to cover the town's sand and salt supply ensures that the material is available when needed, no matter how much snow and ice has fallen.



SAMPLE BALLOT



**OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 8, 2016**

Linda Nicklas

TOWN CLERK

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ●
- B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
- C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

SELECTMAN

(for 3 Years) Vote for not more than ONE

BILL HELM

(Write-in)

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBER

(for 3 Years) Vote for not more than THREE

JOHN WILSON

COLIN CAMPBELL

LYNDSAY LUND

PHYLLIS TILSON PIOTROW

(Write-in)

(Write-in)

(Write-in)

TRACY MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEE

(for 3 Years) Vote for not more than TWO

ANDY PADDEN

ANNIE BECK

NANCY MAHAR

ADRIENNE NEARY

(Write-in)

(Write-in)

TOWN MODERATOR

(for 2 Years) Vote for not more than ONE

W. MICHAEL TODD

(Write-in)

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBER

(for 1 Year) Vote for not more than ONE

F. AUGUSTUS SEAMANS

JOSEPH CARDILLO

(Write-in)

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER

(for 3 Years) Vote for not more than ONE

CHARLES M. HAFNER

(Write-in)

TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS

(for 3 Years) Vote for not more than ONE

(Write-in)

SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST

(for 6 Years) Vote for not more than ONE

CELESTE C. COOK

(Write-in)

TURN BALLOT OVER AND CONTINUE VOTING

SAMPLE BALLOT

ZONING AMENDMENTS

PLANNING BOARD PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 1:

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the New London Zoning Ordinance? YES

NO

The Planning Board proposes to amend Article XVI, Shore Land Overlay District. The major change is Sections J and Section K will be deleted and moved into Article XX, Legal Non-Conforming Uses, Legal Non-conforming Buildings and Structures and Legal Non-conforming Lots for the purpose of placing all requirements related to non-conformity in one place, and includes replacing the words "Normal High Water" in Section J 2 (b) with the words "Reference Line". Provisions to Section G, Waterfront Buffer will be changed to allow for the removal of diseased vegetation; to require replanting when dead, diseased or unsafe trees and saplings are removed and to provide for the use of points for shrubs and groundcover when replanting. Provisions to Section H, Natural Woodland Buffer will include percentage requirements exclusive of impervious surfaces. Provisions of Section E, Development with Waterfront Access will be changed pertaining to waterfront access and common areas. In addition other minor editorial changes such as removing references to previous amendment dates and renumbering are included.

PLANNING BOARD PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 2:

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the New London Zoning Ordinance? YES

NO

The Planning Board proposes to amend Article XX, Legal Nonconforming Uses, Legal Non-conforming Buildings and Structures, and Legal Non-conforming Lots. Section C. Legal Nonconforming Lots will be revised to include a new item C (1), as the existing language of C 1 and C 3 are no longer needed.

PLANNING BOARD PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 3:

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the New London Zoning Ordinance? YES

NO

The Planning Board proposes to amend Article II, General Provisions, Section 5, Height Regulations. The proposed amendment is to delete the last sentence of # 5 Height Regulations and include it with the other nonconforming provisions of Article XX. This is intended to make the document more user friendly by having related provisions in the same Article.

PLANNING BOARD PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 4:

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the New London Zoning Ordinance? YES

NO

The Planning Board proposes to amend Article XV, Floodplain Overlay District to delete Section (I), as Section (I) incorrectly references Section (H), Article XVI, the Shoreland Overlay District which pertains to the Natural Woodland Buffer. This provision pertains to nonconforming structures, and there are provisions in Article XX which already address the Floodplain Overlay District (current provisions B.(3) (b) (1).

PLANNING BOARD PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 5:

Are you in favor of the adoption of Petition Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the New London Zoning Ordinance? The Planning Board approves this petition. YES

NO

The Planning Board has received a Petition Zoning Amendment to rezone approximately 0.26 acres of land from Urban Residential (R-1) to Commercial (C) on the rear section of property located at 74 Pleasant Street, Tax Map 084-079-000.

YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED VOTING