

**NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 3, 2009**

**PRESENT:**

Andy Deegan, New London Conservation Commission, Chair  
Laura Alexander, New London Conservation Commission  
Emma Crane, New London Conservation Commission  
Vicki Koron, New London Conservation Commission  
Bob Brown, New London Conservation Commission  
Dan Allen, New London Conservation Commission  
Terry Dancy, New London Conservation Commission, Alternate  
Ruth White, New London Conservation Commission, Alternate  
Peter Stanley, Town of New London, Staff

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Larry Ballin, Selectman, Chair  
Mark Kaplan, Selectman  
Tina Helm, Selectman  
John Wilson, New London resident, Pleasant Lake Protective Association  
Dick Clayton, New London resident, Pleasant Lake Protective Association  
Terri Bingham, New London resident, Messer Pond Protective Association  
Ron Koron, New London resident, Little Lake Sunapee Protective Association  
Carol Foss, New London resident, Little Lake Sunapee Protective Association  
Robert Wood, Staff, Lake Sunapee Protective Association  
Bob Crane, New London resident

Chair Deegan called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Chair Deegan then explained that the purpose of the special meeting was to recommend to the Board of Selectmen how to distribute limited funds for milfoil prevention among the various lake associations. He further explained that there was a total of \$18,500.00 appropriated at Town Meeting for this purpose and that the lake associations had requested the following amounts:

- Messer Pond Protective Association (MPPA)                      \$4000.00
- Little Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LLSPA)            \$7913.00
- Pleasant Lake Protective Association (PLPA)                    \$7000.00
- Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA)                    \$5000.00

He went on to say that the LSPA request had been submitted after the deadline for submittal and felt that this presented an awkward set of circumstances. He did not want this to happen again. With that he opened the discussion to the floor.

Dan Allen asked how much the various associations had received the year before. Andy Deegan replied as follows; LSPA - \$5000.00, PLPA - \$7000.00, LLSPA - \$6680.00 (they had returned \$890 in unexpended funds), and MPPA - \$2000.00 for a total of \$19790.00 expended.

Dick Clayton then suggested that the available funds be apportioned based on the ration of each associations total cost for the program to the sum of the costs for all.

Ron Koron then suggested that this approach could be a problem because LSPA has three towns contributing to their program.

Mark Kaplan then responded that each of the 3 towns on Lake Sunapee contributed \$5000.00. Emma Crane followed up by asking how much was appropriated by the other towns this year. Robert Wood responded that the other towns had level funded at \$5000.00.

Vicki Koron asked what the cost of the LSPA milfoil prevention program was. Robert Wood replied that the costs ranged from \$13,000 to \$32,000, but that the lake host program without matching funds from the New Hampshire Lakes Association NHLA (which is down this year) is \$9300. Carol Foss then interjected that the match from NHLA was based on the number of inspections.

Ron Koron suggested that comparing costs between organizations was like comparing apples and oranges.

The conversation then shifted as Mark Kaplan explained that there was actually about \$43,000 in the overall capital reserve fund for milfoil prevention and treatment, and it will run out. Larry Ballin then explained that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) could spend more than the \$18,500 that was appropriated, but since this was what the Town Meeting voted for, the BOS was not inclined to overspend the line item.

Terri Bingham then asked about the \$128,000 figure (in the summary spreadsheet prepared by Jessie Levine). Mark Kaplan explained that this was the total cumulative amount expended to date, and that \$43,000 was left in the fund. Larry Ballin indicated that the Town was not committed to spending the remainder of the fund next year – it could be that nothing was spent next year and then have an appropriation in 2011.

Ron Koron then asked what the Town's responsibility was with respect to milfoil prevention and control. Mark Kaplan then responded that, if it can be done, the Town will be involved, and is committed to preserving the lakes. Mark also indicated that he hoped there would be significant private sector involvement as well. Larry Ballin and Tina Helm also responded that it was in the Town's interest to participate, to the extent that it could given the process, in controlling milfoil.

Terri Bingham then spoke at length on the uniqueness of Messer Pond's risk, given how small and shallow it is and about the active volunteer activities there.

Larry Ballin then asked how many boats were inspected at each lake. Various people responded with the following inspection tally (there was also much discussion about unique boats versus inspections – I have included only the inspections to be consistent); MPPA – 100, LLSPA – 1250, PLPA – 1321, LSPA – 2355.

Ron Koron then explained that with the matching of volunteer time and different hourly rates, the comparisons were difficult to make, and then offered that 18% of the money came from the state, 43% from the town, and the balance was cash and hourly match from the lake associations.

Larry Ballin then commented that the BOS does care about the issue, but there are finite resources and lots of other important requests for money. There was then a follow-up discussion between Tina Helm and Dick Clayton that I cannot decipher.

Vicki Koron then suggested that the available funds be apportioned as suggested by Jessie Levine in her summary spread sheet. John Wilson countered that the amounts should be level funded with last year's expenditures. Terri Bingham objected that that would not be fair and would be prejudiced against the smaller organizations. Laura Alexander then recommended proration as suggested by Jessie Levine, and Terry Dancy concurred.

Dick Clayton then brought up how much coverage was involved and indicated that PLPA covers the ramp 11 hours per day 7 days a week. There was spirited and lengthy discussion about coverage that followed, with no particular conclusion.

Mark Kaplan suggested that if the apportionment suggested by Jessie Levine was used, there would be over \$24,000 left for next year. Andy Deegan concurred, and said that the entire amount of \$24,500 could be similarly prorated next, if appropriated at Town Meeting.

Motion: Dan Allen moved that the \$18,500 appropriated by Town Meeting this year be appropriated as Suggested by Jessie Levine in her summary spread sheet as follows;

- LSPA           \$3868.19
- PLPA           \$5415.46
- MPPA           \$3094.55
- LLSPA          \$6121.80

The motion was seconded by Emma Crane. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Bob Brown then brought up that the process used to be more formal in the beginning, with a written invitation to request funds, including a proscribed format with accounting of expenses, inspections, hours of coverage, etc. and had somehow reduced itself something much less formal, with the latest being a simple email. He suggested that the process needed to go back to being more formal, with a specific format. He also suggested that the process begin much earlier in the year, if possible. Andy Deegan agreed vociferously.

After much discussion about the timing of requests and the availability of funds from NHLA, it was generally agreed that the lake associations be involved in the process at the very least from the time appropriations are approved at Town Meeting, if not before. Ron Koron asked if a warrant article addressing the amount available for milfoil prevention and control could be presented by petition. Members of the BOS responded affirmatively. John Wilson indicated that the contribution to the Capital Reserve Fund could be increased next year as well.

A general discussion about the future of the program ensued, with no particular direction or conclusion.

Laura Alexander moved to adjourn the meeting. There was a second by Dan Allen and the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Stanley, acting as Secretary.