



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES November 8, 2011

PRESENT: Tom Cottrill (Chair), Jeff Hollinger (Vice-Chair), Tina Helm (Selectmen's Representative), Emma Crane (Conservation Commission Representative), John Tilley, Michele Holton, and Peter Stanley (Planning & Zoning Board Administrator)

NOT PRESENT: Paul Gorman (Secretary), Deirdre Sheerr-Gross (Alternate), Michael Doheny (Alternate)

Chair Cottrill called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Master Plan Work Session

Chair Cottrill called on Peter Stanley for an update on the progress of the Master Plan

Mr. Stanley referred to a memo that had been sent around by Mike McCrory from UVRPC, who has been working with the Planning Board on the Master Plan. The Planning Board was familiar with the memo. Mr. McCrory explained in the memo that he had found a few things that needed to be fixed while looking through the latest draft of the Master Plan. Mr. Stanley asked if anyone else had found any errors that should be fixed. He suggested including a brief executive summary to present the document and explain what they wished to accomplish by compiling it.

Chair Cottrill wondered what the average number of pages a document of this sort had. Mr. Stanley said between 50 and 100. New London's document is over 300 pages long. He opined that they need to stop updating past Master Plans and come up with a new approach to creating it. He also agreed that the detailed chapters were helpful for each department to have, but it was not useful or perhaps even appropriate for a Master Plan.

Ms. Helm asked if this would be copied and distributed to the entire town. Mr. Stanley said that only a few actual copies would be made and dispersed throughout the town (library, Town Office, Planning Office) and that it would also be made available online as a PDF.

Some members of the Planning Board feared that the most important information would be lost among the many details within each chapter. It was also a concern that many of the earlier chapters seemed out of date and only referenced information through 2009. Mr. Stanley thought that something should be written in the executive summary about this so that people would understand the complexity of the document and the lengthy time it took to compile.

Mr. Stanley thought that the summary looking back from the year 2020 could be removed. That would reduce the document by about 10 pages. There was also some information in the Open Space Lands section of a chapter that also appeared in the appendix. It was noted that the Water Resources chapter was 35 pages, which seems lengthy.

Chair Cottrill wondered if Mr. McCrory could look at the document, after it was presented as-is, and try and pare it down to about 50 pages. Perhaps this could then serve as a blueprint for the next Master Plan. Others agreed that this was a good idea.

Chapter 1: Introduction

“fifteen” years should be changed to “ten” years in two spots.

Page 7 – 3rd paragraph: “required the groups to ____ if there should be.” Mr. Hollinger said the missing word should be “decide.”

Chapter 2 – Conservation

Mr. Stanley suggested referencing the appendix for the inventory instead of having it in the main part of the chapter.

Page 33 - #11 There is an extra space between Soo-Nipi and Park.

Chapter 3 – Water Resources

3rd paragraph – Sewerage should be “sewer.”

Change 2010-2011 to “remove containments in the near future.”

Page 70 – solid waste: “mitigated in 2010” should be changed to “in the future.”

Mr. Tilley said if they justified the text to the left side only, it would decrease the length of the document. Chair Cottrill suggested bringing the font size down and if people reading it online would like to make it larger, they can do so easily on their computer. Mr. Stanley said he would pass these suggestions on to Mr. McCrory.

Mr. Stanley said that Mr. McCrory referenced two dates for the preliminary public hearing. Nov. 29th or Dec. 6th. December 13th was suggested for the noticed public hearing. They would adopt the Master Plan on the 27th of December, assuming there were no major changes.

The 29th of November was decided as the date for the preliminary public hearing. It was determined that there would be a quorum for this date.

On November 22nd President Tom Gallagher would be present to discuss changes in the college. There would be an annexation/merger, a lot line adjustment, changes to zoning language, Timber Harvest approval, and a waterfront tree cutting request. There would be a CIP review and adoption also.

Those available to meet on December 13th for the public hearing were: Tilley, Helm, Holton, Cottrill

Those available to meet on December 27th for the Master Plan adoption were: Helm, Crane, Hollinger, Cottrill

With regard to the three choices of Master Plan covers, it was determined that choice #1 was the best.

Minutes of October 25, 2011

IT WAS MOVED (Tina Helm) AND SECONDED (Jeff Hollinger) to approve the minutes of October 25, 2011 as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Jeff Hollinger) AND SECONDED (John Tilley) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London