



Municipal Matters

New London, New Hampshire

January 2017



The Mary D. Haddad Memorial Bandstand decorated for the holidays. The Town Offices, located in the 1837 Old Colby Academy Building, is the building on the left.
Photo by Robert J. Kozlow



New London Designated as a NH HeartSafe Community

The New London Board of Selectmen will be presented with the NH HeartSafe Community designation at its meeting on January 23rd.

Designation as a New Hampshire HeartSafe Community represents a coordinated effort by the New London fire and police departments, New London Hospital emergency medical services, various other town departments and town officials, the Kearsarge Regional School District and the many New London businesses that are committed to saving lives.

Attending the presentation will be Michael Dickinson, American Heart Association Northeast; Bill Wood, NH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services; New London Hospital staff: Pamela Drewniak, EMS & Emergency Prep Coordinator; Terry Moulton, Emergency Dept. Director; Tim Monahan, Manager of New London Ambulance Service and his crew, if available, and New London public safety personnel.

Richard Lee Announces Retirement

44 year veteran of Public Works Department will enjoy time off starting in December

At its meeting on December 19th, the New London Board of Selectmen received official notice from Public Works Director Richard Lee that he will retire on December 15, 2017.

In true Richard Lee fashion, he is thinking of the Town, and of his co-workers, by giving the Selectmen and Town Administrator a full year to find his replacement. In the coming weeks a plan will be developed to find Richard's replacement, and it is hoped that Richard will be able to spend a few months with the person to help in the transition. Upcoming issues of *Municipal Matters* will include articles on Richard's tenure with the town, and updates on the search for his replacement.

One thing is certain, it will be very hard to replace Richard Lee!

Selectmen and Budget Committee Finalizing the FY2018 Budget

The New London Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee independently prepare a budget and then the two boards come together to see if there are areas where the two can agree. The meeting to discuss the differences, a "reconciliation meeting," will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 1st at 7:00pm at the Town Offices.



New sand & salt shed at Public Works Department will ensure easy access to the town's sand & salt for winter maintenance needs. The appropriation for this structure was approved by Town Meeting voters in March 2016. Cost: \$73,000

New London Conservation Commission



The weather may be turning more winter-like, but that hasn't slowed down the New London Conservation Commission. Projects and planning are on-going to improve and expand the town's trails and to implement conservation initiatives for the betterment of the community.

Through the guidance of the NLCC, New London Hospital, the Town of New London, and Eversource have collaborated to create a walking trail that will connect Newport Road, Parkside Road, and the Lyon Brook

Trail. The trail will run from Newport Road near the WNTK building, along the utility right-of-way towards Parkside Road. Before reaching Parkside, it will enter the woods and run parallel to Parkside and then connect to the existing Lyon Brook Trail. The resulting one-mile loop, with connections to the hospital parking lot and Outing Club will provide in-town opportunities for walkers, joggers, and commuters. The Conservation Commission will construct this trail, with assistance from the Highway Department, and the work is estimated to be completed in about one year.

Now that the Esther Currier Wildlife Management Area at Low Plain has an American Tree Farm certification, the selective harvesting of trees on the western part of the property will be moving forward. This harvest is part of the Low Plain Stewardship Program plan. The Low Plain is home to many species of birds and other wildlife, and the trail is known for being a great place to walk and to observe animals in their natural habitat. The Steward Program will help to improve the environment so existing wildlife can flourish and new species can be attracted to the area. The first part of the project will be cutting trees and brush to create an access area for the equipment needed to harvest the trees. Selective tree cutting will occur over the winter, creating areas that will promote wildlife use and will provide new growth of plants that attract birds and mammals. The NLCC had a pre-harvest Low Plain Stewardship Plan public tour on Saturday, January 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM. Visit the NLCC web site, or send us an email, for more details.

When you visit the many trails around town you will notice that there are QR code signs posted at the trail heads. These are provided to assist visitors to know the length and configuration of the trails. By scanning the QR code with your smart phone you'll be directed to a map of the trail, located on the New London Conservation Commission web site.

Another aid for visitors to the trails are the new "You Are Here" maps, which are being installed at many locations. These laminated maps show the entire trail configuration and will be located at trail heads and at locations along the trails.

Speaking of trails, we need to remind everyone that the NLCC has a Trail Hiking Patch program. To receive a patch, one must hike all the trails on the trail walk list. The trail list can be downloaded from the NLCC web site. Once all the trail walks are completed, the list is submitted to the Town of New London. Patches are usually presented at the May and October meetings of the NLCC. *Photo by Mike Gelcius*

PLEASE BE ICE SAFE ...

It is important to remember with the varying weather conditions this winter, the ice may not be safe. Just because the lakes and ponds have been covered by ice for a few weeks, one should exercise caution. Weak ice is formed when warming trends break down ice, then the slushy surface re-freezes. Here are a few tips from NH Fish & Game.

- It is not advisable to drive vehicles onto the ice.
- If on foot or skating, please carefully assess ice safety before venturing out by using an ice chisel or auger to determine ice thickness condition. Continue to do this as you get further out on to the ice, because the ice thickness will not be uniform all over the waterbody.
- Though all ice is potentially dangerous, the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research & Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, NH, offers a "rule of thumb" on ice thickness: **There should be a minimum of six inches of hard ice before individual foot travel, and eight to ten inches of hard ice for snow machine or All-Terrain Vehicle travel.**
- **Be especially careful of areas with current, such as inlets, outlets and spring holes**, where the ice can be dangerously thin.
- **Stay off the ice along the shoreline if it is cracked or squishy.** Don't go on the ice during thaws.
- **Watch out for thin, clear or honeycombed ice.** Dark snow and ice may also indicate weak spots.
- **Small bodies of water tend to freeze thicker.** Rivers and lakes are more prone to wind, currents and wave action that weakens ice.
- **Don't gather in large groups or drive large vehicles onto the ice.**
- **If you do break through the ice, don't panic.** Move or swim back to where you fell in, where you know the ice was solid. Lay both arms on the unbroken ice and kick hard. This will help lift your body onto the ice. Carry a set of ice picks; they can help you pull yourself out if you do fall through the ice; wear them around your neck or put them in an easily accessible pocket. Once out of the water, roll away from the hole until you reach solid ice.
- **Ice safety is also very important for snowmobilers.** Don't assume a trail is safe just because it exists; ask about trail conditions at local snowmobile clubs or sporting goods shops before you go.



New London Firefighters on frozen Lake Sunapee

Photo by Kittie Wilson



What's in a name?

Whipple Memorial Town Hall

There is often confusion about the various names people use for town properties. This column will address a building or location in town, with some explanation, in an effort to clarify the correct name(s) for the building or location.

Whipple Memorial Town Hall (often referred to as "Whipple") is the beautiful brick building, with recently repaired cupola, that faces Main Street, next to the Town Common. It was added to the State Register of Historic Places in 2015. Whipple is used for town voting, meetings that are too large for the Selectmen's meeting room, and for many Recreation Department programs. Because "town hall" is in the name, some mistake it for the "town offices"; the town offices are located in an entirely different building (it will be the subject of a future "What's in a name?" column). For more information on historic **Whipple Memorial Town Hall**, go to the New London Archives Committee website: www.nlarchives.org and select "Historic Listing" in the Blog Briefs.

Photo by Minette Sweeney

Attached to Whipple Memorial Town Hall are additions that are now used for Police and Dispatching, and Recreation. These departments are not actually in Whipple, but more on that at a later date.



Santa Claus made a magical appearance at the New London Inn to see all the children and gather their Christmas lists! Special thanks to New London Police, Fire, and Recreation Departments.

Pictured with Santa and his elf helper is Leah Stone, Occee Ilg, Carly and Reagan Lorio, Charlotte and Spencer Lund.



Mark Your Calendar

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day — Mon. Jan. 16th Town Offices CLOSED**
- Conservation Comm. — Wed. Jan. 18th @ 8:30 am
- Budget Committee — Wed. Jan. 18th @ 7:00 pm
- Board of Selectmen — Mon. Jan. 23rd @ 6:00 pm
- **Planning Board Meeting—Public Hearing Zoning Amendments— Mon. Jan. 23rd @ 6:30 pm Whipple**
- Planning Board — Tues. Jan. 24th @ 6:30 pm
- Citizens Advisory Committee—Sat. Feb, 4th @7:30 am—Whipple
- **Public Hearing Zoning Amendments—Mon. Feb. 6th @ 6:30 pm Whipple**

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at the Town Office, 2nd floor, 375 Main St. Please see the town website for a full list of meetings and locations.

It's Town Meeting Season!

Town & School Elections School Warrant Articles Zoning Amendments

**Tuesday, March 14, 2017: Voting
7:00 AM – 7:00 PM**

Whipple Memorial Town Hall

Town Meeting
Warrant Articles

Wednesday, March 15, 2017 @ 7:00 PM

Kearsarge Learning Campus/Outing
Club Gym

114 Cougar Court, New London

*Town Reports will be available for pick-up
after 3/7/17 at the following locations:*

*New London Town Offices, Tracy
Memorial Library, New London Transfer
Station .*

Also available on line at www.nl-nh.com.

*Municipal Matters is published by
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