



Municipal Matters

New London, New Hampshire

May 2015

TOWN MEETING 2015

Election & Zoning Amendment Voting at Whipple Memorial Town Hall, May 12th, 8:00am—7:00pm

Town Meeting at Kearsarge Learning Campus Gymnasium, May 13th, 7:00pm

May 12th—Election and Zoning Amendment Voting—Whipple Memorial Town Hall. 8am-7pm

New London is indeed fortunate that so many citizens are willing to step up and run for office. On May 12th you will be asked to select the people you feel will best serve the citizens of New London in the various offices including selectman, treasurer, town clerk, trustees of the trust funds, library trustees, budget committee, cemetery trustees and supervisor of the checklist. To review the ballot in advance of voting, please go to the town website: www.nl-nh.com

Recent Planning Board Actions

As part of its ongoing responsibilities the Planning Board reviews provisions of the New London Zoning Ordinance and related regulations for possible changes that meet current and future needs of the Town. Residents will vote on May 12 whether to adopt two proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.

The first proposed amendment would delete the current definition of Family and replace it with a definition of Family that includes a range of accepted forms of committed relationships and nuclear households. It also deletes consideration of “domestic servants” as a separate class of occupants of Dwelling Units.

The second proposed amendment replaces the existing Sign Regulation with new language which the Planning Board believes clarifies and makes the ordinance more user friendly in a number of ways, while maintaining the current principles of sign regulations for the Town.

The complete text of both proposed amendments is available on the Town’s website and copies can be obtained at the Town Office.

In addition to these proposed amendments which require voter approval, this winter the Planning Board amended the Town’s Site Plan Regulations to establish a threshold for site plan review in the case of a change in use or changes in the interior floor plan layout of non-residential property.

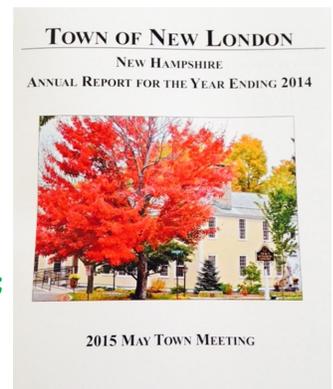
The Planning Board is currently reviewing the provisions of several of the Overlay Districts which pertain to the conservation of natural resources in the Town. Residents interested in these provisions are encouraged to attend Planning Board meetings, the times for which are listed in the Town’s Meeting Calendar.

Annual Town Reports are in!

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

- ◆ The Town Office and Office of the Tax Collector/Town Clerk;
- ◆ Tracy Library;
- ◆ Transfer Station

Please remember to bring your report to Town Meeting on May 13th at 7:00pm



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 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 of the articles and allow people to follow along by reading it themselves.

Article 3: To see if voters will approve a \$350,000 loan to make repairs to the Academy Building (siding and windows) and if funds allow, repairs to Whipple Memorial Town Hall.

Article 4: 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 5: This article seeks funding for Public Safety: police, fire, emergency management and communications (dispatching).

Article 6: This article seeks funding for Highways, Streets & Sanitation: public works personnel, street maintenance, street lighting, transfer station and sewer department.

Article 7: This article seeks funding for Health & Welfare which includes the health officer and welfare officer, funds to assist the needy, support of the ambulance and support for Kearsarge Council on Aging, Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Assoc. and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Article 8: 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 9: This article includes funds to make the principal & interest payments on the town's outstanding debt.

Article 10: This articles seeks funding for payments into various capital reserve accounts. These are the town's "savings accounts" for future purchases.

Article 11: This article will ask voters to approve expenditures from capital reserve funds to purchase vehicles and equipment for the Fire Department, Police Department, Highway and Sewer Departments.

Article 12: This article seeks approval to use library capital reserve funds for completion of the upgrade to its mechanical systems.

Article 13: This article seeks approval to use recreation facility capital reserve funds to make improvements to the Elkins Bathhouse and replace docks.

Article 14: This article seeks funding to purchase two communication consoles for use in dispatching.

Article 15: This article will ask voter approval to discontinue (close out) various capital reserve accounts that are no longer needed. The funds in these accounts will go back into the general fund.

Article 16: This article will ask voters to establish a new capital reserve account to begin saving for fire department radios, and to place \$15,000 into the fund.

Article 17: Like Article 16, this will create a new capital reserve account, this one for communications (dispatching) equipment, and will place \$5,000 into the fund.

Article 18: This article will ask voters to appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from the Bridge Maintenance capital reserve fund. The selectmen will then be able to spend money from the fund, for bridge maintenance only, without a further vote of town meeting.

Article 19: This article asks voters to go back to having a March Town Meeting.

Article 20: This article asks voters to ratify the renewal of the Elkins Post Office lease for a period of 5 years.

Article 21: This article was submitted by petition and seeks to establish a committee to study the feasibility of having a Police K9 unit.

Selectmen to offer an amendment to
Article 7: \$78,775 additional funding for
New London Ambulance

In February the Town of Newport notified New London Hospital, and the Town of New London, that it would no longer provide backup for the New London Hospital Ambulance. Newport explained that it took this action *“in an effort to optimize the assets of the Newport Fire/EMS Department for the Town of Newport, ...”*. New London Hospital officials met with Newport officials in an attempt to reverse the decision, but the Town of Newport ultimately decided to stay with their original decision to discontinue backup service. However, Newport selectmen did agree to extend the deadline for discontinuance of backup service to June 1. It should be noted that Newport ambulance will continue to respond in the event of a mass casualty incident (MCI) should one occur.

New London Hospital reported to New London selectmen that if no action was taken to cover the calls that were responded to by Newport in the past, there would be 50-75 incidents of extended wait times for response by an ambulance. To prevent the possibility of so many instances of wait times, New London Hospital presented three options for the town to consider. The option recommended by New London Hospital and the Board of Selectmen is the one that calls for an additional payment of \$78,775 to purchase another ambulance and increase 911 staffing for the ambulances, with a focus on a 7am—11pm timeframe, when the demand for an ambulance is greatest.

Board of Firewards Chair Steve Ensign, Fire Chief Jay Lyon and Town Administrator Kim Hallquist met with Bruce King, President and CEO of New London Hospital and Rick Riley, Manager for Ambulance & EMS Services to discuss this issue and the options available to the Town. There was agreement that the option recommended by New London Hospital is in the best interests of the Town of New London to ensure that the highest quality of reliable ambulance service continues to be available to New London citizens.

March vs May Town Meeting
Article 19

At this year’s Town Meeting you will be asked to vote on changing Town Meeting back to the second Tuesday in March (Article 19.) The following are some points to consider regarding this change.

- The optional fiscal year adopted by the Board of Selectmen in 2009 will not change. Town Meeting, either March or May, will vote on a budget that will begin on the following July 1.
- A March Town Meeting would mean Town voting will coincide with the School District voting, generating a greater participation for the School voting. Since the change to the May Town Meeting, the School District voting in New London has declined dramatically. A March Town Meeting will allow for one day of voting per year for both Town and School business. Currently there is separate voting for the School (March) and the Town (May).
- Department Heads, Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee will begin developing the following year’s budget soon after the current fiscal year begins, approximately 10 months before the start of the new year. Longer range planning will be required and more estimating will be used during the budget process as firm costs might not be available.
- Very little current year actual data will be available during the budget process.
- Any unusual issue occurring between March and July requiring Town Meeting vote would necessitate a special Town Meeting.
- The original change to a May Town Meeting was an attempt to increase attendance. The outcome is that there has been little change in attendance at the May Town Meeting. We would anticipate the same number of voters whether Town Meeting is held in March or May.

Fire Department Seeks Approval For New Utility Vehicle

With all of the recent calls in the last couple of weeks, the New London Fire Department has been extremely busy. Your firefighters have been covering calls including a major building fire, an accident extrication, and a couple of brush fires. With these recent incidents and an aging pickup truck, the need for a new utility vehicle is truly warranted.

We are planning to replace our current pickup with a vehicle that is very similar to the existing one, with some minor changes. This new truck will have a utility style body with compartments accessible from the sides of the vehicle, and a more traditional pick-up style bed. The utility is used every weekend by the on-call officer and the fulltime personnel during the week. With this new body style we will be able to transport dirty hose and equipment back to the station after a fire, instead of having members use their personal vehicles. During the forestry incidents we will also be able to transport a water tank and firefighting equipment to remote locations that our apparatus can not gain access to. [the utility vehicle is in Warrant Article 11]

Your support has always been very appreciated and if you have any questions please call the New London Fire Station at 526-6073, and ask to speak to Jay Lyon.

Recreation Department News—Summer 2015

Recreation Director Scott Blewitt reports that Elkins and Bucklin beaches will be staffed with lifeguards beginning on Saturday May 23rd, on weekends only, and then daily starting on June 18th (perfect timing as school is out for the summer!). Please note, on rainy days the lifeguards are not on duty.



The Sun N Fun Day Camp has a new Camp Director: Danielle Jallah. Danielle and the camp counselors will begin the 8 week camp season on June 22. The camp is open to boys and girls ages 5-12 years old, and goes from 8am—4:30pm, Monday—Friday. Each week includes a trip to a kid friendly location: Ellacoya State Park, Whale's Tale Waterpark, The Flume, Wallis Sands State Beach, Canobie Lake Park, Fisher Cats game, Weirs Beach & Arcade and a movie at Smitty's!

Swim lessons will once again be offered at both Elkins and Bucklin beaches. There are three 2-week sessions to choose from, beginning the week of June 29th.

The Jr Summer Adventure Camp is a Tuesday/Thursday noon-4pm option for kids ages 8-12. Activities include fort building, gardening/farming, fishing, archery, disc golf, and more!

Please contact Scott Blewitt, Recreation Director at recreation@nl-nh.com or 526-6401 for more info or to sign up!

**** Mark Your Calendar ****

May 12th: 8:00am-7:00pm. Town Elections & Zoning Amendment Voting: Whipple Memorial Town Hall.

May 13th: 7:00pm: Town Meeting: Kearsarge Learning Campus Gymnasium—Cougar Court.

May 13th: 5:30pm: Annual Potluck Dinner before Town Meeting— join in on the tradition of the Town Meeting Potluck Dinner! Bring a dish to share and enjoy dinner and conversation with your friends and neighbors before heading to Town Meeting. Contact: Janet Roberts: jsidmore@tds.net for more information. Don't miss this Town Meeting tradition!

Next Property Tax Bill Due:

July 1st

Bills will be mailed soon!

Municipal Matters is published by the staff of the Town of New London. Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator, 526-4821 ext.13; townadmin@nl-nh.com