

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Town of New London
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2026

Members Present: Russ Moore (Chair), Emily Campbell, (Vice Chair), Woody Canaday, Bebe Casey (Select Board rep), Ed Condict, Don Eberly, Judi Ferreira, Grant Smith. Mike Ryan was an excused absence due to family illness.

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Moore at 5pm

Meeting minutes of March 11, 2026 were reviewed, seconded and unanimously approved with no additions or corrections.

Chair Updates

4/6 - The Chair met with Ashley Seybolt, Town Administrator. Ashley suggested that the Committee give an update at the Select Board Meeting (April 23 at 5 pm) before soliciting public input into the plan. Moore requested attendance by available BPAC members. Emily, Judi, Grant, Ed, Don and Woody conveyed their interest in attending. Bebe emphasized that the presentation should be very brief and focus on the exact Committee request to the BOS. Bonin Architects will attend and share recent discussions as well as an updated schematic.

The Chair discussed an email notification received on 3/31 from Adam Ricker of a grant award received from the National Fisheries and Wildlife Federation for storm water management design and a proposed rain garden configuration in the immediate vicinity of the municipal parking lot. The grant award was facilitated by the Upper Vally Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. The engineering firm of Wasson & Sampson will conduct the storm water management assessment and suggest mitigation strategies. The grant is for engineering design work to be conducted in the summer of 2026. The Town would be required to reapply to the funding source for the installation of stormwater mitigation construction cost which would be a competitive process with other NH Towns participating in the program. The Committee briefly discussion this development. The proposed park is elevated above the municipal parking lot and does not contribute to storm water run-off to the municipal parking lot. The Committee agreed that independent of the parking lot design consideration, the pocket park should incorporate sound ecological landscape design practices.

Ashley Seybolt is scheduling a meeting with Adam Ricker, Sam Clarke and a few BPAC Committee members to discuss the underground features of the proposed pocket park parcel and to secure their input on the latest conceptual design rendering.

Also included in this meeting discussion, Town Manager Seybold indicated the next master planning process is the best opportunity to incorporate a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) into the town planning process. The BPMP should address many issues raised by the Committee such as parking, road safety, street crossings, and pedestrian safety. Currently there is ongoing communication between the Committee, Select Board, Town Manager, and Highway Dept members on these issues.

The Chair met with the following contacts since the last Committee meeting to solicit ideas and suggestions for the Walkable New London Initiative and the pocket park proposal:

2/17- Glenn Pogust, Kezar Lake Protective Association (KLPA) , to obtain an update on the possibility of a small grant to incorporate environmental stewardship features into the pocket park planning. KLPA is still considering this option but has prioritize lake shoreline remediation efforts as a first priority.

4/3 - Graham Pelletteri Associates Inc. discussed providing in kind contributions for the landscape installation and maintenance. Graham provided a few comments on the design and maintenance considerations that were very helpful. His colleague, Polly Perkins, Landscape Designer, has agreed to a site visit to provide additional suggestions.

2/17 - John Christ, UNH Cooperative Extension Service, via phone, reviewed the draft Case Statement for the pocket park. John make helpful edits to the document and suggested abbreviating its length.

4/18 - Kelly Keith, Director, Council on Aging, Chapin Senior Center expressed the Center's strong support for this project. The Cener will post information on the initiative on their website. The Center has an active Outdoor Recreation group that will be particularly interested in the benefits of this project.

4/18 - KRHS teachers Rebecca Hemingway and Colleen McIntyre supervised the Experiential Learning Opportunity (ELO) Program. identified an incoming senior class student interested in doing an independent study. Emily Campbell and Judi Ferreira agreed to work with and oversee the student's project.

The Chair will briefly present info on the Walkable New London Initiative to the Citizen's Committee meeting on May 2nd. Steven Wright is the Chair.

Committee Discussions:

BOS Meeting Preparation

Emphasis on succinct info sharing, but focusing on the desire to create opportunities for public input, focusing on community needs (bikers, pedestrians, multiple demographics), and clarifying a long-term maintenance plan. Eberly noted that the parcel is a valuable, yet underutilized piece of property with potential to bring many different people together.

Naming the park- discussion about many choices available, including identifying historical or geographic significance of the property. Other options were to focus on donor recognition or public input via a contest.

Community outreach ideas were generated which include:

- Online survey with feedback tool

- Feedback from individuals recording their own use

- In person small group presentations to share info

- Informal focus group meetings with stakeholders to be part of decision making

Timeline projected:

May to July: community outreach
Aug to Sept: integrate ideas and suggestions
Late Summer: begin fundraising plan (to include how monies will be collected)
Mid-Sept: collect information to get cost estimates

Further discussion included members needing to identify how much time each can realistically devote to the project.

Fundraising organization and donation collection procedures need to be determined. Many NH Towns that have created pocket park campaigns utilized Town staff and accounts to raise funds. In discussions between the BPAC Chair and Town Administrator, the Chair conveyed that the Committee does not want to place an administrative burden on Town staff if the campaign generates a large number of small gifts. Bebe Casey pointed out that the Town has accepted charitable gifts previously, i.e. the Crescenti Bog Aluminum Planking Project, but the volume of these gifts was relatively small. The New London Bike Walk Coalition, an local affiliate of the Bike-Walk Alliance of NH, is able to process gifts on behalf of the Town but BWANH assesses a transaction fee for every gift received. An additional concern is in regard to the Bike Walk Alliance of NH is not a well-known organization locally. These scenarios are not of an immediate concern but when this project is publicized members of the public may spontaneously make gifts without a direct solicitation.

Safety issues

The Committee agreed that safety issues in the immediate vicinity of the proposed pocket park should be addressed as part of the planning process. With the newly constructed Strawberry Blossoms pre-school across the street and the possibility of pre-school children guided walks in the proposed pocket park pedestrian safety and traffic slowing measures are critically important at Pleasant and Main Street. Canady noted that conditions are particularly hazardous on Pleasant Street due to the narrow street width, limited visibility, motorists not making complete stops and heavy use.

Sidewalk Repair Update

Repairs are moving ahead and finishing touches are pending on newly installed sidewalks near Colby-Sawyer. When completed curb repair and new sidewalks will extend from Seamans Road to the Colby-Sawyer Loop entrance. Condict noted that the construction area in front of the Baptist Church and its impact on the sidewalks will be repaired by early June. The next sidewalk segment to be repaired encompasses Newport Rd to the SAU school driveway. Remedial work in significantly deteriorated areas, along with Elkins near the beach will follow. This is all part of the planning Sam Clarke finalized in both the DPW operating budget and multi-year capital reserve fund budget. Please convey your sincere appreciation for DPW's continued effort to increase the walkability of our downtown area. In a brief conversation with Sam Clarke, the Chair noted that Sam does not anticipate a slowing of the sidewalk repair and replacement project with the construction of a new DPW maintenance garage anticipated in 2027-2028.

Multi-Use Trails

Smith reported several events and advancements including coordination with Colby-Sawyer College and several proposed multipurpose trail installations in neighboring communities. Smith announced the public launch of the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMPA) Kearsarge Chapter scheduled in May at Hoptimystic Brewery in Sunapee. Grant will provide the Committee with more details regarding the NEMPA Kearsarge Chapter launch party.

Next BPAC meeting is May 21 5PM at Whipple Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Minutes drafted by Judi Ferreira
Additions and edits by Russ Moore

