



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Call to order – Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Brown (Chair), Michael Kennedy, Mark Vernon (arrived at 9:00 AM) , Michael Gelcius, Jim Dexter, Sue Andrews, Dave Hollinger

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rob Prohl

OTHERS PRESENT: John Ellis, Audrey Chijner, John Doyle

Permit applications updates – Mike Gelcius

- Eversource project
- 782 Pleasant St. beach replenishment
- South Cove Rd. – sewer approval

Easements – Sue Andrews

Sue has started monitoring the Webb Forest. Van Webb is aware that it needs to be monitored.

Conservation Land Projects

- 088-006 – the sellers attorney and the town attorney have spoken.

Budget

- At the budget hearing on 1/10/24 the CC operating budget was discussed, and the CC had asked for an increase. The BOS reduced it by \$3000. And that is what they recommended to the BC.

Cricenti Philbrick Bog

- Three purchase orders for Phase 3 with HCAP have been approved.
- Hoping to have the installation date be in early June, volunteers will be needed to bring the lumber and aluminum to the phase 3 area.
- Still quite a bit of work to be done with the boardwalk/planks.
- The Piggy bank at the bog raised \$41.00 since the last NLCC meeting.
- Have raised \$69K with private funding for Phase 3
- There was some discussion on having the parking area plowed.

Trails - Mark Vernon

- Pleasant Lake High Trail & Spring Ledge Loop Trails – lots of critter activity – Mark Vernon stated that the high-water levels are the new normal.

Messer Pond Protective Association

A lengthy discussion was held, and updates given on the MPPA:

Clark creek waterflow in being monitored daily

A dock broke loose and was up against a culvert, it was then removed by DPW.

John Doyle asked if the report was received and if anyone had questions, it contained great photos and a great narrative. The report suggested some solutions that need to be addressed.

The MPPA has spent \$4500. and has received grant money. They are asking the town to maintain and monitor the wetlands. They feel that the town needs to manage water flow in all properties/ponds in New London. (not just Messer Pond)

The normal operating budget was increased, but the funds get used very quickly.

If the goal is to mitigate problems, there is not a specific fund to do that.

MP is a town property and as a Conservation Commission are very aware of the issues.

People from the MPPA may attend the next BOS meeting as well as the next BC meeting.

The BC asked Chair Brown to reconsider the repurposing of the land acquisition fund. Bob checked with Kim Hallquist and legally it can be done. It would have to be a warrant article.

- **Motion** made by Michael Gelcius that the Conservation Commission Land Acquisition fund only be used to acquire land. **Second** by Jim Dexter. **Unanimously approved.**
- **Motion** made by Bob Brown to accept the December 20th, 2023, meeting minutes as amended, **second** by Michael Kennedy - **Unanimously approved.**
- **Motion** made by Mike Gelcius to adjourn the meeting. **Second** by Michael Kennedy. **Unanimously approved.** The meeting was adjourned.

New Business

- Earth day is April 22, 2024 – Mark suggested we consider a guided hike in the Webb Forest.
- NHACC - legislative update, a bill is being proposed that would require CC to be elected as opposed to being appointed. (HB1302)
- Next meeting Wednesday, February 21st, 2024, at 8:30 AM at **SYDNEY CROOK ROOM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jackman
Town of New London