



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257 • WWW.NL-NH.COM

NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes -Approved

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Call to order – Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Brown (chair), Mark Vernon, Rob Prohl, Sue Andrews, Michael Kennedy, Bob Hutter, Dode Gladders

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Gelcius

OTHERS PRESENT: Peg Birch, (NL resident) Lynn Whitman & Bonnie Hill (Sutton CC)

Justin Leverque, Assistant Director, from Tracy Library was on the agenda and was going to speak about his upcoming NH Humanities' project with the book "The Bear". Chair Brown stated that he will wait to hear from him as it is unclear what he wants the CC's involvement to be.

Permit applications updates – Bob Brown

- Only 1 sewage permit.

Conservation Land Projects

- 088-006 –Chair Brown explained to the visitors about this property. The town attorney is going to reach out to the internet bank that is involved. Chair Brown has been calling the realtor every other week.

Land Acquisitions

- Bob Brown (or Mike Gelcius?) has a copy of the desirable land list. He will send the electronic list to Sue Andrews and she will review the list with Ausborn Sargent's list.

Budget 2023/2024

- 2023 - We are at the 6-month mark of the current budget. We are over in the line item of trail intern. Mark Vernon is going to look at the line items.
- 2024 – asked for \$50K, it was cut in half – BOS has cut all capital reserve accounts. It will be on the town warrant.

Philbrook/Cricenti Bog Walkway

- Have raised \$49K for phase 2
- It was stated that before we start fundraising for phase 3, we need to complete phase 2 and take photos to use for phase 3.
- Discussion was held about what next? Who do we want to reach out to for phase 3? Should there be a subcommittee formed for phase 3? How much more money is needed to do Spruce Loop? Labor costs?
- Order placed with Hi Country Aluminum – hope to receive it in June

- There is a dead tree that needs to be taken down, it is near the boardwalk and if it falls it could damage the new boardwalk. Dode is going to look into the removal of it.
- Need to go through the bog and decide where to put benches, rope railings and posts

Easement monitoring – Sue Andrews

- Bob Brown sent Sue a copy of a report from NHF&G “MOA” from their visit on Oct. 25, 2022. Sue Andrews would like to walk this area in the spring, Mark Vernon & Bob Hutter said they would go too.

Trails – Mark Vernon

- Have plenty of stacked lumber.
- Low Plain entrance on Shaker Street – would like to put in a small rough driveway
- Low Plain entrance on Andover Road – needs to be cleaned up
- Clark Lookout boundary line has been marked
- Webb Forest trails needs a makeover, Mark reached out to CSC but has not heard back, he also had contact with Van Webb.
- A recommendation was made to perhaps have signs at each interpretive location with 2-3 sentences explaining the trail.
- Peg Birch & Mark will be working on the plant identification markers in the spring.
- The Messer pond culvert area has standing water, a drone flyover showed 3 or dams. Paul Devoe, of Devoe Wildlife Corp. looked at the videos of Messer pond and is prepared to look at the area by foot. It may not be beavers that are causing the blockages, it could be muskrats. Chair Brown is going to reach out to someone to see if a better drone video could be done.

New/Old Business

- Rob Prohl is looking into free classes from LSPA.
- Mark Vernon stated that we need to review the land owner trail agreements, as there are some new owners. Mark will update the list and check with Kim Hallquist.

Motion made by Rob Prohl to accept the December 21st, 2022 meeting minutes as amended. **Second** by Mike Kennedy. **Unanimously approved.**

Motion made by Bob Brown to adjourn the meeting. **Second** by Bob Hutter **Unanimously approved.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM

Next meeting Wednesday, February 15th, 2023, at 8:30 AM at **Whipple Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jackman
Town of New London