



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

8:30 AM

Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically. The public has access to contemporaneously listen and participate in this meeting through the video conferencing platform Zoom.us.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Brown (chair), Michael Gelcius, Ruth White, Michael Kennedy, Mark Vernon, Joe Kubit, Jamie Hess, Russell Moore, Andy Deegan (arrived late)

1. **Call to order** – Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 8:30am. The meeting was recorded.
2. **Public comment** – None
3. **Permit applications** - driveway project on Lakeshore Drive approved by DES
4. **Review and accept the December 16, 2020 draft meeting minutes**

IT WAS MOVED (Michael Kennedy) AND SECONDED (Mike Gelcius) to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting. Mark Vernon noted to change #5 Bog board walks to past tense. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Trails

Jamie Hess & Russell Moore– Energy Committee spoke about town bike and pedestrian friendly trails and show slides of proposed locations. They are in the very preliminary stages and are asking for the CC support. Joe Kubit moved for the CC to show support, Michael Kennedy seconded – all were in favor.

6. **Trail Maps** – running low on the 2017 version. Mark Vernon working on updating them and have RC Brayshaw print them.

7. Projects

- The American Chestnut Foundation has limited supply – ordering 25 seedling wetland packages to be planted at Harvest/Low Plain site. All permitting is still valid and the warrant article is still valid.
- Land acquisition – low plains – land owner spoke with a realtor and came back at a price that does not make sense.
- Big Hilltop expansion – 2 house lots 30 acres, town owns lot next to park and ride owner will sell it to the town for \$1.6 million. Andy Deegan spoke on behalf of Ausborn Sargent, they would have to do another fund raiser, not sure about the easement agreement and learn more about the options.
- Mike Gelcius spoke of the Dr. Trimmer – Syd Watt has one unit that is powerful and in good shape, purchased for \$200. Included extra gas cans and cords.

- Master Plan – the end is in site, public hearing is soon, pay attention to the section of Natural Resources and Energy.
8. **Pine Hill Ski Club** – there were questions about where to place the structure, there is a section of wetlands and it is near the gravel pit. Item tabled until the spring.
 9. **Budget Hearing** - Bob Brown attended the hearing via zoom and he said that there were not many questions. They passed the operating budget. BOS discussed approving the \$25K and the option of increasing it to \$35K. vote did not pass, approved the \$25K.
 10. **Invasive Program** – Doug Cygan was going to be giving a presentation at the library but it did not happen due to Covid. Maybe one could be held this summer outside near some of the Japanese Knotweed. Also, the Emerald Ash borer is showing up in New London and is advancing.
 11. **New Business** –
 - Joe Kubit spoke about the BOS meeting to discuss the recreation department and the Outing Club
 - Mark Vernon – we are underutilizing the CSC senior’s capstone projects, he will reach out to Nick Baer.
 12. **Next Meeting Date** - The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2021
 13. **Motion to Adjourn**

IT WAS MOVED (Michael Gelcius) AND SECONDED (Michael Kennedy) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jackman
Town of New London