



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2021

6:00 PM

Via Zoom

### PRESENT:

Janet Kidder, Chairman  
Nancy Rollins, Selectman  
John Cannon, Selectman  
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator  
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

### ALSO PRESENT:

Will Kidder, New London Town Clerk  
Tina Helm, New London resident  
Joe Cardillo, Rob Prohl, Budget Committee members  
Colin Beasley, New London Resident  
Peter and Karen Hoglund, New London Residents  
Minette McQueeney, *Intertown Record*  
Leigh Bosse, *The Messenger*

Chair Kidder called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and read the Zoom authorization information before calling the roll: Nancy Rollins: present, John Cannon: present, Janet Kidder: present.

### Appointments

#### Bob Bowers, Buildings & Facilities Committee

Kim Hallquist stated that the Building & Facilities Committee submitted a memo to the Selectmen on December 14, 2020 regarding the Tracy Library sprinkler system and the Transfer Station. The Library Trustees have since responded to that memo and disagree with the recommendation of the Building and Facilities Committee about delaying the project, they will be moving forward on it. Bob Bowers has informed her that the Building and Facilities Committee will meet to discuss the Trustees' response. With regard to the second item in the memo; the transfer station, the Committee has assigned member Joe Cardillo to follow-up on that.

Joe Cardillo briefly addressed the Transfer Station Land issue stating that the Committee, as a whole, suggested that they move forward to look at the study that was done at the transfer station. According to the study that was done, there is enough land there to expand the facility even without acquiring the state land that abuts it. Mr. Cardillo volunteered to work with the Selectmen to pursue the acquisition of the state land if they decided to move forward with that. Mr. Cardillo clarified that according to the report, they may not need that additional land. They can renegotiate traffic flow and build a new structure or two on the land we already own.

Ms. Hallquist agreed and stated this is one of the reasons the Selectmen were not very concerned when the state initially said no to selling the land to the town, understanding that following up to get a reversal of the decision was a possibility. The Selectman also felt that there was a chance that the state may

change its mind. There is no further recommendation from the Building & Facilities Committee at this point.

Chair Kidder stated they could write another letter to the state regarding the land acquisition and explore this possibility again, however before any action she would like to engage Karen Ebel, Dan Wolfe and Ruth Ward to see what their recommendation is.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: None**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Make appointments to the Housing Commission.**

In December, the Selectmen interviewed nine potential candidates for the Housing Commission. Since that time, one of the candidates has withdrawn. The candidate did state that she would help the commission as an attendee if they would like. They are still waiting to hear from one candidate about whether she wants to continue to be considered. Amy Kaplan has expressed an interest in being on the Commission but was unable to attend the interview meeting. Ms. Hallquist recommended appointing the eight candidates that already interviewed as well as Ms. Kaplan as she is already known to the Board; this will result in nine members. This would leave three open alternate seats that could be filled in the coming weeks. The committee consists of seven full members and five alternates. They all have to be residents of New London. If the Selectmen do decide to appoint them this evening the Commission could start planning their meetings and organizing themselves as a Commission.

Kim Hallquist explained that the town voted last year to establish a Housing Commission. This is a group that is charged with investigating, researching and recommending issues related to all types of housing in a community. It can work on zoning changes or work with developers to bring housing to the town. It does a lot of advisory work.

Selectman Rollins suggested appointed seven members and two alternates with the individuals that have expressed interest. The outstanding applicant that we have not heard from could potentially be an alternate as well. Selectman Rollins recommended appointing Steve Theroux and Celeste as alternate members as they already serve as town officials.

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to accept the seven full commission members, Tom Vinnatta, Marilyn Kidder, Winfried Feneberg, Amy Kaplan, Peter Nichols, Kate Turcotte and Timothy Lund and alternate members Steve Theroux and Celeste Cook. Nancy Rollins: yes, John Cannon: yes, Janet Kidder: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Nathaniel Stevens – request of town meeting approval for sale of town land:.45 acre – Map 136/1/0, that abuts his property**

Kim Hallquist referenced a map that showed where the property is located. Mr. Stevens is wondering if the Selectman would agree to put the matter on the warrant for a vote at town meeting. If the Selectmen agree, it would be done without the need for a petition. This town owns piece of property would be sold to Mr. Stevens and it would become part of his property. It is valued at \$60,000 but Mr. Stevens will have an appraisal done.

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to approve putting this on the warrant for the town to vote on. Nancy Rollins: yes, John Cannon: yes, Janet Kidder: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Town Meeting 2021**

Kim Hallquist stated the legislature is working on a bill now that may add another option to the options below. Currently the options are:

1. Hold Town Meeting as usual at the SAU Gymnasium and hope that there are not more than 100 people to be able to observe social distancing. This option is not likely to be available to the town given that the meeting usually has more than 200 people attending.
2. The law does allow to hold the meeting via Zoom. There would be a drive by voting option in this case.
3. Town meeting could open as usual at 7am on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> for voting on candidates and the Moderator could declare an emergency due to Covid-19 so that the business portion of the meeting could be held at a later date when potentially it could be held outside with social distancing.
4. There is a potential that the state legislature will approve a bill to allow for the complete postponement of Town Meeting, both voting and the business portion, until the spring. This likely will not be known until early February.

Each option has pros and cons, but it is important to choose the option that allows the most voters to participate in the annual meeting in the safest way possible. Selectman Rollins would like to get the options out to the citizens of the town to get a sense of what they would like to do.

### **Dedication of Annual Report**

Kim Hallquist submitted the names of people who passed away in 2020 and who made important contributions to the town: Marilyn Andrews, Priscilla Ohler, Tomie dePaola and David Kidder. The Board agreed to dedicate the report as suggested.

### **Town Administrators Report**

Ms. Hallquist provided the following report:

- The skating rink is open. They are looking for volunteers to help clean it off. Ms. Hallquist noted she is getting a lot of calls about skate rentals. Village Sports had donated skates in the past but there is no staffing the Recreation office so it's a challenge to get skates out to people. They may not do it this year. The Recreation Commission will be deciding about this issue soon and information will be posted on the town's website.
- Interviews will begin for the Finance Officer position on Friday.

### **Committee Meetings & Reports**

**Planning Board** – Chair Kidder reported that a Planning Board meeting was held on December 8, 2020. There were several tree cutting approvals and a conceptual was discussed on 406 Main Street for office space and apartments. There was also a subdivision of the Dorr Family Farm that was approved.

### Meeting Minutes

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2020 meeting. Nancy Rollins: yes, John Cannon: yes, Janet Kidder: yes. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.**

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting. Nancy Rollins: yes, John Cannon: yes, Janet Kidder: yes. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.**

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 meeting. Nancy Rollins: yes, John Cannon: yes, Janet Kidder: yes. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.**

### Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

- Next regular Selectmen's meeting – Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 PM – via Zoom
- Budget Committee – Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM – via Zoom
- Citizens Advisory Committee – Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 AM – via Zoom
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – Town Offices CLOSED

Please see the calendar on the town website for a complete listing of other meetings, including subcommittee meetings, of the various town boards: [www.nl-nh.com](http://www.nl-nh.com)

### Items to be signed

- Accounts Payable Voucher
- Notice of Intent to Cut – Route 11 – 088-007 & 098-014
- Veterans Credits

### Applications Approved &/or Denied

#### Sign Permits – approved

- Permanent Signs 20-34 – Dr Dorothy L Hitchmoth, 255 Newport Road, TM 059-005 -0-0-0.

#### Building Permits

- Michael & Jennifer Caponigro, Rowell Hill Road, TM 123-044-0-0-0. Build a 12x20 shed. BP 20-152 approved 12/18/20.
- Chris Wood & Linda MacEachern, 104 Pond's Edge Lane, TM 106-016-0-0-0. BP 20-153 approved 12/18/20.
- Rosemarie Bernard, 149 Barrett Road, TM 084-052-0-0-0. Removed 13x13 section of deck & rebuilt – After the Fact. BP 20-141 approved 12/22/20.

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. Nancy Rollins: yes, John Cannon: yes, Janet Kidder: yes.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:36PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson  
Recording Secretary

