



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes - Approved

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Brown (chair), Michael Kennedy (arrived at 10:30), Mark Vernon, Michael Gelcius, Sue Andrews, Rob Prohl

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Bartlett, Peg Birch, NL resident, Jim Dexter, NL resident, Putnam Kidder, NL Recreation Director, John Doyle, MPPA

John Doyle, MPPA – John spoke to the board with an update on the Messer Pond watershed and beaver dam items. MPPA has applied for a grant and should be hearing soon. They have hired Stoney Ridge consulting firm to evaluate Clark Pond and Messer Pond water flow, they will be coming back and using a drone.

Paul DeBow has also been in Messer pond and removed muskrats and beavers.

A **motion** was made by Sue Andrews to approve up to **\$500**. For Paul DeBow to do an evaluation of the beaver dams and to give MPPA an estimate. **Seconded** by Mike Gelcius, **all approved**.

John Doyle will go to BOS to give them an update.

Putnam Kidder, NL Recreation Director – Mike Gelcius and Putnam have discussed the idea of creating a Junior Hiking Trail program. It would be promoted by the NL Rec. department, on their social media and having brochures and maps at the recreation office.

- Mark Vernon offered to work on creating a shorter list of trails for youth to use.
- Stickers may be more of a draw than the patch.
- Possibly use the rec. van to transport youth to the hiking trailheads.

Side note: Rob Prohl is on the COA board and is willing to speak to them about participating in the town hiking programs.

Tracy Memorial Library – Chair Brown has been in touch with Erin Garzia about collaboration on the Big Read program, it is still being worked on and more information at next CC meeting.

Fenwood Association – the Fenwood president has been in contact with Mike Gelcius about the Fenwood property easements and restrictions on the use of salt, calcium and ash. They would like to change some of their restrictions. Sue Andrews is going to review their documents and also will confer with Andy Deegan (ASLPT).

Permit applications updates – Mike Gelcius

- 510 Bunker Road – remove old wooden dock, replace with new seasonal dock
- Light house view road, section of driveway to cross over wetlands.

Conservation Land Projects

- 088-006 – been over 2 years, asked for P&S to be updated. Some legal expenses have occurred. Bob Brown to speak with Kim Hallquist.

Budget

- BOS wants to see all operating budgets. Kim Hallquist and Bob Brown have spoken in great detail. Chair Brown mentioned it seems appropriate to put in extra money for lumber supply and intern fees.
- CIP funds land acquisition item.

Trails

- Peg Birch stated that she purchased a bin to store all the labels and posts in for the winter.
- Mark Vernon has installed the first batch of signs on the Webb Forest trail, 2nd and third batch are pending.
- Sue, Mark and Don found the pin at the Kellet property and have put up two blue bird houses to mark the boundary.

Cricenti Philbrick Bog

- What is it going to cost to complete Bog project?
 - Approximately \$67K
 - Have \$21K – still need \$40K +/-
- Suggestions: have a warrant article
- Go back to Mary Haddad fund
- Ad in shopper
- Overall Phase I and II of walkway is holding up well.
- New kiosk is great, sign up sheet works well, people from all over have signed in. Piggy bank looks great and is receiving lots of donations.
- Thank you notes are being sent out by Sue Andrews.
- Update letters are going to be sent to donors of \$1000. Or more.
- The Chamber of Commerce mentioned the bog project on WNTK.
- Yankee Cable network, (Laura James) in conjunction with Mascoma bank (Tom Hoyt) interviewed Bob Brown at the bog. Should be aired within a few weeks.
- Lumber is needed for bog and for back up in storage.
- Rope for the walkway railings has been ordered.
- Bog awareness day was a great success, approximately 120 people and \$310. Received in the donation jar. Thanks to all that participated!

Old/New Business

Motion made by Mark Vernon to accept the September 20th, 2023, meeting minutes, Second by Mike Gelcius. **Unanimously approved.**

Motion made by Bob Brown to adjourn the meeting. **Second** by Mark Vernon **Unanimously approved**. The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 8:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jackman
Town of New London