



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

October 26, 2020

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:

Jean Connolly, Center for the Arts
Bill Helm, New London Resident
Steve Solomon, Library Trustee
Will Kidder, Town of New London Tax Collector
Sandra Licks, Library Director
Wendy Dumais, Library Board of Trustees
Bob Bowers, Buildings & Facilities Committee

Budget Committee Members: John Raby, Lyndsay Harkins, Joe Cardillo, Rob Prohl, Michael Williams, Chris Lorio, Lauren Snow Chadwick, Jerry Coogan

Chair Kidder called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, read the authorization for the zoom meeting and called the roll: Nancy Rollins: present, John Cannon: present, Janet Kidder: present

Public Comment – None

Jean Connolly, Center for the Arts

Jean Connolly met with the Board to discuss the use of Whipple Town Hall by the Center for the Arts. She stated she has sent letters previously to provide information on what the Center for the Arts has been doing, explaining that it has been challenging due to COVID19 and while they have been able to do their programs it has been in slightly different ways. Mostly they have been doing virtual events. Any live events will be strictly regulated so they are hoping to live stream their programs for the community.

Ms. Connolly stated for the past couple of years Center for the Arts has been seeking a home. They have appreciated all the places they have utilized in many other communities, but their home base really is New London. They already have office space and storage space, but they would like one central location to hold events. They would also like to hire a part time program manager at that central location. They are suggesting a partnership with the town with the ability to use the space on a more consistent basis. They would like to put up a sign outside the building for better visibility. Ms. Connolly understands this is an issue because they are not a town agency, but the town doesn't have a community center. The Center of the Arts is an asset to the town, and they would like to continue working with the town.

Kim Hallquist noted that currently Whipple Town Hall is not open due to COVID. In the past, the town's policy has been that non-profit organizations can use Whipple as often as they want as long as it is not being used for town purposes. They are allowed four free uses per month and then after that there is a charge.

Selectman Rollins thanked Ms. Connolly for her presentation. She stated once Whipple reopens it would be available but the town would be requiring a use agreement that also demonstrates they have liability insurance. Selectman Rollins also thinks it would be premature to talk about establishing a home base in that building although she understands the desire to do that. She suggested that Ms. Connolly reach out to the Outing Club, the Recreation Commission and COA to discuss the continued need for a community center in New London.

Selectman Cannon agrees that this is the start of a conversation and with the time delay due to COVID there is an opportunity to discuss collaboration.

Chair Kidder stated that as long as town buildings are closed to the public due to the pandemic, it is too early to discuss future use of Whipple Town Hall.

Plans to reopen Tracy Library

Library Director Sandra Licks attended the meeting to discuss plans to reopen the Library. She stated she is pleased to announce that later this week the library will be open for limited walk through service during which patrons will be allowed to come in and browse. This will start this Wednesday afternoon and will be limited to the main floor. There will be limited capacity and will be first come, first served. They will offer open hours for the youth services department on Thursday mornings by appointment only. Social distancing, the wearing of masks, hand sanitizing stations and cleaning protocols will be in place. Visits will be limited to 20 minutes. Outdoor story time will continue until it gets too cold. Computer use, photocopying and printer use will not be offered at this time. Ms. Licks understands that patrons are anxious to get back to using the library, but her staff and their families has been the priority.

Bill Helm – Proposal to establish Financial Projections 2020-2030 Panel

Bill Helm stated at a recent Board of Selectmen meeting he discussed the need to start thinking about long term plans for the town and to consider all of the needs facing the town. Several former Selectmen have a lot of experience dealing with town issues, so he proposed having them assist the current Selectmen and other boards in town to establish paths for projects for the next decade. Mr. Helm recommended that a panel of former selectmen be appointed for this purpose.

Selectman Cannon suggested including the town treasurer or other financial experts be involved as well.

Selectman Rollins agreed and would like Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer to be involved. She feels having diversity amongst the group is important.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to appoint former selectmen Larry Ballin, Peter Bianchi, Doug Lyon, and Bill Helm and Finance Officer Wendy Johnson as an advisor, to a panel to look at fiscal planning options for the Town of New London. Nancy Rollins: Yes, John Cannon: Yes, Janet Kidder: Yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Request of Pine Hill Ski Club for use of town land for x-country ski trails

Ms. Hallquist stated the Ski Club has used town land at the Shepard Pit on Mountain Road, for many years and they submit a certificate of insurance each year for the use. Public Works Director Bob Harrington and

Bob Brown, chair of the Conservation Commission are aware of the use as well. The Club will work directly with the Conservation Commission for use of their land.

It was moved (Nancy Rollins) and seconded (John Cannon) to approve the request of Pine Hill Ski Club for use of town land for x-country ski trails. Nancy Rollins: Yes, John Cannon: Yes, Janet Kidder: Yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Emergency Management staff using recreation department office space

Ms. Hallquist reported that she spoke with Emergency Management Director Lou Botta last week about the need for space for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) leader who is trying to get the CERT team together and asked for space in the Academy building. Ms. Hallquist stated she told him she didn't think that would work since they need space to allow for social distancing and there is a lot of activity that goes on in that building. She suggested using the Recreation Department space since there isn't currently a Recreation Director.

Selectman Cannon stated he has concerns that everyone is going to rush to fill that space and he would like to slow down and look into this further. Ms. Hallquist stated there is an urgent need right now as they are trying to get the CERT team up and running. It would be a temporary use and could be terminated at any time.

Selectman Rollins would prefer not to see anyone using that space. She understands the CERT team needs space but thinks they need to look at something else and does not support the use of that space at this time.

Chair Kidder has concerns that the team is working out of their homes and have records etc stored there instead of in a town facility. She thinks it would be helpful on a temporary basis to allow the CERT leader to hold trainings, use the desk and have materials stored in that space. Selectman Rollins stated they could use Whipple Hall for training but does not agree with setting up an office there. They should be able to find space elsewhere. If there is a space need it should go before the Buildings and Facilities Committee.

Bob Bowers, Buildings & Facilities Committee Chair, has concerns it could become a permanent space for them and it needs to be available if the Police Department needs it. Mr. Bowers noted that in a previous conversation it was stated that the Emergency Management Department operations should not be in the same building as the Police Department so he questions allowing them to use space in the Recreation Department which is next to the Police Department. Mr. Bowers thinks the Selectmen should give serious thought to allowing the Police Department to have the space and put the appropriate safety measures in place. It would solve a lot of their space needs.

Assign Selectmen coverage for polls on November 3, 2020

The Selectmen agreed that John Cannon will do the morning shift, Chair Kidder will do the 11-3 shift, and Selectman Rollins will cover the 3-7pm shift.

Town Administrators Report

Ms. Hallquist provided the following report:

- Kim Hallquist visited the Pingree Road site today with Bob Harrington and the bridge is looking great. Hansen Bridges is doing an excellent job and should be finished by Friday.
- There is a problem with campaign signs being stolen; several citizens have called to complain about this problem. WMUR had a story about it over the weekend and it is considered theft to take signs. Ms. Hallquist will put an article in *Municipal Matters* about this to encourage people to stop removing signs from private property.
- A meeting will be held on Thursday to get a quote on drapes for Whipple TownHall.

- An email was sent regarding possible dates for the meeting to observe the meter calibration in the sewer department with Sunapee so she asked the Selectmen to please let her know what date works.

Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2020 meeting with one amendment. John Cannon would like to include in the minutes that the Building and Facilities Committee will be meeting with the Police Chief regarding safety issues with the building. Roll call vote: John Cannon: Yes, Janet Kidder: Yes, Nancy Rollins: Yes. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

- Next regular Selectmen's meeting – Monday, November 2nd – 6:00 PM – Zoom
- Joint Selectmen & Budget Committee – Monday, November 2nd – 6:30 PM – Zoom
- Planning Board – Tuesday, October 27th – 6:30 PM – Zoom
- Buildings & Facilities Committee – Thursday, October 29th – 6:30 PM – Whipple Hall
- Citizens Advisory Committee – Saturday, November 7th – 7:30 AM – via Zoom

Items to be signed

- Accounts Payable Voucher
- Application for Sewer Connection, Building Expansion &/or Service

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Building Permits

- Susan Nye Trust, 1084 Lakeshore Drive, TM 065-005-0-0-0. Add dormers & 14' x 13' addition. BP 20-115 approved 10/23/20.
- Lori & Chris Niehaus, 155 Owls Nest Road, TM 141-002-0-0-0. Build fitness area & bedrooms. BP 20-126 approved 10/23/20.
- Jason & Sheri Cote, 94 Elkins Road, TM 088-004-0-0-0. Build 14' x 16' playhouse. BP 20-131 approved 10/23/20.

6:45 PM: Selectmen and Budget Committee Joint meeting to prepare FY2022 budget

Chair Kidder called the roll of the Budget Committee: Robert Prohl: present; John Raby: present; Lauren Snow Chadwick: present; Chris Lorio: present; Lyndsay Harkins: present, Michael Williams: present, Joe Cardillo: present.

Library

Sandra Licks reported that the appropriation request this year is \$562,000 which is a little lower than last year. This request includes a 2.5% wage increase for employees. The Library Board of Trustees may later request a cost of living adjustment but that has not been decided yet.

Michael Williams asked about the status of the sprinkler system installation. Ms. Licks responded that the latest update is that they recently had a walk through with the contractors so they are hoping to have bids by the end of the year. The concern is that the \$250,000 bond that was approved last year may not be enough. If it is not enough, they will work with the Selectmen who are agents to expend the Library Capital Reserve Fund. They would not do any current capital reserve projects in order to prioritize the Sprinkler System.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Will Kidder reported that his budget includes a request for the addition of an office assistant for 10 hours per week, but the hours could vary. New London's population has grown by at least 360 people and all numbers are trending up with regards to services that are getting used. It is difficult to take vacation time off. Rob Prohl asked if we could find money in the current budget to help with this since the new budget would not be starting for several more months. Ms. Hallquist stated they could hire someone immediately if the Selectmen agreed to it. Selectman Rollins commented that perhaps we could be creative and find ways to help Mr. Kidder take time off. He has been putting in a lot of hours and people would understand if they had to close the town clerk's office periodically for him to take time off.

Social Service (Nonprofits)

Lake Protective Associations: (Other Conservation – Milfoil)

- 1) Little Sunapee Protective Association - Request: \$5,500
- 2) Messer Pond Protective Association - Request: \$3,400
- 3) Pleasant Lake Protective Association - Request: \$6,500
- 4) Lake Sunapee Protective Association - Request: \$5,000

Advertising & Regional Association

- 5) Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission - Request: \$6,160 – This amount is for membership in the RPC.
- 6) Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce - Request: \$12,500 – These funds go towards staffing of the information booth. This helps visitors that come to New London.

Health & Welfare

- 7) COA Chapin Senior Center - Request: \$35,000
- 8) New London Hospital – Ambulance Service - Request: \$184,095, no change from the previous year
- 9) Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice - Request: \$12,566
- 10) CASA - Request: \$1,500
- 11) Community Action Program (CAP) - Request: \$6,000

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to adjourn. Roll call vote: John Cannon: Yes, Janet Kidder: Yes, Nancy Rollins: Yes THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson
Recording Secretary
Town of New London