



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257 • NEWLONDON.NH.GOV

NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Approved
Wednesday, November 15, 2023

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Brown (chair), Michael Kennedy, Mark Vernon, Michael Gelcius, Sue Andrews, Rob Prohl, Jim Dexter (new member) Dave Hollinger (new alternate member)

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Ostler, trail volunteer, Lindsey White, GZA Geo-Environmental, Inc., Jeremy Fennell, Eversource.

Chair Brown welcomed Jim Dexter and Dave Hollinger. Jim is a full member and Dave is an alternate.

Chair Brown recognized Don Ostler for his volunteer work on the trails. Don stated that he is new to New London and asked Bob about the American Chestnut tree projects. Bob explained that there are three locations and filled Don in on how the seedlings etc. grow.

GeoEnvironmental, Inc., & Eversource

- Lindsey White & Jeremy Fennell were at the meeting to fill the conservation commission in on their upcoming plans to replace and install new power poles. There will be 5 new poles on the M127 transmission line, it does cross over some wetlands and some steep slopes. They have applied for Special Exception and a Variance with the Town of New London. There will be no tree removal and no re-planting after the work is done. They estimate starting in March 2024 and hope to be finished by the fall of 2024.

Motion was made by Mike Gelcius that the Conservation Commission does not have any objections to the project as presented. **Second** by Bob Brown. **Unanimously approved.**

Permit applications updates – Mike Gelcius

- LSPA working on a crib/dock reconstruction on Lake Sunapee.
- 782 Pleasant St. – stabilizing shoreline and replenish beach
- 510 Bunker – dredge & fill (DES requesting more information)

Conservation Land Projects

- 088-006 – ongoing – Bob Brown will reach out to the property owner.

Pine Hill Ski Club

- Mike Gelcius stated that the PHSC had contacted him because they were interested in doing excavation and grading work on several areas of their trail system that reside on town property. Currently the slope of the trails in these problem spots causes their grooming equipment to slide off to one side. Mike had attempted to schedule a site visit with members of the NLDPW, the NLCC and the PHSC but did not get a response to his emails.

MPPA – they wrote a letter and the grant application was approved.

- Messer Pond and Clark Creek water level is high, there are about 8 lodges holding water back and keeping it from flowing. Paul LeBow has gone in with his kayak and stated that he could remove the lodges by hand, it could cost up to \$2500.

BOS meeting - (Jim Dexter & Mike Kennedy attended)

- Bob Brown presented to the Board of Selectmen the 2025 proposed budget with a request to increase the operating budget to \$30K.
- May need a warrant article for phase 3?
- Mary Haddad fund is an option. (Bob Brown is to talk with Kim Hallquist to find out how much is remaining in that fund) The Recreation Commission is in favor of the CC using up to \$42K from the MHF. The BOS is also in favor.

Cricenti Philbrick Bog

- Doug (from aluminum company) Bob Brown and Mark Vernon walked the tundra loop and have some new ideas for that phase.
- There is a small order of lumber that is in the storage area on sticks.
- Mike Kennedy stated that he has heard nothing back from Asplundh.
- Sue Andrews stated that there are still donations coming in.
- The Piggy Bank has raised \$165. In cash since the Bob Awareness day!
- Don Bartlett has done an amazing job on the bog trails.
- May send out some end of year donation request letters.

Trails

- Mark & Mike G. are working on the Junior hiking badge, they are going to partner with the Rec. commission and are thinking of recommending the following trails for the youth to hike on to earn the badge:
 - Clark Lookout, Cocoa's path, Kidder Cleveland Clough trail, Shepard's Spring, Messer Pond trail, Philbrick-Cricenti Bog trail, and Davis Path – (this is a preliminary list) there will be more information on the website.
- Webb Forest signs have been ordered. Sue met with Van Webb and Andy Deegan (ASLPT) about the Webb forest 1000 acres. The easement (which the town owns) dates back to 1967 and is very outdated and needs to be revised. Also, that forest needs to be monitored.

Old/New Business

- Bob Brown and Jamie Hess (Energy Committee chair) have been discussing what the CC response would be if we were to partner with the Energy Committee to possibly install an array of solar panels on CC land.
 - If the property is in conservation how does that affect the deed/easement?

- What would be the proximity to power lines?
- ASLPT Round table – Bob Brown attended and met the new Executive Director (Ben Wallace) Sue Andrews stated that Ben is very willing to work with the town. Bob is planning on setting up a meeting with Ben.
- Mark Vernon attended the NHACC meeting, he stated it was well attended and that he attended some informative sessions.
- Tracy Memorial Library & ASLPT & Recreation Commission are doing a hike (11/16/23 @ 2:00) in coordination with the Big Read program and the Big Bear book.
- A Big thank you to all the volunteers with the exceptional work that they do.
- Chair Brown would like the CC to have a “press” secretary.

Motion made by Mike Gelcius to accept the October 18th, 2023, meeting minutes, **Second** by Bob Brown **Unanimously approved**.

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

- Budget committee meeting – 11/29/23 @ 6:30 at Whipple Memorial Hall
- Next meeting Wednesday, December 20th, 2023, at 8:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jackman
Town of New London