



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

8:30 AM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Brown (Chair), Michael Gelcius, Mark Vernon, Andrew Deegan, Maggie Ford, Michael Kennedy, Ruth White, Stanley Morano, Joseph Kubit

**STAFF PRESENT:** Nicole Gage, Zoning Administrator

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Doug Gamsby, Green Line Property Services

1. **Call to order** – Chair Brown called the roll.

2. **Public comment** - None

3. **Permit Application**

**112 Herrick Cove Lane** - Doug Gamsby of Greenline Property Services attended the meeting on behalf of Scott Steffey of 112 Herrick Cove Lane. The shore line approval and septic approval for this parcel have already been received. Mr. Steffey is planning to move the house back three feet and expand it back about 49% beyond the 50 foot reference line and put in a garage. He will improve the drive way, install a new walkway and a new septic system. For erosion control, they need to have 39 cubic feet of water retained at each of the drywells and they will retain about 46 cubic feet at each one. The impervious surface changes from 13.6 to 19.5%. There will be no disturbance during construction within the 50 foot buffer and will be no tree removal.

**Continuum** - A Dredge and Fill application was submitted for the Continuum project to be developed on the County Road parcel. The Planning Board recently approved the site plan development for this project and there is a pending subdivision approval scheduled for the January meeting. Bonds will be obtained by the town and the town has hired an engineering firm to provide weekly reports the town as the project progresses. Nicole Gage will send the notice of decision that was posted by the Planning Board. It provides an encapsulation of the extent of the development and includes the conditions that were imposed.

**212 Poor Road** – approval for sewage disposal

**483 Mountain Road** – approval for construction

**125 Tracey Road** – Nicole Gage asked the Conservation Commission for a copy of the storm water erosion control plans discussed at the November meeting. Mr. Gelcius will provide what he has to Ms. Gage.

**Murray Pond** - Nicole Gage asked the Conservation Commission if they received a response from the Murray Pond association regarding the letter sent to them. Michael Gelcius responded

that he received a phone call from the treasurer. They discussed the reason for the letter and their viewpoint was that since it was a manufactured pond it was private. Mr. Gelcius explained the rules and regulations of the wetlands and that it applies to this. He felt there was a misunderstanding and it was clarified for them. Ms. Gage stated they may ask for a replanting plan and will check with the Town Administrator to see if there more to pursue regarding this.

Ms. Gage stated that New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) is doing a webinar this afternoon regarding funding for Conservation projects.

Mr. Gelcius asked Ms. Gage about the potential change in the grid for the 50X50 buffer. The Planning Board is proposing that we align with the state and change it to the 25X50 rule for tree count points. There will be a public hearing on January 8, 2019. Ms. Gage will forward this information to the Conservation Commission with the proposed amendments.

#### **4. Approval of the November 21, 2018 meeting minutes**

**IT WAS MOVED (Mark Vernon) AND SECONDED (Michael Gelcius) to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2018 meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **5. Warrant Articles**

Chair Brown stated that proposed warrant article presentations have been made to the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board and the Budget Committee regarding their three requests. The Planning Board was in support of the 50/50 split for the forest harvest profits but took no position on the Land Acquisition fund contribution. The Budget Committee is waiting for the final budget hearing before they make any decisions. If it was decided that we want to do a warrant article by petition, 30-35 signatures would be required.

Michael Kennedy stated that he would like to assume that the Selectmen and the town support the Conservation Commission's mission and long range plan. Conserving and acquiring land is part of this mission so there should be a contribution to the land acquisition fund or in a sense they are obstructing the mission.

Chair Brown would like volunteers from the Conservation Commission to attend town meeting and speak to these warrant articles.

#### **6. Trails & Projects**

##### **Forest Harvest project – Low Plain South, Sheppard Pit & other parcels on Wilmot town line**

Chair Brown stated that the forestry harvest on the first parcel on the Wilmot line is done. The Sheppard Pit West parcel has been cut but there have been equipment issues. Once this is resolved it will be a week or more to get the logs out.

##### **Pine Hill Ski Club**

Chair Brown received phone calls from one of the principals of the ski club who is concerned about activity on the trails. They stated there is a signed contract with the town to use the trails and the harvest project is interfering with this. Kim Hallquist clarified that this agreement is not for exclusive use and this is town land.

##### **Trail Mapping**

Mark Vernon stated many of the maps on the website need updating. Mr. Vernon now has a connection with the Regional Planning Commission and they have a mapper who will do 32

map updates for no charge. The estimated timeframe to complete this project will be by the end of the month. They will also help with “You are here” maps that are out on the trails.

Mark Vernon stated there is an opportunity to give Colby Sawyer students some internship work. He has reached out to them but has not been successful. He will put together a job description or proposal to suggest an ongoing program. Mr. Vernon will reach out to Jennifer White. Maggie Ford recommended approaching them to suggest a capstone project.

Mark Vernon discussed the biomass project. There are 18 parcels that have been investigated for timber harvesting. Eight out of the 18 have been prioritized as higher priority and this will be discussed with Leo Maslin in January. Chair Brown would like to do another timber harvest project next year.

## **7. Other**

Andy Deegan discussed the easement monitoring report for the Strawberry Field and Great Brook. The report should encompass all three parcels that make up this easement.

**IT WAS MOVED (Mark Vernon) AND SECONDED (Ruth White) to add this property to the desired lands list. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Patch Program** – Stanley Morono discussed re-launching the patch program. He has a contact that does marketing and graphic design. Mr. Morano discussed updating our patch and suggested doing a t-shirt and hat with the logo. This is good branding for the Conservation Commission. Mr. Morano will take the patch and work with his contact to create the t-shirt, hat and decal and will present it to the Conservation Commission. Chair Brown stressed that good quality is important and suggested using a vibrant color.

## **8. Next meeting date - Wednesday, January 16, 2019**

## **9. Important Dates**

- January 2, 2019 - Final budget meeting
- February 1, 2019 - Deadline for Warrant Articles
- March 13, 2019 - Town Meeting

## **10. Motion to Adjourn**

**IT WAS MOVED (Maggie Ford) AND SECONDED (Ruth White) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:18am

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson  
Recording Secretary  
Town of New London