



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes - Approved  
Wednesday, December 20, 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, Jim Dexter, Sue Andrews, Rob Prohl, Dave Hollinger

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** none

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Don Bartlett, Don Ostler, Andy Hale, Audrey Chijner, John Doyle

### **Permit applications updates** – Mike Gelcius

- 40 Checkerberry Lane – driveway permit and beach replenishment
- 510 Bunker Rd, RFMI, dock replacement
- 431 Shaker St, in violation and has an ATF fine.

### **Easements** – Sue Andrews

- All site visits to the easement properties have been completed and the paperwork received.
- Low Plain 200 monitoring – Chair Brown asked about a marker that cannot be found, recommend waiting until spring and when Leo Maslin is in the area see if he can locate it.

### **Conservation Land Projects**

- Chair Brown stated that there was an inquiry from Jamie Hess (NL Energy Comm.) regarding CC land that could be used for solar arrays in the ground. There may be 15 +/- , 2-acre possibilities. Many parameters need to be met. A few locations could be great sites for this project – Sewer lagoon area, land fill area on Mountain Road, and the stump dump.
- 088-006 – ongoing and still pending, Chair Brown may ask the realtor to come to the next CC meeting.

### **Budget**

- 2025 Operating budget submitted and asked for a 50% increase (\$30K) with \$10K earmarked for trails. Also, funds needed for land acquisitions, lumber supplies, membership dues, etc. are awaiting a budget hearing date.

### **Cricenti Philbrick Bog**

- Private fundraising is close to meeting amount so that we can place an order for lumber.

- Three purchase orders for Phase 3 with HCAP awaiting approval.
- We will be getting up to \$42K from the Mary Haddad fund.
- The Piggy bank at the bog raised \$56.42 since the last NLCC meeting.
- Michael Kennedy is going to continue to reach out to Circle K.

### **Invasives – Knot weed**

- Some areas to be looked at to use some special applications to kill knotweed.
- Bob Brown has reached out to Dode Gladders, they will talk with Bob Harrington, the state has produced some new application designs. There is a 16-hour course to get certified to use the applicators. There are some invasive plants on town ROW's as well as on some CC land.
- Mark Vernon is in touch with NHACC and training. Mark stated that the Citizens committee has expressed their concern a few times about invasive plants.
- Don Bartlett will investigate other CC training.

### **Trails – Mark Vernon**

- Mark sent an email to the committee updating the members on trails.
- Mark would like to build a double decker bridge on Lyon Brook trail.
- Mark would like to have a bench on the Wilmot/NLCC/Greenway trail near the Devil's Half Acre area.
- Mike Gelcius is working with Mark Vernon and Putnam Kidder, of the NL Recreation Department, to finalize the new Junior Trail Patch form and to develop a new patch for Junior hikers.

### **Messer Pond Protective Association**

Audrey Chijner and John Doyle were there to speak on behalf of the MPPA. Audrey spoke about concerns with erosion, abutters getting flooded, beaver dams and culverts. A draft version from the Stoney Ridge Environmental Company was passed around. The final version will be shared with the CC when it is completed.

Discussion followed:

Need a wetland management budget

The land between Bog Road & Clark Pond

The beaver dams have been notched

Two Bog Road culverts were put in in 2014

Chair Brown stated that there are restrictions, and we should fix them, but we are not at a crisis point with the water level. John Doyle said, it levels off and does not allow enough water out.

Sue Andrews asked what exactly is the MPPA looking for? A long-term plan and for the town to:

Create the plan?

Implement the plan?

**Motion** made by Chair Bob Brown to discuss the MPPA issue when the full report from the Stoney Ridge Environmental Company is received. As well as input from Paul DeBow. Then a plan of action will be discussed. **Second** by Michael Gelcius. **Unanimously approved.**

**Motion** made by Mike Gelcius to accept the November 15th, 2023, meeting minutes as amended, **second** by Michael Kennedy - **Unanimously approved**.

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

- Next meeting Wednesday, January 17th, 2024, at 8:30 AM at Whipple Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jackman  
Town of New London