



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

8:30 AM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Vernon; Dan Allen; Laura Alexander, Vice-Chair; Robert Brown, Chair; Michael Gelcius; Maggie Ford, Alternate; Andrew Deegan; Tim Paradis

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Ruth White (**Excused**); Michael Kennedy (**Excused**); Shawn Costello

OTHERS PRESENT: Dick, New London Resident; John Wilson, Pleasant Lake Protective Association; Kasey Lipscomb, Kearsarge High School; Kittie Wilson, Pleasant Lake Protective Association

1. Call to Order Regular Meeting

Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m.

2. Public Comment - for items not listed on the Agenda

- A. Kasey Lipscomb gave an update regarding her 5K. She noted that she has changed the location to the Webb Forest. She is in the process of getting liability insurance, and has received support from the Recreation Department, Rotary Club, Fire Chief, and Police Chief. The only concern that the Police Chief raised was the number of participants, to which Ms. Lipscomb is in the process of creating a website in order to provide accurate numbers.

She is also working on the logo and advertising for the project. The tentative dates are the 21st/22nd of April or the 29th/30th of April. Michael Gelcius suggested Ms. Lipscomb forward the link to her website to the NLCC in order to get it put on the Town website.

- B. Dick indicated he is new to town and is interested in conservation. He is part of the Messer Pond Protective Association.

- C. John Wilson expressed his concerns regarding the future of the Pleasant St. properties. Chair Brown explained the history of the three proposals submitted by Gerry Gold and the Committee's feelings regarding those. He asserted that the Committee will be waiting a year in order to furnish an appropriate easement for the property, in line with the original intent, held by a Land Trust.

There was further discussion among the Committee Members in order to address Mr. Wilson's concerns, and their plans regarding moving forward with a "vanilla"

easement, or a more specified easement, and that the Committee wants to stay in the spirit of what the fund was used for.

D. Kittie Wilson voiced her concerns regarding the future of the Pleasant St. properties. She noted that the literature that was put out by the NLCC is why the Warrant Article was voted on, because there wouldn't be any worries regarding conservation. Chair Brown reiterated that no decisions have been made and that the Committee is working on formulating a conservation easement, prior to the 2018 Town Meeting.

3. Permit Application / Review Committee (Mike & Com.)

None.

4. Planning Board Update

Tim Paradis stated that he wasn't at the previous meeting, but it was a very minimal meeting, from his understanding, concerning a few tree-cutting permits.

5. Review, Confirm, and Approve the January 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (Dan Allen) AND SECONDED (Mark Vernon) to accept the minutes of January 18, 2017. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. NLCC Desirable lands list letters

Chair Brown indicated that the letters have gone out and now the Committee is waiting for responses from the owners.

Mark Vernon indicated that there is a parcel of land that could be a possible "pocket park" on Main Street, where there is a current bench.

7. Trails & Projects

- Low Plain Stewardship Project/Harvest

Chair Brown indicated that work should begin on the property within the next couple of weeks, and that the parking lot may need to be closed down for safety purposes. He stated that the work road needs to be enlarged, per Leo's suggestion; and that old trees could be removed at the time of harvesting.

Andy Deegan noted the NH Fish and Game grant available, up to \$4,000 per year, and not over \$10,000 over 10 years, to potentially fund stewardship project.

Laura Alexander stated that the Committee should apply for that. Chair Brown inquired whether Mr. Deegan could go ahead with the application process.

Michael Gelcius suggested putting up a gate to prohibit people from entering and using it as a trail. He inquired where the entry would take place, considering all the signage is in the most favorable spot. Chair Brown indicated he will ask Leo specifics on the road turnaround.

- Hospital Community Trail

Mark Vernon indicated the Newport Road entrance is to be moved in front of Hubert's parking lot, as agreed to by the owners of Hubert's land; Eversource has given verbal approval. He announced that the hospital is applying for a grant to put fitness equipment around the trail, and to help on building materials. He projected a work day in spring, and a christening hike in June.

Tim Paradis raised concerns regarding if Hubert's owners sell their land at any point. Mr. Allen suggested purchasing an easement on the property, to guarantee that the entrance to the trail remains in place. Chair Brown pointed out that maybe the Faccone family could gift an easement to the Conservation Committee. Mr. Vernon asserted that the trail entrance is in the utility right-of-way, so it's protected.

- Land Owner/NLCC Trail Agreement

Chair Brown stated he, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Vernon came up with 43 parcels, for which letters and agreements have been written. He indicated that it would be better to speak to the owners prior to sending out the documents, which is what is the next step.

8. NL & Vicinity Maps Update/printing

Mark Vernon gave an update as to the status of the map, as well as distributed the most current copy to the Committee. Discussion was held concerning:

- Accuracy of the GIS mapping
- Final map layout, front-and-back, to include any photos/pictures
- Possibility of selling the maps in more retail locations with or without a patch or information on the Patch Program accompanying each map

Chair Brown asked when Mr. Vernon projected completion. He indicated a couple more months, due to the fact that he will be away for three weeks.

9. Town Meeting – March 15, 2017

Mark Vernon and Laura Alexander will be away. NLCC does not have any Warrant Articles to present. Maggie Ford inquired regarding the budget for the NLCC, as agreed to by the Board of Selectman and Budget Committee. Chair Brown responded that he will verify what has been approved.

10. Other

- New Ideas

Dan Allen is resigning to the Board of Selectman from the NLCC. He has been diagnosed with metastatic cancer. The Committee indicated their appreciation for all of his hard work.

Michael Gelcius inquired regarding the future of the NLCC, in terms of membership. Chair Brown responded that it's been 10 months, Shawn Costello has attended two meetings, and never responded to invitations to attend the meetings. He stated that the Town has written him a letter and asked for confirmation of his intentions before he gets removed. He informed that the Committee that they were at seven members plus four alternates. With absence of Mr. Costello, and loss of Mr. Allen, there will be openings available.

- Programs

None.

11. Next Meeting Date - Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. Refer to the Conservation Commission Meeting Schedule and the Town's website for updated meeting information.

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Michael Gelcius) adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria O'Connor
Recording Secretary
Town of New London, NH