



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes - Approved Wednesday, February 21, 2024

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Brown (chair) Michael Gelcius, Sue Andrews, Rob Prohl, Jim Dexter, Dave Hollinger

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Kennedy, Mark Vernon

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Bartlett, John Doyle, (MPPA) Audrey Chijner, (MPPA) Anna White (CSC) Dryden Eliason (CSC)

Permit applications updates – Mike Gelcius

- Two sewage approvals
- Notice of public hearing on 2-27-24 adjustment to properties on Davis Hill Rd. and a Pleasant Street sub division

Budget/Town Meeting

- 85% of 2024 has been spent
- Requested to see the operating budget, had asked for \$31K and the BOS reduced it by \$3K.
- Rob Prohl & Dave Hollinger will be working on a handout to be given out at the Town Meeting (3/13/24). Rob will make the motion and speak to it at the town meeting. (Article 11 and petitioned Article 19)

Trails

- Pine Hill Ski Club has had some bad experiences with dogs and wanted to know if the CC would support them in banning dogs from their trails. There is a state law that dogs must be controlled by their owner.
- Lyon Brook – the 26’ wooden bridge needs major repairs, may look into HC Aluminum to build one.

Desirable Conservation Land List

- 40+ parcels from long ago, Sue Andrews & Mike Gelcius working on updating list by ranking the properties by size, streams, wildlife, wetlands, and other factors. This list is for Conservation Commission internal use only.

Colby-Sawyer College – Dryden Eliason – Community Based Project

- A group of students have been working with PLPA & LSPA doing water testing looking for phosphorus. They have been speaking with long time residents on Pleasant Lake as well as checking on old septic data.

NLCC Update on Messer Clark Pond wetlands

- Bob Brown reports that work on the removal of waterflow blockage continues in the wetlands. A service provider was on site February 19th, 2024, and removed additional buildup over a period of about 3 hours the ice in the work area cracked and broke, indication that the water level had been reduced. This removal work is very strenuous, and the walking surface is unstable and unpredictable in many areas. We have contacted three potential service providers, but none have expressed enthusiasm about taking on such a difficult project. The task seems quite clear. The issue is finding a qualified, reliable, and willing provider. There is one other possible candidate who I am waiting to hear back from. John Doyle has agreed to call SRE and ask if they know of any such removal! provider. This is a simple question of contact details. NLCC will contact and discuss the project with potential providers.
- The water level gage reads 0.8 as of 02/20/24. Hopefully, the water level will drop more as the latest removal allows additional flow. The Bog Rd. culvert is at about 25% water level, with very slow flow.

MPPA

- Water monitoring is on going, water levels went up during the big rains last fall, it has now dropped to 0.8.
- There is blockage on the south side of Bog Road, need to get the restriction out of the bog.
- John Doyle updated the CC on the flow of the bog, it is flowing at 8 to 9 flush rates. The culvert is ½ full and there is concern about the spring rains and snow melt.
- A Zoom call was held with John Doyle, Audrey Chijner, Mike Gelcius, and Cindy Balcius of Stoney Ridge Engineering, they reviewed a list of questions that John Doyle had. They recommend clearing blockages to create flow, work from downstream up. Going to share aerial view from a drone. Mike will send meeting notes to the CC board.
- John Doyle is going to contact SRE and find out if they have a list of companies/people that have prior experience with removing blockages.
- Jim Dexter is going to be the point person.

Cricenti Philbrick Bog

- Phase 3 is ahead of schedule, HCA has the aluminum walkway sections nearly built, hoping for early June installation.
- Received a generous donation from Schwabb grant and a NL resident.
- Donations are on-going but have slowed down.

Old/New Business

- Earth Day – April 22nd, 2024, Mark, Jim & Dave are going to put together a plan to promote the CC trails and to kick off the patch program.
- The American Chestnut Foundation – tentative May 11th, 2024, meeting may be held in New London. All CC members are invited to attend. Location TBD.

Motion made by Mike Gelcius to accept the January 17, 2024, meeting minutes as amended, **Second** by Bob Brown **Unanimously approved.**

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

- Next meeting Wednesday, March 20th, 2024, at 8:30 AM – SYDNEY CROOK CONF. ROOM

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jackman
Town of New London