



TOWN OF  
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**NEW LONDON HOUSING COMMISSION**

**March 10, 2022, 6:00PM**

**Whipple Hall**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter Nichols, Steve Theroux, Amy Kaplan, Winfried Feneberg, Tim Lund, Marilyn Kidder, Nancy Rollins

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tom Vannatta, Randy Foose

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator, Mark Fougere

**1. Call to Order** – Peter Nichols called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**2. Resignation of Chair Kate Turcotte** – Peter Nichols reported that Kate Turcotte has resigned and the Housing Commission will need to elect a new chair. Steve Theroux nominated Peter Nichols to be the new chair and Mr. Nichols agreed. They will also need to elect a vice chair. Marilyn Kidder was nominated and agreed.

**IT WAS MOVED (Steve Theroux) AND SECONDED (Winfried Feneberg) to elect Peter Nichols as the Chair of the Housing Commission. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**IT WAS MOVED (Steve Theroux) AND SECONDED (Peter Nichols) to elect Marilyn Kidder as the Vice Chair of the Housing Commission. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The group discussed desirable skill sets for new people joining the Commission and they included people that understand spacial relationships, architects, good communicators, and people that have long term familiarity with the community.

**3. Approve minutes of January 26, 2022 and February 16, 2022 – Deferred until the next meeting.**

**4. Community Outreach Planning**

Peter Nichols reported that in the middle of February the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission sent out an E-Bulletin that stated they will be doing an update to the housing needs assessment. A link to a public survey was included but it wasn't being widely distributed. Other towns were getting the word out to participate in that survey and getting responses back to their regional planning commissions but we weren't. In the last few days, our regional planning commission put out a public and employer survey. We will be able to use the data for New London by mid-summer. This will help drive any zoning or land use regulation changes we want to do. This will also be pushed out via social media and Municipal Matters.

Data collection for the public and employers is supposed to be mid to late April so that will give the commission about a month to drive data collection in New London that will go the regional planning commission.

The employer survey was distributed to every entity that had registered with the Secretary of State. This means this would not include the biggest businesses in town, the college, the hospital and the school as they are most likely not registered. The survey would have to be distributed by hand to these employers. Mr. Nichols would like to put a list together and divide it up among commission members who would go talk with people. It should also be posted on the town's website and labeled so it is clear that there is a survey for the public and one for employers.

There was discussion about regional entities, such as the school district. If a teacher or staff member is teaching in New London but living in a surrounding town it is technically still related to New London. Selectman Rollins stated the solution to housing may need to be a regional solution. Ideally people would be able to live in their community of choice.

Peter Nichols distributed an outreach list to get members thinking about who should be getting the public and employer survey. The goal should be to get as many responses so we get New London value data. Mark Fougere suggested making sure the link to the surveys gets to the head of the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Lions, the town's website and the schools website. Tim Lund suggested also putting it in the Shopper. Putting flyers up at local businesses would be a good idea as well.

Peter Nichols suggested forming a subcommittee that would work on getting the word out regarding the surveys. Steve Theroux has agreed to participate in this subcommittee and will reach out to the College. Tim Lund will reach out to the hospital. Amy Kaplan will reach out to the manager at Hannaford.

**6. Background Reading** – Peter Nichols stated they will discuss the supplemental reading at the next meeting.

### **7. Comments & New Business**

Mark Fougere provided an update on legislation related to housing in New Hampshire. Mr. Fougere discussed several bills including house bill 1177 which requires municipalities to allow up to 4 unit apartment buildings in areas that already have municipal sewer and water and senate bill 249 which deals with the regulation of short term rentals.

Selectman Rollins stated it would be helpful if the recent zoning amendments could be put into language that would help people understand what it means for workforce housing, etc. She referenced a piece that was put out by Keys to the Valley regarding visioning and visualizing what possibilities there are. It is located on the Upper Valley Regional Planning commission website and she encouraged all Housing Commission Members to read it. Mr. Fougere also agreed to provide pictures of housing projects being done in other areas.

### **8. Motion to Adjourn**

The next meeting will be held on March 23, 2022.

**IT WAS MOVED (Amy Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Winfried Feneberg) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:48PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson

Recording Secretary  
Town of New London