



**TOWN OF**  
**NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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**375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257**

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

**Town of New London**

**Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2026**

**Whipple Memorial Town Hall**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Russ Moore (Chair), Emily Campbell, Woody Canaday, Bebe Casey (NL Select Board representative), Don Eberly, Judi Ferreira, Mike Ryan, and Bonin Architect representatives Paul Larocque and Greg Rusnica.

Bob Bowers, New London resident, also attended.

**The meeting was called to order by chairperson Moore at 17:00**

**Approval of Dec. 11, 2025, Minutes:** Minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and reviewed. A motion for their approval without additions or corrections was made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

**Committee Membership Update:** Mike Ryan, General Manager of The New London Inn and Inn at Pleasant Lake, was welcomed as a new member to the committee. Grant Smith, serving as an alternate member of the committee, has accepted our request to become a full member. Bebe Casey, re-elected to her position as a New London Select Board member, will continue to serve as representative to the NL BPAC.

**Chair update of interval conversations:**

**Meeting** with two landscape firms, Pellettieri Associates and JCP Landscaping, has expressed interest in the pocket park and may consider partial contribution of labor and equipment costs once the scope of the project is defined

**Meeting** with Paul Susca, Board President of Bike Walk Alliance NH, and Gerry Coogan, New London Ambassador to the Regional Planning Commission, for information regarding proposed legislation allowing towns to reduce the mandated minimum speed limit from 25 to 20mph

**Meeting** with Neil Nevins of MainStreet Warner regarding the town's highly successful creation of a community park, sharing information about communication materials and fundraising.

**Meeting** with Laurie Lauridsen and Susie Moore of the NL Garden Club regarding their involvement in maintaining the gardens of the small green, and their interest in continuing to

**Meeting** with Glenn Pogust, Sutton Select Board Chair, and John Doyle of Messer Pond, both representatives of the Kezar Lake Watershed Planning Steering Committee, to discuss mitigation of any possible impact on the watershed.

**Upcoming Meeting** with the KRHS program of Experiential Learning Opportunities for possible school and student involvement in the Walkable New London Initiative.

**Pocket Park Design and Construction:** 3 Guiding Principles governed by the assurance of ecological merit;

1. Affirmation of a strong connection with nature.
2. Catalyst for social/civic engagement to strengthen relationships.
3. Inclusivity for all ages and abilities.

The New London Board of Selectmen and Planning Board have authorized use of the Little Green as a Pocket Park contingent on final approval of the plan with cost projections for development and ongoing maintenance.

Bonin Architects' Plan #3 provides a template for refinement with walking paths of permeable pavers (contingent on approval by NL DPW), picnic tables, benches, interpretive and directional sign placement, Woodcrest interface, and assurance of NH DOT ADA compliance. The next architectural step will be a more refined site plan based on an inventory of existing plantings and structures,

**Project Advancement:** Develop a strategy for success over a yet to be determined timeline (2-3 years based on Warner's experience) with defined phases, assessment, and enrollment of interested constituent groups, assignment of roles (neighborhood fund raisers, project managers). Grant Smith offered assistance through his work and contacts with the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA). He also mentioned a UNH Cooperative Extension initiative that might be helpful – the Outdoor Economy Academy, which examines the impact of outdoor recreation on tourism and the economy. Woody Canady offered suggestions for possible fundraising pursuits. Judi Ferreira proposed solidifying a public advertising campaign. With a refined, workable plan including preliminary cost estimates, community forums for public input should be arranged by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Expanded involvement:** The Chair has requested that, within the next 2 weeks, each committee member provide a list of 6 – 10 influential individuals who may be able to contribute time, labor, expertise, networking connections, and/or dollars to the advancement of this project.

**Pocket Park Toolkit:** The chair provided members with a document developed by The National Historic Trust, a checklist of organizing, financial planning (including capital investment and operational budgets), designing, and maintaining a park. Discussion included: addressing accommodation of public needs such as restrooms, waste and litter management, and lighting. Emily expressed the importance of involving NL Admin and DPW (the Chair has a planned meeting with Adam Ricker and Sam Clarke in April). Woody brought up the issue of safety surrounding an already dangerous intersection of Main St. (NH State Rd,) and Pleasant St. (NL Town Road), questioning the need for input from NHDOT and possibly a traffic engineer.

**Timelines:** Until we have a better definition of the scope of the project, the proposal from Fall 2025 that fundraising would commence in 2026, with construction beginning late summer of 2027, now seems overly ambitious. Following community input, a draft for fundraising will be drafted.

**Sidewalk repair update:** NL DPW Director, Sam Clarke, reports the improvement from Seaman's Rd. to CSC will be completed this Spring, followed by work from Newport Rd. to the SAU driveway.

**Multi- Purpose Trails update:** Grant Smith is enthusiastic about the progress made by the Kearsarge NEMBA Chapter with a very capable crew working to establish a hub and spoke network, including New London (with recent involvement of the Conservation Commission and CSC), Newbury, and Sunapee. Marketing through social media will be launched on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting Schedule:** The next BPAC meeting will be on April 6, 2026. The suggestion to increase meeting frequency to monthly will be on the agenda for discussion at that time.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:01.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald A. Eberly