



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Brown (chair) Michael Gelcius, Rob Prohl, Jim Dexter, Mark Vernon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Kennedy, Sue Andrews, Dave Hollinger

OTHERS PRESENT: John Doyle, (MPPA) Mary Doyle, (MPPA) Audrey Chijner, (MPPA) Don Ostler, Cara Leone, (NL town employee)

Rules of procedure – sent out via email to Conservation Commission members. A review of the purpose of the rules was briefly explained.

Permit applications updates – Mike Gelcius

- No permits this month.
- Cara Leone updated the committee on the permit process and is working on streamlining the process for notification from DES to the CC and the town. There are several steps involved. Communication will be set up via emails.

2024 Town Meeting – Rob Prohl

- Rob spoke about the motion to change Warrant Article 11 to increase the amount of the Land Acquisition fund from \$1.00 to \$30,000.00. This motion was passed.

Trails

- Clark Lookout – (Cara Leone) there will be a log kept for people using the key to access the gate to drive a vehicle up to the Lookout. The key request forms and log will be maintained and sent to the CC via email.
- Lyon Brook – the 26' wooden bridge near the Outing Club ball field needs to be replaced.

A motion was made by Mike Gelcius to spend up to \$6400 for an aluminum bridge for Lyon Brook trail. Mark Vernon seconded, all in favor.

- Low Plain – Mike Gelcius stated that Elkins Fish & Game will be working on repairing the observation blinds. He estimated it would cost approximately \$400 each to repair them, and mentioned that there is possibly someone that is willing to donate the funds.
- The tiny libraries need replenishment, Mike G. will be filling them soon.
- Shaker St. driveway – have a DW permit, needs some fill, and may ask DPW to help move rocks and the sign posts and to put more holes in the ground to plant some chestnut seedlings.

- A parking area on Pleasant Street, for the Kidder-Cleveland-Clough trail, was discussed. Bob Brown noted that there was a water main issue that might prevent the installation of a conventional parking lot but a space parallel to the road might be a good option. Bob will discuss this with Bob Harrington.

088-006- Bob Brown

- Completion of the sale of the property is going on 3 years now, the town's attorney and seller are still working on the deed. They may have come to an agreement. Will need details on closing and a date.
- There is a large amount of attorney fees that are associated with this process.
- **A motion** was made by Mike Gelcius to set aside up to \$5000. Towards legal fees for property 088-006 (should it be needed) Rob Prohl seconded, all in favor.

Desirable Conservation Land List

- Mark Vernon & Sue Andrews are working on prioritizing the list.

Colby-Sawyer College – Jim Dexter

- Jim stated that there is a possibility of having intern(s) – the college needs a job description to give to the students that may be interested.

119-002 Clark Pond wetlands – Jim Dexter

- Chair Brown stated that the Bog Road culvert is 48” of corrugated material, making the actual inner diameter 45”. The water level at the outlet side is confirmed at 12”, not half full as reported at the February meeting.
- Jim stated that a vendor was found.
- Jim & Mark kayaked in the streams leading to the pond. The water is flowing strong in the brooks/creeks. It is 2’-4’ deep. At the first dam more than 4’ deep, they tried to move logs but some are stuck. The next dam has 10’-12’ of water flowing over the dam and also flowing strong. The 3rd dam is large and needs to be opened up.
- The contractor will be following the advice of Jim and the weather. They will be working from back from Clark pond area. It will take time and they will keep plugging away at it.

John Doyle (MPPA) stated that the pond is flowing at an 8-9 flush rate. He explained how he has derived at that flush rate. John asked that the MPPA be kept in the loop.

Cricenti Philbrick Bog

- Mark Vernon read in the Native Plant program magazine that they will be conducting a tour/program in the Bog on 6-22-24 from 10AM – 3PM
- The piggy bank earned \$10 since the last meeting.
- Some concerns about the parking area along Newport Road. There is a 6” drop off the pavement, DPW may be able to help with that area, Bob Brown will reach out.

Old/New Business

- Earth Day – April 22nd, 2024, Mark is unavailable that day - Jim (& Dave) are going to do a press release to promote the CC trails and to kick off the patch program. Also, an ad in the Shopper.
- The American Chestnut Foundation – May 11th 2024 meeting to be held at Tracy Library at 9:00 AM. All CC members are invited to attend.

Motion made by Mike Gelcius to accept the February 21st, 2024, meeting minutes as amended, **second** by Rob Prohl, unanimously **approved**.

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

- Next meeting Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 8:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jackman
Town of New London