



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2024

Kearsarge Professional Development Center
5:30 PM

PRESENT:

Janet Kidder, Chairman
Bill Helm, Selectman
Bebe Hammond Casey, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Lynn Lewis, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Will Kidder, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Michael Todd, Town Moderator
Laura Abrahamsen, Tracy Library Interim Director
Peter Nichols, Housing Commission Chair
Emily Campbell, Planning Board Member
Russ Moore, New London resident
John Ellis, New London resident
Rich Epstein, New London resident
Janet Miller Haines, New London resident

Chair Kidder called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to allow Bebe Casey to participate remotely, via Zoom, as she is currently out of the state and unable to attend in person. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rich Epstein spoke regarding his concerns with comments made at previous Board of Selectmen meeting regarding the New London-Springfield Water Precinct and other future projects that may occur in town. He encouraged residents to watch the recordings of the Board of Selectmen meetings to get their own perspective. Chair Kidder stated that there are many issues facing communities, including access to clean water. She noted that meetings are open to the public, with minutes and recordings available for review, and thanked Mr. Epstein for his comments.

John Ellis was interested in the process for Colby-Sawyer College students to intern with the Town of New London. Kim Hallquist stated that internships are educational experiences and therefore are controlled by the College. Any interested student would need to contact the College directly to see if an internship was possible and then the College would reach out to her directly to discuss whether the town could take on an intern.

FORMATION OF NEW COMMITTEE FOCUSED ON MOBILITY

Chair Kidder shared that the Selectmen support an advisory committee focused on mobility issues such as sidewalks, bike paths, crosswalks and public transportation and she opened a discussion on how the committee might be named, organized, and what its focus would be.

Chair Kidder invited Russ Moore, a resident who has been active in enhancing bicycle safety in town, to provide his suggestion for naming the proposed committee. He provided some background into the broad scope of the topic and the research he has done into other towns that have similar committees and they are referred to as *Bike Pedestrian Advisory Committee*. He is flexible, however would like to have a name that is consistent with other communities. Selectmen Casey, who has volunteered to be the Selectmen's representative on the new committee, is in favor of common language.

The Selectmen provided feedback on several points that they would like to make sure are considered prior to formation of the committee including:

- A preference for small groups, for the most effective citizen-driven committees.
- Not placing an undue burden placed on staff time. Mr. Moore noted that this had been considered and although they may need technical advice, they would consult with Kim Hallquist regarding staff workloads.
- Outreach to a wide range of stakeholders, such as the Conservation Commission, young adults, and families with young children.
- The importance of a long-term view due to planned infrastructure projects, such as the water main replacement and sidewalk upgrades.

Draft language for formation of the committee was discussed and it was decided that Mr. Moore and Selectmen Casey would work on fine tuning the language before the next meeting. It was agreed that recommendations and voting would be deferred to a future meeting.

TOWN MEETING RECAP

Town Clerk Will Kidder and Town Moderator Michael Todd joined the Selectmen for a review of what went well at Town Meeting, and what could be improved for next year. Chair Kidder shared that 398 voters attended the meeting, and thanked residents for their participation. Both Michael Todd and the Selectmen thanked staff and volunteers for their help setting up and running the meeting. Selectmen Casey praised the good discourse and all the candidates that ran for elected office.

Suggestions for next year include:

- Opening check in at 6:00pm, for a full hour of voter registration
- Continuing use of six books for check in, rather than four
- Streamlining the voting recap to just announcement of the winners
- Reviewing the process for requesting people submit their intent to speak ahead of time
- Researching if it's feasible to use poll pads at Town Meeting, rather than the A-Z paper checklist
- Considering overflow options if turnout continues to increase
- Refining the newly implemented shoebox method for secret ballots
- Asking attendees to withhold applause after each speaker, to encourage debate

Selectmen Helm stated that residents have asked him if a Saturday morning meeting had been considered. Michael Todd agreed that it does happen in other towns, but it would need some sort of referendum to adjust. Will Kidder suggested an informal poll to get feedback from the community. Planning for Town Meeting 2025 will begin soon.

POLICE STATION PROJECT COMMITTEE

Chair Kidder would like to have the Selectmen appoint a new committee to assist with the selection of a consultant who will provide Police Station options. She suggested each board member come up with 2-3 suggestions for appointments that the Board can consider at a future date.

PROCLAMATION FOR DONATE LIFE MONTH FOR APRIL

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to issue a proclamation recognizing April as Donate Life Month in New London. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Roll call vote: Kidder: yes; Helm: yes ; Casey: yes

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Bebe Casey) to appoint Bill Helm as the Chair of the Board of Selectmen. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

Roll call vote: Kidder: yes; Helm: abstained; Casey: yes

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to appoint Bebe Casey as the Selectmen's Representative to the Budget Committee. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

Roll call vote: Kidder: yes; Helm: yes; Casey: abstained

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Bebe Casey) to appoint Janet Kidder as the Selectmen's Representative to the Planning Board. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

Roll call vote: Kidder: abstained; Helm: yes; Casey: yes

SELECTMEN'S MEETING SCHEDULE

The Selectmen discussed their meeting schedule for the remainder of the year. Some adjustments were made to accommodate board members' travel. Friday, October 25th was set for the Board's all day budget review. The town calendar, on the website, should be checked for updates, meeting places, and agendas.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Director of Public Works, Bob Harrington, has submitted his intention to retire at the end of July. He has worked for the New London Department of Public Works for almost 35 years, with six of those as Director.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REPORTS

Selectmen Helm shared news from the Waste Reduction Committee that in the first three months of the year, the Town has composted 10 tons of food scraps. They are hopeful the Town may be able to restart paper recycling in the future.

Chair Kidder attended the Water Precinct meeting and reported that the Water Main Replacement bond passed. The project will take 270 days to complete and is estimated to result in a tax increase of .50 per thousand for properties located within the precinct boundaries.

Selectmen Casey provided an update on Education Coalition Communities 2.0. The Supreme Court issued a stay, pending an appeal, on the Contoocook Valley School District v State of New Hampshire

case only. It has not issued a stay on Rand, et al. v. The State of New Hampshire. It is anticipated that the Supreme Court may combine both cases and hear them together.

Selectmen Casey received an update from the most recent Lake Sunapee Tri-town Watershed Protection Committee meeting which included insight into why the proposed septic ordinance in Newbury failed to pass.

MEETING MINUTES: - Approve Selectmen's minutes of March 7, 2024

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to accept the minutes of the March 7th meeting.

Roll call vote: Kidder: yes; Helm: yes; Casey: yes

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next regular Selectmen's meeting will be Thursday, April 4th at 5:30pm, at Whipple Memorial Hall

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to enter into a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a): "The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee..." and RSA 91-A:3, II(b): "The hiring of any person as a public employee".

Roll call vote: Kidder: yes; Helm: yes; Casey: yes

The Board entered nonpublic session at 6:25 PM.

The Board reentered the public session at 6:38 PM.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to seal the nonpublic session meeting minutes.

Roll call vote: Kidder: yes; Helm: yes; Casey: yes

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF PAY VOUCHERS, PERMITS etc

Items to be signed:

- Payroll Authorization Vouchers
- New London Hospital Association - use of Little Common – August 3, 2024 6:00am – 4:00pm
- Center for the Arts Lake Sunapee Region – use of Town Common & Bandstand – August 17, 2024 9:00am – 6:00pm (Withdrawing request for use on August 10, 2024)
- Elkins Fish & Game Club – use of Town Common and Bandstand – May 25, 2024 9:00am – 3:00pm
- Approved Solar Exemptions (**11 total**)
- Approved Solar Exemption AND Veteran's Credit under RSA72:28 (**1**)
- Approved Veteran's Credits under RSA72:28 (**8**)
- Approved Veteran's Credit under RSA72:28 AND RSA72:35 (**2**)

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Building/Zoning Permits – Approved

- Stephen & Ann Lawson, TM 137-019-0-0-0, BP 24-7, addition off of garage, relocation of laundry room – Approved 3/8/24

- Jane A. Phillips, TM 046-004-0-0-0, BP 24-8, 32x50 storage building, insulated and wired – Approved 3/8/24
- Thomas Living Trust, TM 109-016-0-0-0, kitchen renovation – Approved 3/8/24
- Waldemar & Elzbieta Fryckowski 060-002-0-0-0, convert office to ¾ bath – Approved 3/8/24
- PA Properties of Maryland, LLC 049-008-0-0-0, adding ground level deck – Approved 3/8/24
- Highland Ridge Condo Association, 071-026-0-0-0, temporary storage container – Approved 3/21/24
- Ange-O’Connor Family Trust, 074-044-0-0-0, 320 square foot addition to existing single-family home – Approved 3/21/24

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to adjourn.

Roll call vote: Kidder: yes; Helm: yes; Casey: yes

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 6:51PM

Respectfully submitted,
Cara Leone
Recording Secretary
Town of New London

Note: RSA 91-A:2, II provides that “*Minutes of all such meetings, including nonpublic sessions, shall include the names of members, persons appearing before the public bodies, and a brief description of the subject matter discussed and final decisions.*” A video of the entire meeting may be available for viewing on the town website, NewLondon.NH.gov, if more than the brief description contained in these meeting minutes is desired.