



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 2021
6:00 PM
Via Zoom

PRESENT:

John Cannon, Chairman
Nancy Rollins, Selectman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Lynn Lewis, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Bob Harrington, Public Works Director
Paul Gorman, Planning Board Chair
Emily Cobb, Police Chief
Ed Ordman, New London resident
Bill Helm, New London resident
John Raby, Budget Committee
Keith Coughlin, Exec. Dir, Barn Playhouse
Susan Cox, New London resident
Phil Sherman, Building & Facility Comm (BFC)
Colin Beasley, BFC
Peter Hoglund, BFC
Minette McQueeney, *Intertown Record*

Jay Lyon, Fire Chief
Will Kidder, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Janet Haines, New London resident
Heidi Tobin, New London resident
Steve Ensign, New London resident
Rob Prohl, Budget Committee Chair
Nancy Marashio, New London resident
Donald Cox, New London resident
Peter Bianchi, BFC
Bob Bowers, BFC
Karen Hoglund, New London resident
Joyce Bosse, *The Messenger*

Selectman Cannon called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and read the zoom information.
Roll call of members in attendance was taken.

Appointments

Request for No Parking on Everett Park

Susan Cox stated she and her husband Don live on the street that is right behind the Barn Playhouse and share a boundary line with that property. Safety is always an issue on this street especially when there are a lot of parked cars. The Selectmen tried having one sided parking for one year and last year there were no shows at the Barn due to the pandemic. There are a lot of people that walk and bike on this road and she would like to keep this street feeling like a residential street which is what it is zoned for. With changes in the parking lot at the Barn, cars will be parked closer to their boundary line so with cars back there and cars in the front of the house they will feel more sandwiched in. She is requesting no parking on either side of the road on Everett Park.

Edward Ordman stated parking on Pressy Court worked very well when the Selectmen made it one sided parking during the 2019 season. Two-sided parking had not worked well.

Heidi Tobin agrees with Susan Cox, noting that parking down near their property is dangerous for walkers, children, and bikers. She is concerned when the Barn is in session year-round that snowbanks and parking will be a safety issue as well.

Police Chief Emily Cobb commented that she can understand that two-sided parking would pose a problem for emergency vehicles, but she does not necessarily think that one sided parking is a safety hazard. If that block were to be made no parking on either side, she would have concerns about unintended consequences (i.e., a gathering or party or a yard sale would mean no on-street parking for anyone on that street). Fire Chief Jay Lyon agrees with Chief Cobb.

Keith Coughlin, Executive Director of the Barn Playhouse, answered questions presented by Selectman Rollins regarding parking for staff and theater attendees. He explained the height of activity will be during the summer and the work they are doing with the parking lot will enhance their ability to gain more parking spots in a more organized manner. They will also look to continue relationships they have with local businesses on Main Street and will look to formalize this. This will help get cars off Main Street and into business parking lots. They also intend to create a map that highlights where parking is and is not allowed. He also discussed a snow removal plan to help keep the maximum amount of parking spaces available, so there will be less need for on-street parking.

Selectmen Kidder stated she is sensitive to the parking issues when the Playhouse is in session but wondered if they eliminated all parking on Everett Park, where would people go. The viability of the Barn Playhouse is important to the town and she is not in favor eliminating parking on both sides of the street. Chair Cannon agreed and stated when you eliminate parking in one area it just creates issues somewhere else.

Because the Barn Playhouse will not be open for the summer season in 2021, it was determined that the issue of parking on Everett Park would not have to be decided until 2022, prior to the 2022 theater season.

Public Comment – Janet Haines requested that a comment she made at the meeting on March 22, 2021 be written into the minutes of the meeting. She stated that a member of the building and Facilities Committee stated that the Recreation Department would not be suitable in the Buker building because of parking and traffic issues yet it is considered good enough for our Police Department that has exactly the same issues. Kim Hallquist noted that the Selectmen could amend the minutes later in the meeting when they considered the minutes for approval; additionally, the comments would be reflected in. She noted that Minutes do not include all comments made at a meeting, the recording secretary tries to capture the flavor of the conversation.

OLD BUSINESS

Planning Board response to recommendation of Fiscal Policy Panel to remove CIP from Planning Board and establish a CIP committee.

Planning Board Chair Paul Gorman attended the meeting and provided background information on the New London Planning Board. He noted the Planning Board is selected by the Board of Selectmen not elected. They have voting members and alternates on the Board. The purview of the Planning Board is zoning regulations and their implementation and is required by state law.

Part of the Planning Boards activity in New London is to prepare a document that is often referred to as the CIP, which stands for Capital Improvements Program. This function has been fulfilled by a subcommittee of the Planning Board which has included members from the Board of Selectmen, Budget Committee, and citizenry, that meet with all the pertinent department heads of the town to discuss

development over the next 3-5 years. This is an important part of what the Planning Board does because it can have a ripple effect down into the zoning regulations of the town.

Chair Gorman stated while he is confident of the good intentions of the Fiscal Policy Panel that suggested the CIP become an independent entity, he is not in favor of it and neither is the entire Planning Board. At the last Planning Board meeting the vote was unanimous to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that this should not be implemented. The logical place for this process is to remain as a function of the Planning Board. Selectman Rollins agrees with this recommendation but is requesting that a timeline be established for when the Planning Board would like the appointments by the Selectmen and give consideration that the work be done in sync with the budget process. This should also be published on the calendar. Chair Gorman agreed that this is the intention of the Planning Board going forward.

Building & Facilities Committee Draft Charter

Building and Facilities Chair Bob Bowers stated a proposed draft was submitted and there were concerns raised by Town Administrator Kim Hallquist. Changes were made and they attempted to address all the issues raised. The overall position of the Building and Facilities Committee is that this is a decision that should be made by the Selectmen. Chair Bowers stated their main goal was to get clarity on their purpose. Selectman Rollins suggested the Committee hold at least 12 meetings annually so the expectation would be to have a monthly meeting and suggested that section 5 be eliminated. Selectman Kidder disagrees that section 5 should be eliminated and feels it is important to keep it; the Town Administrator should be aware of what is being requested of town employees.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to accept the current proposal from the Building & Facilities Committee with regards to the Charter and adding the number 12 in the section where it states no fewer than 12 total meetings per year and eliminating section 5. Janet Kidder: no, Nancy Rollins: yes, John Cannon: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

Bob Bowers would like the Selectmen to consider the idea of putting structure on all of the committees. This would be a valuable thing for the town for newly formed committees as well as committees that already exist. This would allow everyone to understand and have a clear understanding of the procedures and purpose of each committee. Selectman Rollins thinks this is a great suggestion and is something that has been missing from our committees. Selectman Kidder would like to see the proposal before she can weigh in on it.

NEW BUSINESS

Building & Facilities Committee – recommendation for blinds for Whipple Hall

Phil Sherman reported a proposal from Goedecke Flooring and Design was obtained, and the Building and Facilities Committee is suggesting option 1. This option consists of honeycomb style shades for Whipple Hall. The lower rectangular portion would be retractable shades (blackout), the upper arched portion would be a fixed light filtering shade. It would be up to the Selectmen if they wanted to pursue the option for hall shades. Selectman Kidder asked if a bar was going to be installed across the width of the window. Mr. Sherman stated there would be at the base of the rounded portion. Selectman Kidder is concerned it would impact the visual look of the window. It stated in the quote it is not warranted for sun damage. Selectman Kidder is concerned about this as well because that side of the building gets a great deal of sun. Kim Hallquist recalls the vendor saying damage from sun would not be expected in at least 10-20 years.

Selectman Kidder asked if this was being put out for bid or is this the only bid they are getting. Mr. Sherman stated the architect has worked with the company and found them satisfactory. Timing wise the

desire is to get these in before summer, so the subcommittee felt it did not warrant putting a contract of this size out to bid. The cost for the 6 main windows is \$14,016 and if they did the additional 6 rectangular windows it would be another \$4,032 for a total of \$18,048. The funds would come out of the Town Buildings Capital Reserve fund. Selectman Kidder asked if this would do anything to help with the sound issue and Mr. Sherman stated the subcommittee is looking at acoustics as a separate issue.

Selectman Rollins asked if Jim Perkins was consulted with regards to these types of shades. Mr. Sherman responded that it was his understanding that as long as items were able to be removed in the future without damaging the building, he was fine with whatever they needed. Selectman Kidder would like to have a conversation with Jim Perkins and give this more thought. Selectmen Rollins would like this issue on the next meeting agenda as the quote is only good for 30 days.

Town Administrators Report

Ms. Hallquist provided the following report:

- The audit for FY2020 was distributed to the Selectmen and is also posted on the town website.
- Rules of Procedure are usually adopted after town meeting but since we have elected a new chair, Ms. Hallquist suggested putting this on the agenda for the next meeting.
- An email was sent to Representative Karen Ebel and Representative Dan Wolf regarding the Governor's budget that eliminated the funding for water and wastewater control program. New London gets a yearly grant for the Sunapee wastewater treatment plant so hopefully the funding is put back into the budget. This is about \$78,000 per year.
- Hospital Days has been canceled for this year due to the pandemic.
- The American Rescue Plan act of 2021 was signed in by President Biden at the end of March. NHMA is working with the National League of Cities and Towns working on more guidance for all of the towns to understand how to spend the money. New London is estimated to get \$430,000 which will need to be spent by year 2024. More information to come.
- Ms. Hallquist spoke with the town moderator and they are getting closer on selecting a location for town meeting.

Committee Meetings & Reports

Planning Board – Selectman Kidder reported that the Planning Board met on March 23, 2021. They discussed an expansion project for the New London Barn Playhouse, a tree cutting proposal and a final site plan for Peter Christians. They also discussed the CIP program.

Lakes Management Advisory Committee – On April 1, 2021 there was a meeting and Selectman Kidder is the representative on that committee for Planning Boards. They discussed treating cyanobacteria blooms on lakes and ponds. There is also legislation pending regarding a possible ban of wake boats. There is concern of a drought this summer which will impact instream flow. There may be wetland rule changes proposed by the legislature.

Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the minutes of March 22, 2021 meeting. Janet Kidder: yes, Nancy Rollins: yes, John Cannon: yes. **THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.**

Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

- Next regular Selectmen's meeting – Monday, April 19th – 6:00 PM via Zoom

- Supervisors of the Checklist – Tuesday, April 6th – 9:00 AM Whipple Hall
- Housing Commission – Tuesday, April 6th – 6:00 PM via Zoom
- Zoning Board – Tuesday, April 6th – 6:30 PM via Zoom
- Public Hearing-Issuance of Refunding Bond - Wednesday, April 7th – 6:00 PM via Zoom
- Buildings & Facilities Committee – Thursday, April 8th – 6:30 PM via Zoom
- Planning Board – Tuesday, April 13th – 6:30 PM via Zoom
- Buildings & Facilities Committee – Thursday, April 15th – 6:30 PM via Zoom

Please see the calendar on the town website for a complete listing of other meetings, including subcommittee meetings, of the various town boards: www.nl-nh.com

Items to be signed:

- Accounts Payable Voucher
- Income and Asset Verification for Elderly Exemption (2)

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Sign Permits – approved

Building Permits

- Winfred Demille Revoc. Trust, 143 Sugarhouse Rd, TM-035-009-0-0-0, Demo existing house build custom home. BP-21-022, Approved 3/26/2021
- Emily & Toby Haggerty, 18 Stone House Rd, TM 130-002-0-0-0. Screen porch/open deck with stairs. BP 21-024 Approved 3/26/2021
- Hayward Rev Trust, 77 Wilmot Rd, TM 078-006-0-0-0. Refresh/Remodel kitchen. BP 21-026. Approved 4/2/2021.
- Charles & Joyce Kellogg, 505 Wilmot Ctr Rd, TM 052-012-0-0-0. Install 9’x8’3” screened room on top of existing deck structure. BP 21-028. Approved 4/2/2021.
- Heidi Deacon, 46 S Pleasant St, TM 084-054-0-0-0. Interior repair/water damage. BP 21-025. Approved 4/2/2021.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson
Recording Secretary
Town of New London