



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257 • WWW.NL-NH.COM

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES May 12, 2022, 6:00 PM Kearsarge Professional Development Center

PRESENT:

Nancy Rollins, Chairman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
Bill Helm, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Lynn Lewis, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT: Phyliss Piatrow, , Bob Harrington, Will Kidder, John Finck, Keith Coughlin, Mark and Thelma Kaplan, Amy Kaplan, John Wilson, Jerry Coogan, Peg Theroux, Rip Cross, Frank Anzalone, Phil Sherman, Don & Susan Cox, Donna Sparks, Rob and Maureen Prohl, Jamie Hess, John Manaras, Colin Beasley, Joe Cardillo, Peter and Karen Hoglelund, Barry Wright, John Raby, Steve Ensign, Celeste Cook, Bob Bowers, Gerry Gold, Nancy Putnam, Peter Stanley, Peter Bianchi, Nancy Donnelly, Putnam Kidder, Minette McQuenney: *Intertown Record*

Selectman Rollins called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Public Hearing: Parking Ordinance: Everett Park, Williams Street, Pressey Court, Sawyer Lane

Chair Rollins opened the public hearing to consider parking in and around the Barn Playhouse (the Barn). Keith Coughlin, Executive Artistic Director spoke for the Barn, noting that joining him at the meeting were John Finck, President, Janet Miller-Haines and Peg Theroux, Board members.

Mr. Coughlin noted that the Barn has submitted their suggested parking plan for the upcoming season that includes parking recommendations for the upcoming 90th summer season. He pointed out that they have spoken with four businesses that are close by that have agreed to the use of their parking lots for evening performances and the existing lot at the Barn has been expanded and will be paved, lighted and striped to organize the parking better than the past. Chair Rollins asked about winter use of the new Fleming Center and the parking impact. Mr. Coughlin noted that the increased parking spaces should accommodate that capacity. Chair Rollins asked about parking attendants to help keep parking organized to maximize the space, noting that she is aware of summer facilities that utilize parking attendants; Mr. Coughlin asked the Board to allow a season's use of the new parking lot to see if parking attendants are needed.

Chief Lyon noted that police, fire and public works have looked at this issue several times, over many years. All agree that Williams Street should be no parking. With regard to Pressey Court and Sawyer Lane, facts considered were that they are dead end streets and that headlights and cars turning around in people's driveways. Restricting parking at the T of the two streets is recommended for safe entrance and exit from the streets. Chief Lyon also pointed out that adequate signage is important, and they will be placed in areas where they are helpful and aesthetically appropriate.

Bob Harrington, Public Works Director, agreed and noted that if a sign is placed in someone's front yard, he will get a call of complaint.

There was a discussion of which side of Everette Park parking should be allowed on, the odd numbered side or the even. Chief Lyon noted that in determining which side of the street to recommend they look at the topography, the direction much of the traffic is likely to be traveling in, safety, fire hydrant locations, driveways and consistency. Given those considerations, staff felt that allowing parking on the odd side of the street would be the preferred side, acknowledging that it is not an easy topic and he understands that some would prefer the other side of the street to be used.

John Finck thanked the local businesses that have allowed the use of their parking lots for evening performances and noted that if the school parking lot could be used for evening performances, that would alleviate some parking on the streets; he asked the Board to assist in getting permission for the use in the lot.

Donna Sparks, resident of the area and friend of Don and Susan Cox, pointed out that if parking is allowed on the odd numbered side of the street, it would mean that the Cox's would have parking in the front yard and back yard and that did not seem fair. She suggested that parking not be allowed on the Cox side of the street.

Nancy Putnam, resident of Williams Street, noted that it has been no parking for a long time and she has seen people parking there.

Edward Ordman, 132 Everett Park. He has observed that when people come down Williams Street it would be nice if they turned right they could park on the right and if they turned left they could park on the right so no turn around was needed. He suggested that the sight lines be maintained by not allowing parking too close to the corner. He also suggested that parking on Pressey Court and Sawyer Lane be done in such a way that the vehicles are pointed in the correct direction to leave at night without turning around.

Steve Ensign asked if the parking restrictions would be seasonal, like the Barn performances, or if it would be year-round. Chief Cobb noted that that is a concern, no parking is no parking. She noted that there must be a mechanism for enforcement, although the police do not like giving tickets for people to come to the community to see a show. Chair Rollins asked if the signs had to be permanent if the parking is seasonal. Chief Cobb noted that for Hospital Days they put out cardboard signs, for a seasonal use like the Barn summer season they would have to be plastic and more durable.

The Board received written testimony from Donna Sparks, Don & Susan Cox, Nancy Putnam & Ed Blanchard, and John Cannon.

Selectman Kidder noted that she agreed with the Barn's recommendation for parking on the even side of the street on Everette Park as recommended by the Barn and suggested that there be no parking on Pressey Court and Sawyer Lane as those few spots won't be needed given the additional spaces added by the Barn with the new lot. Chief Cobb noted that no parking is no parking and she questioned if instead of no parking could it be no event parking which would allow yard sale parking and residents guests parking. Chair Rollins noted that seasonal no parking would alleviate the problem.

Janet Miller-Haines asked if it was possible to have no parking signs, and at some times, like for a yard sale, the sign is covered so the no parking could be ignored. Chief Cobb noted that administratively that would be difficult as to who would cover the signs, it might also send mixed messages. Bob Harrington noted that he would install permanent signs at the corners of the various roads, and then perhaps seasonal signs prohibiting it from June 1st – October 1st. Suggestions for removing the signs each year were made, Nancy Putnam agreed with seasonal parking pointing out the plowing around signs will be a challenge for staff. Mr. Harrington noted that he would prefer permanent signs as removing and storing the signs presents challenges.

Nancy Donnelly, 31 Sawyer Lane, asked if there would be no parking on Pressey Court and Sawyer Lane or will it be allowed on one-side. Chair Rollins noted that the Board is considering prohibiting parking on both sides seasonally. Ms. Donnelly asked what would happen if lawn service was needed or a crane to take a tree down if the road was no parking. Chair Rollins suggested that exceptions could be made for unusual circumstances like a crane. There was a discussion to try and focus the no parking for event parking (ie: Barn) only but determining who was attending an event and who was visiting a property owner.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to close the public hearing. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. The public hearing was closed.

The Board first addressed Pressey Court and Sawyer Lane:

Seasonal parking restrictions: prohibit parking June 1st - September 15th and to revisit the issue on October 1st to see if it should be extended or changed.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) to prohibit parking on Pressey Court and Sawyer Lane from June 1st – September 15th, AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) with an addendum to revisit the issue on October 1st to evaluate how the parking rules worked. THE MOTION WITH ADDENDUM WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board next addressed Everett Park:

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) to allow parking on even side of Everett Park (Williams Street to Parkside) as recommended by the Barn AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chief Cobb asked for confirmation that the Board would continue no parking on Williams Street, the Board agreed. The Chief asked if parking would be allowed on the section of Everett Park from Williams Street to Prescott on the odd side of the street and no parking on the even side. The Board agreed. Chair Rollins noted that the signs would be seasonal.

Chair Rollins noted that the Board would look into parking at the SAU at least for staff.

Keith Coughlin will submit an updated plan to reflect the decision of the Board relative to parking. John Finck informed the Board that there will be an Open House at the Barn Playhouse on July 8th for the public to see all of the new construction.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were none.

Proposal for services – Whipple Hall upgrade project

Phil Sherman, representing the Whipple Hall Subcommittee of the Building & Facilities Committee, met with the Board along with Frank Anzalone, Architect, to present a proposal for design services for the project that was approved at Town Meeting. Mr. Sherman noted that he sees this as phase III of the upgrades at Whipple. He noted that the proposal is necessarily loose at this early stage of the project; the subcommittee is looking for the go ahead to start the project so that additional discussions can held with the Board to make decisions. Chair Rollins pointed out that supply chain issues continue, and she would like to get the project going.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to approve the proposed scope of services for architect Frank Anzalone as recommend by the Whipple Hall Subcommittee. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion of governance initiatives proposed by Selectman Helm

1. Selectmen not on committees other than Budget and Planning
2. Budget Committee members not on other committees
3. Consider establishing time-limited, small advisory “panels” (2021 Fiscal Policy), such as:
 - Whipple / project management
 - Trash and solid waster
 - Future uses of Buker
4. Dissolve Building and Facilities and Solid Waste Management committees as currently constituted
5. Revisit (with Planning Board) formation of separate CIP committee

Chair Rollins asked Selectman Helm to give an explanation and background on the governance proposal that he submitted to the Board.

Selectman Helm noted that he has heard that some feel his proposal is due to animus on his part. He noted that this is not correct and stressed that his sole objective is to explore what he believes are opportunities to improve the effectiveness of our Town governance. He noted that the suggestions he presented are intended to (1) to promote the independence of elected Town boards (Selectmen and Budget Committee) and (2) to provide efficient and timely input to the Selectmen as they “manage the prudential affairs of the town” as required in the law.

He explained that proposals one and two dealing with the membership of Selectmen and Budget Committee members on other boards and committees would accomplish the first objective of promoting independence of elected town boards: no Selectman or Budget Committee member, for the purpose of determining a quorum or for voting on matters to be addressed subsequently by the Selectmen or Budget Committee, would also be a member of another committee whose members are appointed by the Selectmen. He noted that this rule would not preclude individual Selectmen or Budget Committee members from attending any meeting as a resident of the community.

The third proposal: the formation by the Selectmen of time limited “ad hoc advisory panels” to address specific topics for action by either the Selectmen or the Town Meeting is intended to provide for topic specific input on pending decisions, as opposed to the work of permanent bodies

that deal with ongoing topics such as energy, conservation, housing or recreation. Examples of current topics include (1) completion of the Whipple Hall renovations; (2) future uses for the Buker building if the Police department moves out; and (3) a plan for the handling and recycling of waste materials. He noted that these time limited panels may encourage new volunteers to participate in the town.

The fifth proposal would establish a new permanent committee to prepare the annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP), currently the responsibility of the Planning Board. Selectman Helm suggested that this proposal be tabled at this time as Town Meeting approval would be needed, there is time for discussion prior to putting it before the voters, if that is what the Board decides.

Selectman Helm explained that the proposal to dissolve the Solid Waste Committee as currently constituted acknowledges their earlier work to consider an expanded or new transfer station that was tabled by the Selectmen following the completion of a Solid Waste Management Facilities Study in November 2017. This committee has not met since November 2020. He suggested that some members of this committee be among those selected to carry out the proposed focused waste material work.

Selectman Helm addressed his proposal to dissolve the Building and Facilities Committee (BFC) noting that it is more complicated because some of its activities have been examples of good “advisory” efforts, but noted that in his opinion, its overall structure has decreased its effectiveness as a source of input to the Selectmen. The BFC subcommittee advising on the renovation and repair of Whipple/Buker has been useful and should be continued for the time being as one of the proposed ad hoc groups. Likewise, the subcommittee addressing possible sites for a new police facility has just completed a useful report. Selectman Helm felt that the structure of the BFC that funnels subcommittee work back through the entire committee, resulting in delays and reworking of subcommittee work, has been less effective. In both the Whipple and police site situations Selectman Helm feels that the work of these subcommittees should by now be directly on the Selectmen’s agenda. Based on his recent attendance at three BFC meetings, his observation is that too much effort is spent defining its purpose vs. addressing specific matters requested by the Selectmen. Selectman Helm noted that it is not clear to him why the BFC has taken on some transfer station questions when a Solid Waste Committee exists, or why there is confusion about the role of the BFC in the CIP process. Selectman Helm noted that if the BFC is dissolved, its current members would/could be asked to continue work on some of the specific topics before the Board: Whipple, Police site, waste materials, CIP.

Selectman Kidder noted that she would defer her comments until she could hear from the members of the public. Peter Bianchi felt that the Selectmen’s opinions on Bill’s recommendations should be known prior to hearing from the public. Selectman Helm noted that that the other Selectmen did not get an advanced copy of his remarks, nor has he had any discussions with them after the meeting on April 14th.

Chair Rollins noted that she has heard some slight differences in Bill’s proposal from what she heard at the last meeting and felt that it is frustrating not to get materials in writing so points can be addressed. She noted that with regard to Budget Committee members not on other committees, she agrees that they should not be voting members, does not see a problem with Budget Committee being on other committees – they work as a group.

Chair Rollins noted that the reason stated for dissolving the BFC she does not agree with, if there are issues with how a committee is doing its work, there should be a conversation with that committee. The Solid Waste Committee did wane because of a lack of a Chair and some members leaving, however the Board should have asked for renewed interest in the committee. She agrees that committees should come before the Board and give updates and she noted that the Board should have a dashboard of all projects, something she has asked for for some time but still does not have. All committees should have charters with clear expectations of the Selectmen. Chair Rollins noted that the Board should be judicious with the number of committees the town has.

Chair Rollins noted that the CIP is statutorily with the Planning Board and last year the Board voted unanimously that it should stay with the Planning Board as the Board believes that where it should be and gave some direction to the Planning Board with regard to others that should be involved.

Selectman Kidder noted that she agrees that Selectman can influence members of committees that they serve on as she saw her participation on the Recreation Commission influencing other members. With respect to the Budget Committee members not being on other committees, she feels that Budget Committee members should only be on that committee, they can attend other committees to get information but not serve on them.

Selectman Kidder observed that small advisory committees are effective. The BFC held 74 meetings and they only have a few proposals on Whipple – she is also concerned about time required of staff. She feels the Board should look at all committees to make sure they are as effective as possible. The CIP does belong with the Planning Board, they included Budget Committee members and BFC members on the subcommittee.

Peter Stanley – He found the information that comes from the BFC very helpful, as a third-party review. He pointed out that the information is useful to both the selectmen and the taxpayers, noting that having a group that doesn't necessarily tell you what you want to hear is a good thing. Mr. Stanley concluded that he does not agree with dissolving the BFC and feels that it would be a huge mistake to do so.

Peter Bianchi- He suggested that the Board consider adopting term limits for its committees. He pointed out that selectmen on other committees is to represent the selectmen's voted position, not to give their own opinion. He felt that selectmen on other committees is good as they bring information to the committee. Mr. Bianchi noted that historically the selectmen found it difficult to find people to volunteer for committees, so it would be a problem not having people double up on committees. With regard to the BFC he has never seen a committee work as long or as hard as this committee and he is 100% opposed to dissolving it. He pointed out that the BFC has a charter. The selectmen have the authority to appoint members, if the selectmen don't like the person, when the person's term is up, the selectmen can decide not to reappoint that person.

Colin Beasley – He asked how the selectmen will get information from committees without selectmen as part of the committees. Selectman Helm noted that the committees would meet with the selectmen to give updates. Mr. Beasley noted that with the limited meetings of the selectmen he questioned whether such a plan would allow for an adequate flow of information between the committees and selectmen.

Mr. Beasley suggested that the selectmen get a legal opinion on who can and cannot serve on the Budget Committee.

Mr. Beasley turned to item #2 and asked Mr. Helm what he sees as the downside of having other committee members on the Budget Committee. Selectman Helm noted that he felt it is matter of independence to him and that having the committee members on the Budget Committee who are asking for money becomes an advocate for that request with information that other Budget Committee members do not have. He noted that he feels less strongly about this point and could see the benefit of having the limit be similar to the Planning Board limitations. Mr. Beasley feels that more participation is better and that having Budget Committee members who are also members of other committees is better than Budget Committee members who attend no other committee meetings. He noted that he is learning about “home rule” and asked the Board to ask town counsel for an opinion on the jurisdiction over whether restrictions can be made over Budget Committee members serving other committees. Selectman Helm noted that he did not think a legal opinion is needed, the Selectmen make appointments to various committees as they deem appropriate.

Selectman Helm expanded on his thoughts of delays as related to the BFC. He pointed out that the PD subcommittee was asked by the BFC to reconvene and answer questions that he felt were already addressed. Selectman Helm felt that the Selectmen should have the work of the subcommittee now. Mr. Beasley noted that he felt that the BFC feels that their plan to present the report in June gives the Selectmen enough time to make decisions before Town Meeting. He noted that the BFC is going through a very deliberative process to lay out all of the interdependencies with the many factors involved, resulting in a better product. Selectman Helm noted that he felt that those topics should be discussed at a Selectman’s meeting and he disagreed that there is a lot of time available and his opinion is that it should be before the Board.

Mr. Beasley noted that the BFC is a skilled and diverse group including many talented and dedicated people and reviewed the accomplishments of the BFC as outlined in the annual report including: inventory of all town properties, evaluation of Whipple Hall, town space in the Academy Building storage of paper and non-paper, DPW needs, documented investment report and order of investment, State Fire Marshal involvement in building permits for commercial structures and considerable work on the police station issue. He pointed to the important work that BFC is currently engaged in and he felt that the work should be allowed to continue.

Rob Prohl pointed out there are a lot of smart people on the selectboard and on the committees – the divisiveness will not allow things to move forward, the new police station has been a discussion for a long time, he felt that they should work together r many years and he felt the town should move forward.

Bob Bowers – feels that the Board should meet next week and discuss only this issue, and then after that meet weekly with one week for regular business and the next week for a clear topic. He pointed out that he has had items before the selectmen for years that have not been dealt with. Mr. Bowers felt that by working together these items could be addressed. Selectman Helm noted that his goal is to come up with the Board’s top priorities that the Selectmen will be dealing with so they can schedule their work. Mr. Bowers agreed and noted that committees would be good to deal with the other areas that the Selectmen do not have time for.

Selectman Kidder noted that her disappointment with the BFC is that they have not made more progress with the police station issue. Celeste Cook noted that she agreed with Selectman Kidder that there should be more progress on the police station.

The Board discussed the need to meet next week to continue the discussion and complete agenda items not addressed. A location for the meeting would be found to meet on Thursday, May 19th.

Summer Programing Update – Recreation Department: Deferred to the next meeting.

Schedule for ARPA funds project review: Deferred to the next meeting.

Conservation Commission grant application for Philbrick-Cricenti Bog walkway: Deferred to the next meeting.

Police Department grant agreement for Phase 3 Mount Sunapee Communications Repeater: Deferred to the next meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Next Regular Selectmen’s meeting – Thursday, May 26, 2022 – 6:00pm @ 165 Main St**
- **Public Hearing: Fireworks Ordinance – Thursday, May 26th – 6:00 PM @165 Main St.**
- Conservation Commission – Wednesday, May 18th – 8:30 AM – Whipple Town Hall
- Housing Commission – Wednesday, May 18th – 6:00 PM – Syd Crook Meeting Room
- Budget Committee – Wednesday, May 18th – 6:30 PM – Whipple Town Hall
- Recreation Commission – Thursday, May 19th – 5:30 PM – Whipple Town Hall
- Planning Board – Tuesday – May 24th – 6:30 PM – Whipple Town Hall
- Building & Facilities Committee – Tuesday, May 25th - 6:00 PM – Syd Crook Meeting Room
- Supervisors of the Checklist – Tuesday, May 31st – 7:00 PM -Whipple Town Hall
- Energy Committee – Wednesday, June 1st – 7:00 PM – Syd Crook Meeting Room
- Citizen’s Advisory Committee meeting – Saturday – June 4th – 7:30 AM – Whipple Town Hall
- Listening Session – Reps Ebel & Wolf – Monday – June 6th – 5:00 – PM – Syd Crook Meeting Room

Items to be signed:

- Accounts Payable Vouchers
- Intent to Cut (3)
- Town Use Application (3)
- Warrant Wastewater Charges
- Warrant Property Tax 1st & 2nd

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Building Permits-approved

- Andrew Johnson Et Al, TM 046-022-0-0-0. Moving bathroom & laundry room with existing fixtures/appliances. BP 22-54. Approved. 5/5/2022.
- John & Beverly Caldon, TM 071-022-0-0-0. Adding 8x12 to existing shed. BP 22-51. Approved. 5/5/2022.
- Jane A. Phillips, TM 046-004-0-0-0. Add 12x16 to existing shed. BP 22-44. Approved. 5/5/2022
- S & C Jankoski 20 Revocable Trust, TM 035-041-0-0-0. 10x16 lean-to attach to garage – ATF. BP 22-53. Approved. 5/5/2022.
- Snow Revocable Trust, TM 129-008-0-0-0. Roof mount solar 14kW. BP 22-52. Approved. 5/5/2022.

- Robin & Kenzie Lobacz, TM 133-006-0-0-0. Roof mount solar 12.8kW. BP 22-55. Approved. 5/5/2022.

Zoning Permits-approved

Temporary Event/Sale Permits – approved

Sign Permits – approved

- Kearsarge Chorale, TM 084-007-0-0-0. TEMP Sign. Approved. 5/5/2022.
- WFK Ice House, TM 073-084-0-0-0. TEMP Sign. Cars & Coffee. 5/28-6/4/2022. Approved. 5/11/2022.
- WFK Ice House, TM 073-084-0-0-0. TEMP Sign. IHM Cracker Barrell. 6/9-6/16/2022. Approved. 5/11/2022
- WFK Ice House, TM 073-084-0-0-0. TEMP Sign. Old Ford Day. 7/9-7/16/2022. Approved. 5/11/2022
- WFK Ice House, TM 073-084-0-0-0. TEMP Sign. Cars & Coffee. 8/6-8/13/2022. Approved. 5/11/2022
- WFK Ice House, TM 073-084-0-0-0. TEMP Sign. Cars & Coffee. 8/27-9/3/2022. Approved. 5/11/2022
- WFK Ice House, TM 073-084-0-0-0. TEMP Sign. Antique Tractor & One Lunger Day. 9/17-9/24/2022. Approved. 5/11/2022
- WFK Ice House, TM 073-084-0-0-0. TEMP Sign. Cars & Coffee. 10/1-10/8/2022. Approved. 5/11/2022

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Hallquist
Town Administrator