



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON PLANNING BOARD
Site Walk
Owls Nest Road and Pike Brook Road

Conducted on
Wednesday, May 20, 2015
10:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Gorman (Vice-Chair), Jeremy Bonin and Liz Meller (Alternate). Liz Meller stayed for the entire site walk.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Helm (Chair), Peter Bianchi (Board of Selectmen's Representative), Michele Holton, Emma Crane, Bill Deitrich, Marianne McEnrue (Alternate) and Tim Paradise (Alternate).

STAFF: Lucy St. John, Planning and Zoning Administrator; Jay Lyon, Fire Chief and Gena Edmunds, Fire Department.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Clayton Platt, surveyor; Bruce Putnam; Laura Davis; Nathaniel Stevens; Samuel Stevens; Barbara Kriesler; Robert Wood, aka "Woody", Lake Sunapee Protective Association; and Phil Miller (later in the site visit).

Weather Conditions: Cool, overcast and breezy.

Discussion:

The site walk began at the end of Owls Nest Road and Route 103A. Most of the participants walked the road.

Jay Lyon, Fire Chief: (left about 11:00 am.)

- ✓ Accessibility to certain homes may be limited or may not be able to be reached, including Barbara Kriesler's home
- ✓ Bridges along the roads (two private bridges) concern for weight limits and width
- ✓ Brush fire several years ago
- ✓ Fire cistern, 30,000 gallons was installed when another subdivision was approved several years ago
- ✓ Front swing of the fire apparatus, have to drive pass and back in
- ✓ Height needed (11 feet to 14 feet)
- ✓ New London has the shortest overall height of equipment, if other Towns assist in a mutual aid response.
- ✓ Best practices of 1,000 gallons for 30 minutes
- ✓ Overhanging trees and branches and how this can impede access
- ✓ Turn-off needed along the side of the road for traffic to pass
- ✓ Passing and turn off area needed due to width of roads
- ✓ Radius needed for turning fire apparatus
- ✓ Shoulder of road none existence and sloping areas along the road
- ✓ If trees are cut, stumps need to be flush with the ground

- ✓ Weight of fire apparatus, 102 inches wide, have to lay hoses and tank shuttles to certain locations
- ✓ Width of existing road, varying (measured road at one point only 10-10 1/2 feet in width)
- ✓ Winter access limited

Questions and comments from other participants:

- ✓ Access to some homes used to be from the Pike Brook Road
- ✓ Aquifer protection concerns especially oil trucks, cars on the bridge and old septic systems
- ✓ Bruce Putnam commented no work had been done on the Pike Brook Bridge for about 20 + years. He noted that years ago, former Fire Chief Peter Stanley “tested” the bridge by having a dump truck with 30 tons of weight sit on the bridge.
- ✓ Cesspools and septic tank locations
- ✓ Confusion on the naming of the roads, where Owls Nest and Pike Brook start and end.
- ✓ Culvert near Phil Miller’s house
- ✓ Logging operation recently conducted, concern about weight on the bridge and potential future development in this area of town.
- ✓ Who maintains the roads?
- ✓ Who owns the land the roads are actually located on?

The site visit concluded at 11:50 am.

Meeting Minutes Prepared By:

Lucy A. St. John, AICP
Planning and Zoning Administrator