



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, June 19th 2024
APPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Brown (chair) Michael Gelcius, Jim Dexter, Mark Vernon, Michael Kennedy, Sue Andrews, Rob Prohl, Dave Hollinger (alt.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Bartlett, Anna White, Sarah Peabody, Ava Bixby (Climate Action Team CSC/Ameri-Corp) Don Ostler

Public Comment/Appointment – Climate Action Team CSC/Ameri-Corp

- Anna White updated the CC: June 20th, 2024 is the work day at Low Plains, removing knot weed and putting plastic layers and wood chips down. They plan on giving the CC an update at the next meeting. Anna will submit a list of volunteers/workers to Chair Brown. Along with a write up and pictures.

Permits – Mike Gelcius – none

Trails

- Chair Brown received a second email about trailhead numbering. Mike G. spoke to Cara Leone, it is being actively pursued. It will help with EMS. Once the numbers are assigned, the CC will make signs with the numbers on them. A few items to be considered:
 - Maps on the website and at the trailheads and the actual trails are all different.
 - Mark & Mike G. are looking into revising and updating the maps.
 - Short term plan is to get the numbering done, long term is to look at all the maps.
 - Jim Dexter suggested that the CC keep the QR codes on the list for the future.
 - Mike K. asked if the FD and PD know where all the trailheads are? Including the privately-owned trails.
- Lyon Brook bridge is scheduled to be delivered on July 26th, 2024. Mark V. is working with Hypertherm volunteers. Old bridge needs to be demolished before new one is installed.

119-002 Clark Pond wetlands – Jim Dexter

- Water level is down from spring high of 7.5' (4-13-24) to currently at 5.4'.
- From March until May NLCC contractor and volunteers cleared out the remains of 4 blockages located on lot 119-002 as we agreed to do.

- NLCC will shift from active work to observation monitoring at this point to see what happens naturally and reevaluate as we have more data.

Motion made by Mike Gelcius for the NLCC to continue to monitor the lot 119-002 (Clark Creek) **Second** by Sue Andrews. **Unanimously approved.**

Philbrick/Cricenti Bog

- The third section was installed, HCAP will be coming back to make some adjustments.
- A big thank you to all the helpers – it made a big difference with the installation.
- New caps were ordered and are in, some prep work needs to be done before installing them.
- There is enough rope to continue with the railings.
- It was suggested to think about installing some benches along the paths.
- Another lumber delivery is scheduled for July.
- The Piggy bank is quite profitable!
- The fundraising is ongoing.
- Chair Brown asked how we should thank all that donated? Need an accurate list. Mary Haddad trust has helped with funding tremendously.

Old/New Business

- The Technical Assistant grant that was applied for was accepted and granted. Mark V. and John Walsh will meet with them to look at the bog and figure out what the signs need to say. This grant isn't for any funds, just advice.
- The CC needs to be sure they get insurance forms from any group that participates in any CC project.
- TACF is looking to enhance the relationship with NLCC. Chair Brown has suggested we do a joint work day in August. Bob will reach out to them.
- The Pine Hill Ski Club sent their annual request letter. A **Motion** was made by Mike Gelcius to approve their request. **Second** by Jim Dexter. **Unanimously approved.**
- Mark Vernon stated that the NLCC has a write up in the Soonipi magazine.
- Mark Vernon is going to check on the tree stand at the Phillips preserve. He has put up no hunting signs. Mike G. is going to give to Bob Brown the phone number for our local conservation officer.
- It was noted that there are two boats (a paddle boat and a small aluminum boat) at the Messer Pond picnic area. Mark V. will write a letter and leave it with the boats asking that the owners get in touch with Chair Brown.
- Rob Prohl suggested one or more of the CC members be on different lake protective associations. Sue Andrews is already on PLPA. Jim Dexter will reach out to LSPA.
- Dave Hollinger mentioned that there is an algae bloom at Cascade brook and it feeds into Pleasant Lake, of which is now closed due to high bacteria.
- **088-006** – no update

Motion made by Mike Gelcius to accept the May 14th, 2024, meeting minutes as amended. **Second** by Jim Dexter, **unanimously approved.**

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

- Next meeting Wednesday July 17th, 2024, at 8:30 AM at Whipple Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jackman

Town of New London