



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

8:30 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Brown (Chair), Laura Alexander, Ruth White, Michael Gelcius, Tim Paradis, Michael Kennedy, Mark Vernon, Maggie Ford, Stanley Morono

MEMBERS ABSENT: Andrew Deegan

STAFF PRESENT: Lucy St. John, Planning & Zoning Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: Gerry Gold

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Roll Call: Chair Brown called the roll.

2. **Approval of Minutes - Deferred until next month. May 17th minutes weren't circulated due to internet issues.**

3. **Planning & Zoning Administrator's Report** – Lucy St. John

The Gladstone application (Tax Map 064-016-000) for a house, patio and driveway construction on Lakeshore Drive is the only major application.

The Rowse application (Tax Map 103-024-000) for boathouse work on Sunset shore was denied by NHDES.

Commercial Farm - Did a site walk of the property on 645 Pleasant Street. Will go before the planning board on Tuesday night.

Subcommittee Report –

The NLCC subcommittee reviewed the various applications and, with the exception of the one Wetlands Application denied by NHDES, found no concerns with the proposed applications, or the applications were already discussed at a previous NLCC meeting.

4. **Planning Board Update** – No report

5. **NL & Vicinity Maps Printing**

When printing the maps we were not able to cover the complete cost of the maps largely due to the upfront money needed for the Low Plains project. Committee wanted to do the maps early due to the fact that if we waited for new budget cycle the maps wouldn't be ready until August. The Selectman were contacted and willing to help financially. Revenue from the sale of the maps more than covers the cost.

6. **MCDOC – Work Schedule**

The MCDOC will be providing workers for trail projects. Five dates were given to us for July, which were the 17th, 18th, 24th, 25th, and 26th. The program is back on a limited basis after being suspended last year. Lack of MCDOC staffing seems to be the issue.

7. Trails and Projects

- *Hospital Community Trail* – Grand opening on May 30th went well. Signs are up and bridges are in. Will get mowed once it dries out and ideally mowing will be done once a month.
- *Low Plain Trail tree harvesting* – Many people were involved getting this ready and it was a lot of work, but a great project. Chair Brown reported that 275 seedlings were planted in the cut area by members of the Elkins Fish and Game and he thanked them for their work. Mike Gelcius reported that it appears the majority of the plants have rooting and are growing leaves, with the possible exception of Bayberry plants which have a different growth cycle.
- *Low Plain Stewardship Project.* – Received a monitoring report from the state. They had positive comments and understand the plan and why we did what we did. When we meet with the selectman on July 10th we can give an overview to them. Two meetings ago we talked about meeting with Leo Maslin to meet and take a look at the Mountain Road end of Low Plain and over into Sheppard Pit. It is important to understand what is there. In a portion of Low Plains that was harvested there was a lot of rot in the White Pine. Might be time to get that material out of there. Leo Maslin could give us a report by Fall.
- *Trail Worker List* – Mark Vernon reported that there is not a huge list of volunteers. Limited response to email that was sent. Will send another email after today's meeting.
- Mike Gelcius took scouts from Troop 71 to Low Plain to do clean up and trail maintenance. Scouts needed community hours for their badge programs and this work satisfied the requirements. There are two or three scouts in the troop looking to get Eagle Scout ranking and would like to do a project at one of the trails. The Troop is also interested in being a trail monitor for one of our trails. Mr. Gelcius spoke with Mark Vernon and Bob Brown, who suggested the Kidder/Cleveland/Clough trail. There was a discussion of possible projects for the Eagle Scout program and Mike Gelcius will contact the troop leader with those suggestions.
Mark Vernon heard from Kearsarge High School that students need community service hours. Mr. Gelcius said he had sent an email to the school but did not hear back. He will reach out to them again.
- *Trail Head Maps* – Mark Vernon reported that he has a list of revisions for the maps. There is not a description for the Kelsey Trail that can be edited for the next edition. He would also like our website updated to give a description of our trails.

Mr. Vernon also commented on finding ways to publicize or market our trails. How can we ramp up publicity? Could we possibly put this in the Shopper or Valley news to bring attention to the amazing trail network that exists?

Stanley Morano suggested highlighting one trail a month including pictures and submitting this to the Intertown Record.

It was also suggested that we partner with the Recreation Center that gets the children involved and familiar with the trails offered in the community. Also could do cooperative events with the Greenway. Ruth White will reach out to Scott Blewitt from the Recreation Center as well as attend a Greenway board meeting.

Gates at the Rte. 11 and Mountain Road ends of Low Plain can possibly be done in conjunction with Clark Lookout. Holes for the gate support posts have already been dug. New budget cycle begins July 1, 2017 so gates, hinge kits and poles can be purchased after that.

- Land Owner/NLCC Trail Agreement – No Report

Easements and Land Acquisitions

- *Pleasant Street* – Two different opposing views about how to proceed. This will be a key topic when meeting with the Selectman. We guaranteed the voters two years ago at town meeting that we would protect that property. If we are doing something different there they would have to

vote differently at a town meeting. Chair Brown feels it is an ethics violation to take money out of a fund that was intended for one thing and then do something different.

Need to review the situation and come up with parameters on what is allowable or not. Also need to have it surveyed again to determine the wetlands. Last studies were done 11, 7 and 5 years ago. Need to understand what the effect would be on one property to a neighboring property.

This will be further discussed at a future meeting.

- *Clark Lookout* – Need to reach out to Richard Lee regarding posts and a proper gate for new entrance near park and ride. Also received complaints about broken glass. Can see it underneath but it is crushed and not sharp. If someone does call with concerns, please get contact information. The plan was for the glass to be the sub base and the blue stone would be on top. There may be some places where it is coming through.

8. NLCC Meeting with NLBOS

The rescheduled meeting date is July 10, 2017 at 6:00pm. Currently there is no particular agenda but we will be given 45 minutes. Chair Brown has received some input from committee members but needs more specific topics for the agenda.

Tim Paradis suggested that we give a quick update of what we've done but also discuss a strategic plan for the future. We should give an overview of our future goals and objectives.

Look at land acquisition list and see if any might possibly happen. There are about 50 parcels still on that list. Look ahead at trail projects, timber harvest, and invasive species projects etc. for upcoming budget items. Maggie Ford has offered to work on the five year plan.

9. Rules of Procedure document

The Selectman developed a Rules and Procedure document to outline for the public the purpose, provisions, meeting time and meetings open to public, etc. and provides an overview of what they do and how they work. It was suggested that the other departments develop their own Rules of Procedure. Mike Gelcius put together a draft, which was sent to all the NLCC members so that comments and suggestions could be made at this meeting. After discussion there were a few items that needed clarification. Michael Gelcius will contact Kim Hallquist for her input and the NLCC Rules and Procedures will be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held on July 19, 2017 at 8:30am.

Motion to Adjourn

IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Maggie Ford) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:02am.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson, Recording Secretary
Town of New London