



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**NEW LONDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 23, 2022
Kearsarge Professional Development Center
165 Main Street
6:00 PM**

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Bob Harrington, New London Public Works Director
Putnam Kidder, New London Recreation Director
Greg Uhrin, YCN Administrator
Karen Ebel, New London Resident
John Lewis, New London Resident
Bob Bowers, New London Resident
Peter Hوجلund, New London Resident
Nancy Marashio, New London Resident
Colin Beasley, New London Resident
Peter Bianchi, New London Resident
Liz Meller, New London Resident
Tina Helm, New London Resident
Jerry Coogan, New London Rotary Club
Maureen Prohl, New London Resident
Bob Lyon, New London Resident
Minette McQueeney, *Intertown Record*

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

Greg Uhrin, YCN

Greg Uhrin, YCN Administrator attended the meeting to ask the Selectmen to consider allowing a group to use the access channel in New London. He provided his background that included 40 years of producing local programming throughout the state of New Hampshire. More recently he expanded into New London and into the Kearsarge school district. He and his partner sold their stations, but Mr. Uhrin and his wife bought the intellectual property and physical assets that were left over from the sales and continue to produce local programming.

Mr. Uhrin stated they would need the local communities to clear the cable channel which is allocated in the town's franchise agreement for their use. He is asking that the town explore this possibility.

The town would need to legally approach Comcast to say they would like NC TV to provide the programming for our channel. He has all the towns except New London and Sunapee on board from Newport all the way down to Hopkinton. They would operate under traditional local access rules. The costs are minimal, and they are not asking for money, just asking for the channel position. Mr. Uhrin also addressed the issue of whether the town decided at some point that they wanted to use that channel. It would be the town's prerogative and if the town felt they could provide a better service, they could rescind his use of it.

Mr. Uhrin stated it is his plan to create enough business in the next two or three years that it would be set up to hand off to someone else. Selectman Kidder asked how each town is guaranteed equal access and covered equally. Mr. Uhrin gave the example of Newport and stated what they do for Newport is provided for through the budget in that town and that is what sustains that programming. In this proposal tonight, they are creating is a blank slate for the towns to decide what they want to develop as they move towards the future. The initiative needs to come from the community itself to decide what they feel is needed.

Tonight, Mr. Uhrin requests that this proposal be approved by the Selectmen and a letter sent from the town to the franchise contact asking that the channel be made available for them.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve asking Comcast for our local access channel to be used for this purpose. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Bowers, New London resident shared two concerns he has regarding the Board of Selectmen. In summary, he stated there is a growing sense in New London that two of the Selectmen have chosen not to listen to or truly hear the concerns and opinions of a large segment of the population and that they view forthright, open discussion by and with the public as a stumbling block to what they have already decided. Mr. Bowers stated the Selectmen should pursue municipal decisions representing all the residents rather than the political decisions favored by the few.

John Lewis concurred with Mr. Bowers and thinks things have changed in town and maybe not for the better. He stated the land where the old middle school used to be isn't being utilized and there should be public tennis/paddle courts in town, especially for the elderly. This should be taken into account for long term actions and considerations. Mr. Lewis stated the house next to the Police Station on Seaman's Road should be purchased by the town immediately. It has an intimate relationship with Buker and Whipple Hall and would benefit the town.

Mr. Lewis noted that a Police Station site subcommittee has been formed and is chaired by Police Chief Emily Cobb. He feels there should be an objective and fairly balanced evaluation of the issues and problems related to the Police Station. It is going to be a huge expense. While he thinks we should care about the police and their perspectives they shouldn't be running the process. Having the Chief of Police as the head of the committee represents a conflict of interest and is not a wise course of action.

As far as the issue of dissolving the Building and Facilities Committee, Mr. Lewis stated they were near the end of the process of analysis with regards to the police station site and had narrowed it down to three sites. He felt they should have been allowed to finish their job and get their opinions

and summary. They should be allowed to re-form to continue examining this issue.

Chair Rollins thanked Mr. Lewis for his comments and suggested that he read the minutes from the past few meetings. There was a recent presentation from the subcommittee with regards to potential location sites for the police station and they made their recommendations. There were a number of people from the Building and Facilities Committee that participated in that. Chief Cobb was selected by the subcommittee that was made up of a number of members from the Building and Facilities Committee. As far as land usage behind the SAU building, it is unusual to not see a lot of activity there, specifically sporting activities. She suggested he also look at the activities that the Outing Club provides which include tennis and pickle ball.

Establishment of a Whipple Hall Project Committee

Chair Rollins discussed the establishment of the Whipple Hall project committee. Rip Cross, Colin Beasley, Phil Sherman, Bob Harrington, Kim Hallquist and Chair Rollins were present at the meeting, and it was recommended that this group will be titled the Whipple Hall 2022 Project Committee. There was a lengthy discussion about both the design phase and the construction phase that will need to take place with regards to Whipple Hall. There was also a recommendation to consider a preconstruction contract manager. There will be a meeting with Frank Anzalone to narrow the scope of work with regards to looking at whether air condition is feasible and to address the furniture issue.

Comments of Wilmot resident - disagrees with New London's beach use policy

Kim Hallquist stated Recreation Director Putnam Kidder received an email from a person who claims to be a Wilmot resident and she disagrees with the New London ordinance adopted in 2009 that states the beaches, both Elkins and Bucklin, are for the use of New London residents and their guests. She disagrees with this and feels she has the right to use the town beaches. Ms. Hallquist invited her to the meeting tonight but she was not in attendance. The Board declined to consider changing the town beach ordinance at this time.

Establishment of a Solid Waste Reduction Panel

Jerry Coogan provided a presentation to the Board of Selectmen showing the work the Rotary has done with regards to solid waste reduction. The rotary adopted the environment as a priority for this year. Chair Judy Shoen became aware of the NexTrex challenge where if you were able to recycle 500 pounds of number 2 and number 4 plastic you would get a park bench. This was started in December and went until June and they received a park bench. They will find a suitable place for the bench with the cooperation of the Selectmen. They have found that their effort has resulted in an overwhelming response from the town and they are pleased by that. This is saving money for the town and is helping the environment. State Representative Tom Schamberg attended the meeting. He represents the town of Wilmot and Sutton and is also a member of the board of Selectman for Wilmot. Mr. Coogan would like to get other towns involved and Mr. Schamberg has expressed interest. Drop off points for plastic are at the transfer station and also at Colonial Pharmacy.

Selectman Helm proposed that a solid waste reduction panel be formally established. This Panel would be made up of up to 7 citizens and the activities of this panel will be advertised in Municipal Matters. He would like to appoint the committee at the next meeting. He identified three very broad goals:

1. Reduce landfill
2. Provide educational program to let people know about how to go about waste reduction and why it is important.
3. Take on the task of looking at compostable/biodiversity waste.

He suggested to limit the timeframe of this committee to March 2023 so there is incentive to bring proposals to town meeting. Chair Rollins suggested the target date be January or February and Selectman Helm agrees but he would just like the committee to still be in place so they can be active at Town meeting.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to formally form the solid waste reduction committee with up to seven community members (New London residents) with three broad goals of reducing landfill, educating the public and working on biodegradable composting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Rollins asked Karen Ebel about federal funds and what the reality is of the grant program actually becoming available. Karen Ebel responded it is 100 percent available and is going to happen because it was part of the federal infrastructure plan. There is 55 million dollars available per year over a five-year period and the government is working out the guidelines that should be available by September.

Ms. Ebel commented that she was hoping that people would have input on what the solid waste reduction panel would be looking at. It seems this has already been decided. Selectman Helm clarified that what he proposed was just a broad overview and he stated the panel would also set its own goals and objectives. He would be happy to discuss this further tonight.

Ms. Ebel stated for the first broad goal it should be the reduction of materials disposed in landfills through source reduction, reuse, recycling and other means. She supports the second goal and for the third goal instead of saying programs should be developed they should be emphasizing how to recycle better in town and in the region. There is a lot of information floating around and consolidating all of that on our website would be a good way to make it a go to place for towns that are trying to figure all of this out. She's hoping the panel will look at improved regionalization for collection issues, transport, and hauling.

Chair Rollins responded that she does not see the proposal from Selectman Helm as the ultimate charter for the committee. They will be looking to the group to formalize that. Maureen Prohl recommended that the word "solid" be removed from the title of the committee and should simply be the waste reduction committee.

Adoption of credit/debit card policy

Finance Officer Lynn Lewis stated this is the last of the policies that hasn't been readopted and the auditors have recommended doing this as it was last done 10 years ago. Some of the verbiage has been changed to bring it up to date.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the credit/debit card policy as presented. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Budget review

Town Administrator Kim Hallquist presented the FY2022 budget for review. This budget ends at the end of June and she highlighted some items that the Selectmen may want to look at. With the increase in fuel costs and parts/materials there may be some things that will need to get put off until spring. This issue will continue to be monitored.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Town Administrator Kim Hallquist provided the following report:

- A public hearing will be held at the July 14, 2022 meeting to discuss the acceptance of \$20,000 that the Conservation Commission received to go towards the walkway project at the Philbrick-Criscenti Bog. Anything donation over \$10,000 requires a public hearing.
- The A/V installation at Whipple Hall should be completed tomorrow.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REPORTS

Chair Rollins previously reported on the Whipple Hall Project committee.

Selectman Kidder attended the Planning Board meeting on June 14, 2022. The CIP Planning committee is being formed. The hearing regarding a conditional use permit for a dwelling on Bog Road was continued. There was a subdivision and annexation on Davis Hill.

MEETING MINUTES: Approve the Selectmen's Minutes of May 17, 2022

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to accept the minutes of May 17, 2022 meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Next Regular Selectmen's meeting – Thursday, July 14th, 2022 – 6:00pm @ 165 Main St**
- Housing Commission – Monday, June 27th – 6:00 PM - 165 Main Street
- Housing Commission – Wednesday, June 29th – 6:00 PM – Whipple Town Hall
- **TOWN OFFICES CLOSED – Monday, July 4th**
- Recreation Commission – Thursday, July 7th – 5:30 PM – Whipple Town Hall
- Planning Board – Tuesday – July 12th – 6:30 PM – Whipple Town Hall
- Conservation Commission – Wednesday – July 20th – 8:30 AM – Syd Crook Meeting Room

APPROVAL OF PAY VOUCHERS, PERMITS etc.

Items to be signed:

- Accounts Payable Forms
- PA-28 Inventory of Taxable Property
- Yield Tax Levy (4)
- Primex Form
- Town Use (3)
- Appointment Card/Letter

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Building Permits-approved

- Everett B Yelton Trust, TM 076-034-0-0-0. Replace rotted existing structure due to water damage, interior ceiling and roof support will be improved & watertight. BP 22-74. Approved. 6/13/22.
- Thomas Living Trust, TM 109-016-0-0-0. Addition 6x18 balcony and cupola w/weathervane to barn under construction (BP 22-29). BP 22-77. Approved. 6/13/22.
- Mackenzie Family Revocable Trust, TM 074-030-0-0-0. Install 16x40 inground fiberglass swimming pool. BP 22-75. Approved. 6/13/22.
- Gillman Sunapee Trust, TM 055-004-0-0-0. Replace roof, new kitchen, replace windows, new deck. BP 22-64. Approved. 6/13/22.
- Hollinger Family Trust, TM 033-030-0-0-0. Replace existing rotting deck, replace front porch and cover walkway. BP 22-69. Approved. 6/15/22.
- Stanley & Pamela Bright Farmhouse Trust, TM 070-21-0-0-0. Build 12x24 run in shed. BP 22-78. Approved. 6/17/22.

- Dennis & Roberta Aufranc Trusts, TM 033-023-0-0-0. Replace cabinets, countertops, remodel bathroom w/flooring. BP 22-73. Approved. 6/15/22.
- Jeffrey R. Davis, TM 076-003-0-0-0. Build roof over existing deck and add screening to the deck. BP 22-79. Approved. 6/15/22.

Temporary Event/Sale Permits – approved

- Colby-Sawyer College Homecoming Weekend, October 14-16, 2022. Kelsey Field, CSC

Sign Permits – approved

- Ambrose Hogan, TM 059-005-0-0-0. Concord Hospital Medical Offices New London. Approved. 6/20/22.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to enter into a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, II (d): consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real property which if discussed in public would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community and, upon the request of the Town Administrator, added RSA 91-A: 3, II (a): the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee.

Roll call vote: Rollins: yes; Kidder: yes; Helm: yes

The Board entered nonpublic session at 7:22 PM.

The Board reentered the public session at 7:55 PM.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to seal the nonpublic session meeting minutes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:03PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Trina Dawson
Recording Secretary
Town of New London