



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 2021

6:00 PM

### PRESENT:

John Cannon, Chairman  
Nancy Rollins, Selectman  
Janet Kidder, Selectman  
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator  
Lynn Lewis, Finance Officer

### ALSO PRESENT:

Emily Cobb, New London Police Chief  
Bill Helm, New London resident  
John Wilson, New London resident  
Dorothy Dogan, New London resident  
Don Dogan, New London resident  
John Sullivan, Landscape Architect  
Nancy Marashio, New London resident  
Bob Bowers, Building and Facilities Com.

Bob Harrington, New London Public Works Dir.  
Doug Lyon, New London resident  
Erin Darrow, New London resident  
John Ryan, New London resident  
Tony Thompson, New London resident  
Minette McQueeney, *Intertown Record*  
Lee Maymen, New London resident

**Conservation Commission Members:** Joe Kubit, Michael Kennedy, Mark Vernon, Bob Brown, Michael Gelcius

Chair Cannon called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Public Hearing Opened: New London Conservation Commission purchase of land located on Route 11, Map 088-006, approximately 23.19 acres. This parcel abuts town-owned land known as the Esther Currier Wildlife Management Area of Low Plain.**

Bob Brown, Chair of the Conservation Commission presented the project to the public, explaining the proposal to purchase this land has been on the Conservation Commission's list of desirable properties for many years. This has been on their desirable lands list for a long time because it is adjacent and contiguous with Low Plain. It is located on Andover Road on the east side of the town owned Ether Currier area of Low Plain, which is conserved and held under an easement by New Hampshire Fish and Game. It is a very important wildlife and forest management area and is enjoyed by many hikers, walkers, birders, and well-known nesting area.

The asking price for the land was originally \$400,000. The Conservation Commission talked with the Realtor and the owners and offered \$225,000 which was accepted. The Conservation Commission would like to move forward, and the proposal is to fund this transaction using the Mary Haddad fund.

There were no questions from the public present.

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the purchase of the property. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Public Hearing Opened: Main Street Parking Ordinance – prohibition against overnight parking.**

Police Chief Emily Cobb explained that the parking ordinance was enacted in 2011. One area that was adopted was no overnight parking on Main Street. There is some confusion as there are several signs up and down Main Street and some say, “no overnight parking” and other say “no parking 11:00PM – 7:00AM”. On average since 2012 about 16 parking tickets are issued per year; she agreed that there should be consistency with the signage.

Chief Cobb noted that there are several things that should be considered if the Board of Selectmen intend to lift this ordinance including the fact that people will that park their cars on Main Street for several days in a row.

Erin Darrow, resident on Main Street, has concerns about this with regards to safety. She generally feels very safe in New London but if it is 2:00am and a strange car is allowed to park overnight this would make her nervous. Town Administrator Kim Hallquist stated that in addition to Ms. Darrow, there were three other people that contacted her office in opposition for many of the same reasons already discussed.

Public Works Director Bob Harrington commented that they try to sweep Main Street several times a year but if there are cars parked there that would be a problem. Painting lines would also be difficult.

Dorothy Dogan had concerns about the Barn Playhouse parking and asked how far down Main Street this is enforced. Chief Cobb stated the ordinance reads it is the whole length of Maine Street. Ms. Dogan feels we need to think about all the consequences if we are planning to change the rules.

Tony Thompson stated his recommendation would be that if the ordinance is changed, it should be that if you allow overnight parking, even during the summertime, you should have a restriction that you cannot park in the same space for 24 or 48 hours at a time. He also noted a flaw in the existing regulation. The preamble refers to RSA 265:71 and when you look at section 1-9, it refers to RSA 265:61. It appears to be a clerical error. Long term parking is an issue if you don't have a way to move people along. Chief Cobb stated the enforcement of a timeframe of 24-48 hours would be difficult and perhaps a clarification in the ordinance would work better. Mr. Thompson also noted that if a car is blocking a driveway that is potentially a life safety issue and quick action is mandated.

Selectman Rollins suggested that Chief Cobb draft a proposal to determine what makes sense. Chief Cobb will work with Bob Harrington on this.

### **Appointments**

#### **Temporary use of town property during construction and permanent use of town property for landscaping**

John Sullivan, Landscape Architect, attended the meeting to discuss a project at Woodcrest Village seeking to use town land on a temporary basis while a stone wall is being built and a small area to allow plantings on a permanent basis. Mr. Sullivan stated he has provided information that was requested including the square footage for what the disturbance will be on town land and information about access Main Street to unload stone. He is asking to put some perennial plantings on the Southern side of the site to tie the corner together. He also requested moving a sign to make a nicer entrance area.

Selectman Kidder noted the Planning Board had concerns about who would maintain the plantings and suggested a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The other issue was that all plantings should be done within 12 months. Mr. Sullivan stated there is a problem with supply and getting plants to nurseries due to COVID. They haven't solidified the plant list. He cannot guarantee it will be done within 12 months from the start date. He would like to have the complete season to do this. Selectman Kidder stated the Planning Board is sensitive to these issues but using town property, it is important that it not be disturbed and then not finished.

Mr. Sullivan explained the only area they are disturbing is the front for the wall and that will be the first thing that they work on. They are really only disturbing grass and the best time to seed is before Memorial Day or around Labor Day. Woodcrest was hit hard due to the COVID crisis, and he is not sure what their situation is budget wise. They may need to do the work in phases, and he would like permission to extend the work until the end of next year. The concrete work and paving are expensive. Selectman Kidder read the conditions that were placed on their approval by the Planning Board for this project and stated if he is unhappy with them, he needs to go back to the Planning Board. Mr. Sullivan replied they are going to try to reach those goals, but he can't predict what the industry is going to do as far as availability of materials. He has no control over that or what the budget is.

Selectman Rollins stated she would like to hear from the Executive Director of Woodcrest as to where they are with this project and what assurances they could give as to whether it could be completed on time or not. She appreciates the presentation by Mr. Sullivan and understands his hands are tied but she would like to hear what the plan is from Woodcrest. Mr. Sullivan asked if they could start the walls to begin with. They have approval and materials, but he just doesn't know what their budget is for putting in the rest of the paving. Selectman Kidder responded she doesn't want to hold him up, but it would be valuable to hear from Woodcrest about this as there are many unanswered questions concerning use of the town's property. The next meeting is in two weeks and Ms. Hallquist will send a letter to invite Woodcrest to the meeting.

**Public Comment - None**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Memo from Bill Helm: Plans for public dialogue on future priorities of the Town**

Bill Helm stated he sent a memo to the Board of Selectmen after the last meeting and felt it was self-explanatory. He is excited to anticipate that the town may engage in a broader discussion about future issues in the town. Selectman Rollins responded that she is meeting with Colin Beasley and Paul Gorman tomorrow to start the discussion. She agrees that these discussions need to be facilitated.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Adoption of Investment Policy**

There were no substantive changes to the policy from the previously approved policy.

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to accept the Investment Policy for another year. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Town Administrators Report**

Ms. Hallquist provided the following report:

- Kim Hallquist stated she provided the Selectmen with a list of volunteers that are interested in various appointments as well as a list of people that have terms that are up this year. Appointments can be done at the next meeting.
- Late today Ms. Hallquist received a call about the water at Pleasant Lake. The state is working on releasing a beaver dam that is blocking a culvert under Route 11 (Andover Road) and the water being released is causing an odor in the Elkins Beach area. She will notify the Health Officer so this can be monitored, and water samples taken as the water coming into the lake is right near the beach.

**Committee Meetings & Reports**

**Planning Board** – Selectman Kidder reported that at a recent planning Board meeting they discussed a tree cutting proposal, a storm water and erosion control application, a proposal for a farm stand and a

free-standing sign for the Health Center on the corner of Main Street and Newport Road. There was also a proposal from Spring Ledge farm for another high tower tunnel as well as a project at Woodcrest. Chair Gorman stated he and Paul Vance will begin working on the CIP process.

### **Meeting Minutes: Approve the Selectmen's minutes of June 21, 2021**

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2021 meeting. Chair Cannon recused himself as he was not in attendance. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED**

### **Upcoming Meetings & Special Events**

- Housing Commission – July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 6:00pm Whipple Hall
- Energy Committee – July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 7:00pm Syd Crook Conf Rm
- Master Plan Committee – July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 8:30am Whipple Hall
- Buildings & Facilities – July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 6:30pm Whipple Hall
- Conservation Commission – July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 @ 8:30am Whipple Hall
- Board of Selectmen – July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 6:00pm Whipple Hall

Please see the calendar on the town website for a complete listing of other meetings, including subcommittee meetings, of the various town boards: [www.nl-nh.com](http://www.nl-nh.com)

### **Items to be signed:**

- Accounts Payable Voucher
- Town Use/Whipple-Square Dance Club
- Town Use/Town Green Food Truck Festival
- Town Use/Town Common-Bandstand

### **Applications Approved &/or Denied**

#### Sign Permits–approved

- Temporary Sign – Chamber of Commerce, TM 085-041-0-0-0. New London Historical Society hour's sandwich board. Approved 7/1/2021.

#### Building Permits-approved

- Paul & Carrie Sohigian, 217 Owls Nest, TM 141-004-0-0-0. Build new single family 2 story residence 7300 sq ft. BP 21-052. Approved 6/23/2021.
- Wade & Kathleen Harwick, 104 Oakmont Rd, TM 094-009-0-0-0. Build 12x20 shed. BP 21-069. Approved 6/25/2021.
- Wally Borgen, 138 Quail Run, TM 108-009-0-0-0. Roof Mount solar 8.9kw. BP 21-071. Approved 7/2/2021.
- Machen Family Trust, 160 Sargent Rd, TM 086-009-0-0-0. Roof Mount solar 6.67kw. BP 21-072. Approved 7/2/2021.
- Nicholas Scheu Revoc Trust, 25 Pressey Ct, TM 073-060-0-0-0. Roof Mount solar 5.94kw. BP 21-073. Approved 7/2/2021.
- Louis Botta & William Hickey, 433 County Rd, TM 072-008-0-0-0. Resurface existing open porch. BP 21-074. Approved 7/6/2021.
- John Bruno & Artemis Tsagaris, 31 Highland Ridge Rd, TM 071-026-0-031-S31. Kitchen renovation. BP 21-075. Approved 7/6/2021.

- Paul & Carrie Sohigian, 217 Owls Nest Rd, TM 141-004-0-0-0. Build U shaped dock. BP 21-077. Approved. 7/12/2021.
- Kimberly Tuthill. 15 Fieldstone Ln, TM 093-007-0-0-0. Build 24x24 garage. BP 21-078. Approved 7/12/2021.

Zoning Permits-approved

- New London Hospital Assoc., 273 County Rd, TM 072-018-0-0-0. Suite renovation with site changes for express clinic. ZP 21-03. Approved 6/25/2021.

Temporary Event/Sale Permits-approved

- Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners – Town Green/Bandstand, KNP Meet and Greet. Wednesday, July 21, 2021. 4:00-7:00pm. Approved.
- Center for the Arts – Whipple Hall, Sunapee Singers Concert. Sunday, October 3, 2021. 1:00-5:00pm. Approved.
- New London Rotary Foundation – Town Common/Bandstand, Food Truck Festival. Sunday, September 26, 2021. 11:00am-5:00pm. Approved.

**Motion to Adjourn**

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson  
Recording Secretary  
Town of New London