



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**NEW LONDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 14, 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:

David Demers	Joe Cardillo
Mike Morgan	Bob Harrington, Public Works Director
Wendy Parker	Chief Cobb
Robert Lyon	Gerry Gold
Marilyn Soper	Liz Meller
Art Scutro	Bob Bowers
Colin Beasley	Peter Hoglund
Susan Nye	Mark Vernon
Bob Ruggles	Bob Brown
Lynn Annicchiarico	Mike Gelcius
Sally Keating	Peter Nichols
Bud Vazquez	Minette McQueeney, <i>Intertown Record</i>

Selectman Rollins called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and opened the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing: Acceptance of gift of \$20,000 to be used for the Philbrick-Cricenti Bog Walkway Project. RSA 31:95-b

Bob Brown, Chair of the Conservation Commission, explained the project to add a walkway in the Philbrick-Cricenti Bog. The first 350 feet of walkway, 3-foot-wide aluminum walkway, is completed, paid with Mary Haddad Trust funds. The next phase is planned, it is very expensive given the increases in prices. The Commission did consider putting off the project due to increasing prices but felt that it should be done now. He noted that when the project was discussed for use of Mary Haddad Funds, the Conservation Commission committed to raising funds for the project so that public funds would not be needed.

Robert Lyon asked about the total cost of the project – Mr. Brown noted that they expect the whole project to cost \$200,000-\$300,000. He also pointed out the uniqueness of the trail and the fact that it is

one of the most used trails. John Ellis asked if donations of under \$10,000 would avoid a Public Hearing, the Board noted that a public hearing is needed to accept funds of \$10,000 or more.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to accept the donation of \$20,000 for the Philbrick-Cricenti Bog Walkway. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Russ Moore: New London Bike Walk Coalition

Russ Moore met with the Board to discuss plans to add bike racks near the town office parking lot, on the Town Green. He pointed out that surveys of New London citizens show support for bike and walking paths. There was a discussion about the popularity of biking and the increasing number of bikers that come into town. Adding bike racks would make the statement that the community welcomes bikers. Mr. Moore noted that in addition to the bike racks also requests bike parking signs at the bike racks.

Mr. Moore described the various type of rack available. John Ellis asked why covered bike racks would be needed, pointing out that they would require more maintenance of the Public Works Department for snow removal, etc. Mr. Moore noted that those issues would be considered before purchase and placement. Selectman Kidder asked about the durability of covered bike racks; Mr. Moore responded that the ones he has seen have been very durable. He noted that his volunteers would be involved in inspecting them to ensure they are good shape.

Mark Vernon expressed support of the plan, noting that the number of bikers in town is increasing. Joe Cardillo also expressed support and suggested a housekeeping item of whether placing the racks on the Town Green would violate any restrictions of Ausbon Sargent and suggested that be checked out.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to support the proposal for the planning stage of placing bike racks on the Town Green and the two town beaches. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

David Demers: Speeders on Bunker Road

David Demers met with the Board as a representative of a group of Bunker Road and Pleasant Lake residents who have concerns about the safety of the road. He began by thanking Chief Cobb for her assistance and work with the group to solve the problem. Mr. Demers noted that the current group will be working to form a coalition of residents from other areas of town. Mr. Demers pointed out the unique features of Bunker Road, noting that from Pleasant Street is a runway that a motorist will only travel at the posted speed if they continually hit the brakes. He noted that there are line of sight issues, property owner crossings to the lake, physical obstacles that prohibit walkers from getting off the road, the slope of the road and blind spots taken with the people who do not observe the speed limit present safety issues for the many walkers and bikers.

Mr. Demers noted that the group has reached out to Representative Ebel, the State DOT, communities that have similar issues to Bunker Road and the town planner Adam Ricker who gave them a suggestion of an engineer that might be good to do a survey of the road. They have also reached out to Slope and Shore and Pleasant Lake Protective Association to work with them.

Mr. Demers informed the Board that his group believes the permanent placement of speed feedback signs would be useful. He noted that in speaking with the Sunapee Police Department, they find that permanent signs are effective. Mr. Demers also noted that reducing the speed to 20 mph should be looked at and pointed out that Karen Ebel submitted information about seasonal speed limits to the Board. Mr. Demers noted that changing patterns of behavior is important, and they want to see people slowing down on Bunker Road as people always do when they enter Sunapee near the elementary school.

Mr. Demers explained that the group would also like the town to consider hiring a consultant who has experience in traffic calming techniques to do a safety study to suggest improvements for the road; he noted that he understands that there is currently no budget for such a study but he asked the Board to keep it in mind for possible future budgeting.

Susan Nye informed the Board that she is a frequent walker on Bunker Road and noted that everyone involved need some education: walkers should walk against traffic and bikers with traffic. She suggested that drivers slow down and pedestrians should not be walking 2 & 3 abreast. She asked that commuters drive as if it was their neighborhood and slow down.

Lynn Annicchiarico suggested that the big thing is education for everyone and that 25 mph is not being obeyed; she suggested that many drivers don't know how fast they are driving. She has observed walkers at 2-3 abreast and walking with traffic, bikers going down the middle of the road. She once had to quickly get off the road and injured her ankle. The road is so scenic that many drivers and walkers are distracted and may not know of a danger. She agreed with the need for signs.

Bob Ruggles noted that anyone walking or biking has had an experience with speeding cars; he shared a story about a car that nearly killed his daughter, she had no place to go to get off the road. He agreed that something needs to get done.

Tom Flynn suggested that speed bumps be installed to address the issue. Bob Lyon noted that he has a fear of getting a ticket in Sunapee so that is why he slows down, he does not have that fear in New London, so he doesn't feel the need to do the speed limit. He disagrees that no tickets should be given out, he feels that tickets should be issued because if he doesn't have any fear of getting a ticket, seeing the feedback signs won't do anything.

Sally Keating on Burpee Hill noted that the residents of her road have similar concerns of speeders and through truckers. She agrees noted that this is a community problem and she agrees that when you go into Sunapee you slow down.

Mike Morgan noted that he and others have been working on similar problems on Little Sunapee Road, which is a state road. He agrees with the speed feedback signs. He feels that people should be speaking with their neighbors and friends about this problem to stress that that is not the kind of community we want to live in.

Marilyn Soper noted that Old Main Street is experiencing similar problems on her road with cars going too fast; she feels that there is a lack of respect for the people who live and walk on the road by the cars passing through.

Colin Beasley noted that this is a behavioral issue, he has also heard of slowing down in Sunapee. He feels that enforcement has to be a part of the solution; he recalled when a previous Chief said they would not write tickets for anything under 15 mph over the speed limit because courts would not enforce it. Mr. Beasley noted that his opinion is that ticketing is the way to go, if people want to go to court to fight it then they can.

Chief Cobb expressed that she was happy to hear that people feel that this is a community approach as she does not believe that they can ticket their way out of this problem. She explained that there are no quotas on the officers to issue tickets, they have discretion as to whether a ticket will be issued over a warning, based on many factors. The department has equipment that can be placed on roads to track speed to help

determine if speeding is a problem in the area; Chair Rollins asked if it was possible to see the date and time of the activity, Chief Cobb agreed that it does and this allows the department to see the time of day when much of the activity is happening so they can direct their patrols. She noted that the equipment will go to Bunker Road next. Chief Cobb noted that the feedback signs do work but cautioned that they do require maintenance and when solar power

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to support the proposal of action items of (1) using a community and town partnership to establish speed feedback signs and (2) continue the analysis work with NLPD to establish enforcement. She would also like to add an action point of an analysis of education programming that could be established to address this issue.

Selectman Kidder questioned where the money for the speed feedback signs would come from. She noted that she is in favor of them and would like to see them installed immediately. Chair Rollins noted that that is included in action item #1. Mr. Demers agreed and noted that his group is working on that already and they are doing the work to get it done ASAP.

Chair Rollins thanked all for coming and expressing their thoughts on the important topic, noting that she supports the efforts of the group.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Ellis announced that the Energy Committee's electric bike loaner program will start on July 20th and go until August 9th – bikes can be signed out on-line and picked up at the Recreation Department.

Police Station Site Review Subcommittee March 22, 2022 Report

Chair Rollins noted that Chief Cobb and the subcommittee did a presentation to the Board of Selectmen on Jun 9, 2022 with regards to the Police Station site review and pointed out that there has not been any public comment by the Board on the report. She asked Selectman Helm and Kidder if they had any statements in response to the report ie: how the Board plans to proceed.

Selectman Helm stated there have been some questions along the way about when they would be discussing attachment E from that report; there were 14 different points regarding the cost of construction, towers, soil tests etc. Selectman Helm stated they can't possibly begin to have those discussions until they have a site to do the work on and feels it is premature to think about discussing attachment E. There has also been concern that there have been meetings held in non-public session. There are statutory provisions that allow for this that include the purchase, sale or lease of property. This is a standard practice in the real estate industry to not negotiate the purchase or sale of property in public. The Board has been working on these issues in the past three meetings since the report was submitted.

Bob Bowers has some concerns with Selectman Helm's position, noting that the intent of the site committee is to select a site based on an analysis of the factors that go into it. For example, if the cost of correcting wetlands or building/maintenance issues varies from one site to another so this would be a factor in reaching a conclusion as to what would be a correct site. Mr. Bowers stated that the 14 items greatly affect whether a decision would be made for one site or another. He takes issue with Selectman Helms position that the site be selected first and then trying to figure out what the

cost and problems are. The cost and problems should be figured out first in order to determine what may be the more appropriate site.

Selectman Helm responded there is no sense spending time or money on a site that is not available or workable for the town. The Board has not been determined whether any or all the sites recommended are suitable for that analysis. There have only been three meetings since the report was presented.

Confirm formation of the Whipple Hall 2022 Project Committee

Chair Rollins reported that a few meetings ago, Phil Sherman did a presentation on the status of the formation of that committee with regards to the itemization of all the activities that need to get done in connection with the \$600,000 project. A formal vote was not taken at that time so should be done tonight.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to establish and accept the proposals relative to the work that needs to be done by the Whipple Hall 2022 Project Committee. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Establish Waste Reduction Committee

Chair Rollins stated the Solid Waste Committee has been renamed as the Waste Reduction Committee. Selectman Helm stated over the last few meetings they have listened carefully to what different people felt the focus of the group should be. Several people have reached out to express interest in being a part of the committee including Joy Kubit, Liz Meller, Gerry Gold, Maureen Prohl and Jerry Coogan. Selectman Helm stated he would also like to be a part of this Committee to help get it organized and would bring information back to the Board of Selectmen. Selectmen Helm will report back to the Board after the Committee meets and the Selectmen can then formalize the charge of the Committee.

Consider formation of a committee to study future uses of Buker

Selectman Helm would like to form a committee to look at future uses of the Buker building if the Police Station was no longer there. He noted that part of any presentation they would be asked to make to town meeting on a possible Police Station site would raise this question. He suggested forming a small group of citizens to look at this and come up with a plan. Selectman Kidder agrees and would be happy to be a part of this committee as she has expressed interest in using Buker for other things rather than the Police Department. Chair Rollins would also like to ask Rip Cross to be a part of this group as he was involved in a lot of the work relative to Buker. She also suggested considering anyone who occupies Buker; they wouldn't rule out entities that bring in revenue similar to what they had in the past with the courts.

Bob Bowers stated he would like to be a part of this committee as well and would like to know what the application process is for that.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Kim Hallquist noted that much of her activity since the last meeting revolved around the speeding issues that were discussed earlier. She asked the Selectmen if they would like to move the Board of Selectmen meetings back to Whipple Hall now that the A/V equipment has been installed. The sound system has been tested and is working. Chair Rollins stated due to the heat, she would prefer to wait

until the end of August or September since Whipple Hall can get very hot. The Selectmen agreed to wait until after Labor Day.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REPORTS

Housing Commission - Chair Rollins stated a Housing Commission meeting was held and the focus of the meeting was to discuss conducting another panel discussion that would involve developers and different types of workforce housing,

Planning Board - Selectman Kidder reported the Planning Board met and approved a tree cutting application. There was also an amendment to a previously approved subdivision and a final approval for a small subdivision.

MEETING MINUTES: Approve the Selectmen's Minutes from June 9th
Selectman Helm recommended changes needed in the draft minutes.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to accept the minutes of June 9, 2022 meeting as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

- Next Regular Selectmen's meeting – Thursday, July 28th – 6:00 PM - 165 Main Street
- Board of Firewards – Monday, July 18th – 4:30 PM – Fire Station
- Conservation Commission – Wednesday – July 20th – 8:30 AM – Syd Crook Meeting Room
- Housing Commission – Wednesday, July 27th – 6:00 PM – Whipple Town Hall

Please see the calendar on the town website for meeting locations and a complete listing of other meetings, including subcommittee meetings, of the various town boards: www.newlondon.nh.gov

APPROVAL OF PAY VOUCHERS, PERMITS etc

Items to be signed:

- Accounts Payable Forms
- Town Use Applications
- Supplemental Sewer Warrant
- August Birthday Cards

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Building Permits-approved

- Layne & Barton Revocable Trust, TM 123-012-0-0-0. Renovate bathroom and adding a new bathroom. BP 22-81. Approved. 7/1/22.
- Brian Graves, TM 098-029-0-0-0. Roof mount solar 11.57kW. BP 22-82. Approved. 7/1/22.
- Craig & Pam Jennison, TM 095-007-0-0-0. Build roof over 12x6 deck @front entry door. Approved. 7/1/22.
- Brian & Michele Frenkiewich, TM 057-005-0-0-0. **ATF**- 48 sq ft chicken coop & 24sq ft run. BP 22-85. Approved. 7/1/22.
- Cameron Kent, TM 065-003-0-0-0. Build 24x48 barn attached walkway 24x16. BP 22-57. Approved. 7/13/22.

- Michael & Karen Miles, TM 079-001-0-0-0. Dock repair/rebuild. BP 22-80. Approved. 7/13/22.
- Mark Grubbs, TM 091-040-0-0-0. Add on decks to equal 80sq ft & 48sq ft. BP 22-86. Approved. 7/13/22.
- Jill Bowyer & Eddie Beuerlein, TM 123-005-0-0-0. Ground mount solar 14.72kW. BP 22-87. Approved. 7/13/22.
- Wutz Family Irrevocable Trust, TM 141-001-0-0-0. Build 18x24 shed. BP 22-88. Approved. 7/13/22.

Temporary Event/Sale Permits – approved

- NLBP Playwriting Camp Performance – Whipple Hall – Friday, July 15, 2022. 1:00PM-5:00PM
- New London Antique Show – NL Historical Society – Saturday, July 30, 2022. 10:00AM-3:00PM

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.

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

The Board entered nonpublic session at 7:55 PM.

The Board reentered the public session at 8:27 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 (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Trina Dawson
Recording Secretary
Town of New London