



TOWN OF  
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, July 15, 2020 via zoom**

**8:30 AM**

Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically. The public has access to contemporaneously listen and participate in this meeting through the video conferencing platform Zoom.us.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Brown (chair), Michael Gelcius, Ruth White, Dode Gladders Andrew Deegan (in late), Michael Kennedy, Mark Vernon, Joseph Kubit

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Stanley Morono

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tyler Kipp, George Pellettieri, Nicole Gage, Zoning Administrator

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

**2. Public comment** – None

**3. Permit applications updates:**

- **Lakeshore Drive** – this project involves combining two parcels of land owned by Connie and Andrew McElwee. George Pellettieri of Pellettieri Associates attended the zoom meeting and presented a summary of the project. Shore land applications for Lots 1026 and 1014 were previously discussed with the Conservation Commission and the shore line restoration has been completed. For this project, there were two cottages, one on each lot and one has been torn down. A new house will be built. Since this time, the owners have decided to merge the two lots. This has not been completed yet as they want to make sure all approvals will be granted.

A shore land application has been submitted to DES and a storm water management application has been submitted to the town. Some of the driveway surfaces will be removed and some of the property will be restored.

- **495 Elkins Road** – Tyler Kipp attended the meeting via zoom. The existing house on this property was demolished in January. In order to get a building permit, he needs to submit the storm water and erosion application. Mr. Kipp has already been granted variances to rebuild a house, which will be much smaller and within the existing footprint. There is a new septic design but Mr. Kipp does not have a current landscaping plan at this time. The plan is for silt sock to be installed all around the construction area.
- A request was received from Jennifer Whiteman to collect a gallon of mud from Philbrick Cricenti Bog for an art/science project. Michael Gelcius stated this person is an artist and creates art using natural materials.  
Ruth White had concerns about where the mud would be taken from. If it was from the outflow, that would be fine but if it is from where there is vegetation and flowers, that

would not be ok. Chair Brown would like more information. Ruth White has agreed to meet with Ms. Whitehead to give her more direction.

- Michael Gelcius discussed some complaints they have received regarding projects that are going on in town. Not having a building inspector is a detriment to the town in terms of not having someone to oversee these projects. Mr. Gelcius stated there has been discussion around the town purchasing application tracking software. This would be an investment of approximately \$8,000-\$10,000 and would give the town officers and the Conservation commission the ability to see where projects are going on. It is unclear if the Conservation Commission members would have access to the tracking software. Mr. Gelcius is hoping they would be allowed read and review access.

**IT WAS MOVED (Michael Gelcius) AND SECONDED (Bob Brown) to support the town's efforts in the acquisition of application tracking software. Chair Brown: Yes, Michael Gelcius: Yes, Michael Kennedy: Yes, Joseph Kubit: Yes, Mark Vernon: Yes, Ruth White: Yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- Michael Gelcius stated complaints were received regarding a project being done on Herrick Cove Lane. Mr. Gelcius stated he would like more information about projects and how they are done. Initially a proposal is done but once the work is done it ends up being quite different than what was proposed and the Conservation Commission does not have the authority to enforce anything. Ruth White feels this is a very important issue to follow through on.

Zoning Administrator, Nicole Gage commented that she is appreciative that the Conservation Commission is in support of the town purchasing the application tracking software for permitting activities. It was removed from the most recent budget but meetings are being pulled together to look at software options to propose in the upcoming budget.

Ms. Gage stated that if calls are coming in to the Conservation Commission, she needs to be told as soon as possible. Enforcement activity is difficult if people don't reach out to her or if she doesn't know about them. Complaints or concerns should be sent to either her or Kim Hallquist, the Town Administrator. They will handle it professionally and allow people to remain anonymous whether they call or email. The Conservation Commission can help by instilling confidence to the public in this process when there is an issue.

- Bob Brown submitted a beach replenishment application. The request is for six cubic yards or less which is within the town specification for replenishment. Michael Gelcius will process this as an expedited request as it meets all the requirements and is straight forward.

**IT WAS MOVED (Michael Gelcius) AND SECONDED (Michael Kennedy) that the Conservation Commission sign the permit as expedited to do the beach replenishment for the Bob Brown property. Chair Brown: Recused, Michael Gelcius: Yes, Michael Kennedy: Yes, Joseph Kubit: Yes, Mark Vernon: Yes, Ruth White: Yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Review, accept and approve the June 17, 2020 meeting minutes.**

**IT WAS MOVED (Michael Gelcius) AND SECONDED (Michael Kennedy) to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2020 meeting. Bob Brown: Yes, Michael Gelcius: Yes, Michael Kennedy: Yes, Joseph Kubit: Yes, Mark Vernon: Yes, Ruth White: Yes. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. Trails**

- **P/C Bog –boardwalks** – Chair Brown noted he has received positive comments regarding the improvements to the boardwalk. Liam Fleming recently replaced three boardwalks and it is in good shape.  
Mark Vernon commented that due to increased usage of the trails, there has been increase mountain bike usage. He would like to in depth discussion to understand our policy regarding biking on trails. Chair Brown agreed and it may be worth going down the list of trails to determine which trails are conducive to bike riding. This will be put on the next agenda for further discussion.
- **Clark Lookout –trail improvement** – Last month, the Public Works Department finished up the bluestone work being done at Clark Lookout. This work included the new entrance and the turn- around up top and it looks very nice. Tree work still needs to be done to trim limbs and trimming the perimeter of the field should be done as well.
- **MCDOC work days –2020(postponed)** – This is still on hold and probably won't happen this year.
- **Spofford Easement -storm water management** – No update
- **Pleasant St –East** – Chair Brown spoke with Public Works Director Bob Harrington about the small parking area. There is a concern regarding the water main location and one of the water lines is very close to the surface. It was suggested that Chair Brown contact the head of the water department to set up a meeting to identify where we need to be careful.

**6. Invasive plants** – Michael Kennedy stated the presentation by Doug Cygan regarding invasive plants has been postponed and will be rescheduled for late spring or early summer of next year.

**7. Lumber** – An exceptional amount of lumber has been used this year due to many projects that have been done. The bridges, trails and boardwalks all look great.

**8. Projects:**

Conservation Land Acquisition projects

- **Messer Farm Project** – Andy Deegan reported that things are moving along. Three members of the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) are coming out soon to look at the property. An application was submitted at the end of June. The tentative closing date for this property is October 30, 2020.
- **Hamel Parcel** – Mark Vernon stated that Public Works Director Bob Harrington was going to review the information regarding the Hamel parcel to see if the DPW would have a future interest in this property. Chair Brown will follow up on this.

**9. Gnome Doors** – Ruth White reported that 12 Gnome doors were placed at the beginning of many of the trails including a trail at Knights Hill Nature Park. The two that were put at Knights Hill Nature Park have disappeared. Ms. White will have two new ones made and will have them put back out on the trail.

**Trail Patch Program** – Two people from Massachusetts earned their trail patches so Ms. White sent them their congratulatory letter and patches.

**10. Low Plain 200 -NHF&G CE amendment** – Chair Brown noted that we have been given New Hampshire Fish and Game approval that this parcel will be accepted under the existing conservation easement.

**11. New business**

- Michael Gelcius requested funds of up to \$40 for dog walker signage at Low Plain. The Conservation Commission agreed to this request.
- Mark Vernon discussed updating the plant identification at Clark Pond trails and the Bog. Ruth White would like other members of the Conservation Commission to have knowledge of these areas but it doesn't necessarily have to be a member of the commission. She has done tours for many years. Ms. White will reach out to Dode Gladders to see if he is interested.

**12. Next meeting date** -Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 8:30am.

**13. Motion to Adjourn**

**IT WAS MOVED (Michael Gelcius) AND SECONDED (Ruth White) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47AM

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson

Recording Secretary  
Town of New London