



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

July 26, 2021

6:00 PM

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Putnam Kidder, New London Beach Director
John Hurley, New London resident
Mag Francis, New London resident
Ann Moses, New London resident
Joe Cardillo, New London resident
Adam Ricker, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Crystal Schimpf, Tracy Library Director
Janet Haines, New London resident
John Ellis, New London resident
Minette McQueeney, *Intertown Record*
Leigh Bosse, *The Messenger*
Building & Facilities Committee members: Rip Cross, Philip Sherman, Peter Bianchi, Colin Beasley, Joe Cardillo
Recreation Commission members: Jackie Christensen, Sheri Cote

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

Recreation Commission – Update on Beaches

Jackie Christensen, a member of the Recreation Commission attended the meeting to provide an update on the beaches. Ms. Christensen stated the last time they came before the Board of Selectmen was on June 7, 2021 and they discussed enforcement of the beach use ordinance at both Bucklin and Elkins Beach.

Staffing has been an issue this year as there is a limited number of lifeguards and beach attendants. One challenge has been that the beach attendants are younger, and it is a big ask to have them patrol the use of the water equipment and also have them check ID's at the gate. There was an attempt to get volunteer water ambassadors to sign up to enforce the beach use and check ID's but there was limited response to that request.

Recreation Commission member Sheri Cote did a survey and information was gathered from surveying 48 residents and 2 non-residents at Elkins Beach on Sunday July 11, 2021. People were asked their

thoughts on checking ID's at the beaches and if they liked the idea of having a beach ambassador at the lake.

- 100% of people surveyed thought their New London transfer sticker was their pass to the beach and parking.
- 36% of people surveyed were very much for an ambassador at the door checking ID's upon arrival.
- 64% of people surveyed were not for an ambassador at the door checking ID's.

Some residents shared that they want their families to be able to enjoy the beaches but don't necessarily want to have to accompany them to the beach. Gathering this data provided a lot of good feedback which helped the Recreation Commission make decisions. The Recreation Commission voted to recommend that signage and parking restriction remain in place, but they will not put a staff member at the gate to check ID's. In the future if there is pushback, they can revisit this.

Selectman Rollins would like the Recreation Commission to come back to provide an update on where they are with hiring a year-round director and what the plans are for the fall and into the winter and what is happening with the Outing Club.

Use of Bucklin Beach for a fundraiser: Doggy Swim

John Hurley attended the meeting and discussed a proposal for a doggy swim at Bucklin Beach. Mr. Hurley is a partner at Griffith and Davis in New London and a dog lover. He would like to start the process today to see if the Selectmen would be willing to consider the proposal he submitted. He envisions this event will be held on a Saturday or Sunday after Labor Day after the beaches are closed, for a 3-4 hour period and it would not be restricted to New London residents.

Mr. Hurley's proposal outlines charging a \$20 fee to attend and having 100% of the fees donated to four area charities:

New London Police Benevolent Association
New London Service Organization
Upper Valley Humane Society
TBD

Each participant will receive a welcome bag, possibly a tee shirt, dog bone and perhaps a food truck or ice cream truck could be present for participants. Mr. Hurley would ensure clean-up is done and trash receptacles would be onsite. He would advertise in the Shopper and anticipates it would be a popular event. Prizes would be given in certain categories (oldest, youngest, smallest, largest, cutest). Details still need to be worked out related to registration, liability waivers and the impact it will have on the beach.

Beach Director Putnam Kidder stated his concern would be the impact on the lake and suggested reaching out to a lake educational service for information to be able to communicate it to the public. He also suggested speaking to other organizations that have done something similar to understand liability, pet vaccination requirements etc. Mr. Kidder thinks it is a fun and creative idea and he would be happy to help with clean up after the event is over.

The Board of Selectmen are open to this proposal and suggested that once Mr. Hurley has gathered more information, he should come back to the Board so they can consider whether they will approve the request.

Eversource pole replacement project: impacts to property

Mag Francis, Wilmot Center Road, stated last year she came home to find bulldozers, backhoes and heavy construction equipment going in and out of her side yard. She had no understanding of what was happening and was not notified of this Eversource project.

Over the past year Ms. Francis has done a lot of research to ensure this doesn't happen to others. She stated that this work was not routine, yet it was dealt with as if it was routine maintenance. This is a significant infrastructure upgrade designed to replace all of the existing wooden poles as well as cables/wires. Eversource is not exempt from any town ordinance or permitting requirement and goes through the same process as everyone else for this level of construction. She asked Eversource if they were aware of this and they said yes. They provided the town with all of the information they had but not all of the properties were included in that documentation. Eversource stated that the town did not indicate that there were any permitting or variance requirements needed. Ms. Francis is hoping that the town looks at their process to understand what the expectations are. She questioned at what point does it trigger review by the Planning Board, noting that in other towns, this project went to the Planning Board.

Ann Moses sent videos and pictures to the town to show the extent of what was done on her property. She was not notified that this work was being done and it has been over a year since it started and they have not restored it. She would like to know how the town can help hold Eversource accountable to restoring properties back to the way they were.

Adam Ricker, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated as far as the town ordinances are concerned, there is not necessarily an existing ordinance that would send this directly to the Planning Board. An alteration of terrain permit was received last year. The Conservation Commissions generally get all DES permits and the chair and vice chair review these permits and decide if it will go to the full committee. As far as the Planning Board, they have control over the driveway regulations, and this is one spot that was identified that perhaps wasn't followed correctly. Going forward if anyone is going to put in a temporary but more permanent temporary driveway like the one on Ms. Francis' property then there would be a driveway permit process they should go through.

As far as the pole replacement, all of the existing poles already exceed the height regulation that is allowed so they have a legal non-conforming use. It was not apparent in the documentation that the new poles were going to be much taller than the previous ones.

Mag Francis stated the article in *Municipal Matters* did not communicate to New London residents what was really going to happen. It did, however, indicate that the poles were going to be taller so the town was aware of that. The poles are noticeably taller. There were also large amounts of gravel brought in. If over 250 cubic yards of soil are brought in or removed this should have gone before the Planning Board. At the time it was thought this was going to be temporary and properties would be restored to the way they were.

Ms. Francis requested that the town ask Eversource to come in and give a status update on where they are with restoration across New London. Eversource outsources restoration to another company so they should see what it looks like.

Selectman Rollins agrees and would like Eversource to come before the board to explain when they proposed the project, who they proposed it to and what notification was given to landowners. Even though they subcontract the work out, they are responsible.

Request for “no parking” on both sides of Otterville Rd at beach

Town Administrator Kim Hallquist spoke with Police Chief Emily Cobb about the letter sent to the town that requested no parking on both sides of Otterville Road. The request is in response to a lot of people using the beach, trash left behind and lack of bathroom facilities. A few weeks ago the Police Chief, the Public Works Director, the Planning & Zoning Administrator and Ms. Hallquist met at the beach with some association members and they expressed concern about people blocking the boat ramp. Public Works Director Bob Harrington painted white lines indicating “no parking” to help visitors know that it is a boat launch and cars should not park there. At that time, they discussed parking either side of the street. All agreed that beach side parking is best so people are not crossing the street. Chief Cobb does not believe it should be no parking on both sides and it is not a safety issue as it is now. It would also encourage people to park in other areas which could be unsafe. For these reasons, department heads do not recommend granting the request to make it no parking on both sides of the street. The Selectmen agreed to leave it as is.

Note receipt of Building & Facilities Investment Report: July 2021

Colin Beasley, Building & Facilities Chair, provided a one-page document that listed categories of issues within the town that need to be prioritized. It was suggested that the Selectmen take action in August for category A which will be funded from this years’ budget. Items in category B will be addressed in next years’ budget.

Selectman Rollins stated last spring a discussion was held based on a recommendation from the former Board of Selectmen about what should happen with the CIP project and whether it should remain with the Planning Board or whether it should be a separate entity. During that discussion, Selectman Rollins agreed it could stay with the Planning Board with the stipulation that they revisit the members of the CIP group. She suggested that the Building & Facilities Committee should have a standing member on that group as well as others that have not been included in the past. In a recent meeting with Planning Board Chair Paul Gorman, she learned that this has not taken place.

The Board agreed that priorities A & B will be discussed at the next Board of Selectmen’s meeting.

Approval of Conservation Easement Deed as approved at Town Meeting 2020

Town meeting 2020 voters approved the conservation easement for the Esther Currier property abutting an existing property that already has a Fish and Game easement on it. It will still require final approval from Governor and Council so once that happens it can be signed.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the Conservation Easement deed as approved at Town meeting 2020. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Interest Rate quotes for Library sprinkler bond

Finance Officer Lynn Lewis reported that the library sprinkler project is moving forward. In the 2020 town meeting warrant article 3 was approved to go out for a bond in the amount of \$250,000. Ms. Lewis obtained quotes from Sugar River Bank, Mascoma Bank and Bar Harbor Bank for both 10 and 15 year

loans. Town Treasurer Steve Theroux and Ms. Lewis discussed this and felt since this a relatively small amount they should pursue a ten-year bond. Bar Harbor was the lowest quote at 2.3% and Ms. Lewis is recommending going with them; Mr. Theroux recused himself from making a recommendation on which bank to go with.

Janet Haines asked if a quote was obtained from Ledyard Bank. Ms. Lewis stated no, however, this was not intentional, and she went with the three local banks in town that they have done business with before.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to move forward with the recommendation to select a bond from Bar Harbor bank. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Consider Board, Commission & Committee appointments

Kim Hallquist provided the list of appointments to the Selectman at the last meeting. Everyone is seeking reappointment with the exception of Andy Deegan of the Conservation Commission who stated if someone else is interested he would be fine with not reappointing. Rob Prohl had indicated he would be interested in being on the Conservation Commission.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to accept the slate of candidates with the addition of Rob Prohl to the Conservation Commission. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Administrators Report

Ms. Hallquist provided the following report:

- The state has been working on a blockage of a culvert under Route 11, caused by a beaver dam. The state is taking apart the dam to allow the water to flow through the culvert, which is causing smelly, dirty water to go into Pleasant Lake near the town beach. The water has been tested and there are no e-coli issues, the situation will continue to be monitored so steps can be taken should a health issue arise.
- The towns application for ARPA funds of over \$400,000 has been submitted; Ms. Hallquist noted that she attended an ARPA webinar meeting this morning. She is reviewing information submitted by the Water Precinct to come up with a recommendation on how the town's allocation of funds should be used, noting that both the water department and sewer department have projects that could easily use the ARPA funds.

Committee Meetings & Reports

Janet Kidder reported that a master plan subcommittee meeting was held and they discussed the work planned for a traffic study for the main corridor of Main Street.

Housing Commission – Selectman Rollins reported that the Housing Commission met and reviewed some actionable activities. Peter Nichols is working on reviewing the Zoning regulations to determine what other towns have done and whether or not we need to make any changes to ours.

Selectman Rollins also noted that she has met with Colin Beasley and Paul Gorman twice. At the second meeting they met with Cotton Cleveland and Kim Hallquist to discuss having town forums at the end of September and early October to discuss priorities relative to building and facilities, including the police facility. Ms. Cleveland has agreed to facilitate these forums and has experience as a moderator.

Meeting Minutes approval – deferred until the next meeting

Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

- Planning Board – July 27th, 2021 @ 6:30pm Whipple Hall
- Buildings & Facilities – July 29th, 2021 @ 6:30pm Whipple Hall
- Board of Selectmen – August 2nd, 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

Items to be signed:

- Accounts Payable Voucher
- Birthday Cards
- Sewer Connection (2)
- Town Use Property Application

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Sign Permits – approved

- Temporary Sign New London Historical Society–TM 085-041-0-0-0. Info booth Main St. NLHS Antique Show information sandwich board. Approved. 7/15/2021.
- Temporary Sign New London Historical Society-TM 059-035-0-0-0. Little Sunapee Rd. NLHS Antique Show information. Approved. 7/15/2021.
- Temporary Sign Woodcrest Village-TM 084-006-0-0-0. 364 Main St. Now Hiring sandwich board. Approved. 7/15/2021.
- Temporary Sign St. Andrew’s Church-TM 085-041-0-0-0. Info booth Main St. St. Andrew’s Summer Fair. Approved. 7/15/2021

Building Permits-approved

- Dariel Connors Trust, TM 064-008-0-0-0. Ground mount solar 5.16kw. BP 21-070. Approved 7/19/2021.
- Scott & Jenna Griswold, TM 084-044-0-0-0. Build 10x12 shed. BP 21-086. Approved 7/22/2021

Sign Permits-approved

- Permanent Sign 21-12. Village Sports, 428 Main St, TM 085-041-0-0-0. Approved. 7/22/2021

Temporary Event/Sale Permits-approved

- Summer Fair, St Andrew’s Church, Sept 18th, 2021. Approved. 7/19/2021
- New London Antique Show & Sale, July 31st, 2021. Approved. 7/26/2021

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson
Recording Secretary
Town of New London