



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes Approved

Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at Whipple Hall

8:30 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Brown (chair), Michael Gelcius, Ruth White, Michael Kennedy, Dode Gladders, Mark Vernon, Rob Prohl– Absent: Joe Kubit

OTHERS PRESENT: Peg Birch – New London resident, Ken Kessler – Intern, Rick Davies - PHSC

Call to order – Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 8:30am. (Meeting is being recorded)

- **NLCC Membership** – welcomed new committee member – Rob Prohl
- **Public comment** – none.
- **Pine Hill Ski Club** – the CC received an application from the ski club to continue using the area. The club has used the Low Plain area for cross country skiing for 15-20 years, they would like to continue using the property. Mike Gelcius said they would possibly put in a bridge and that way the trails could be used in warmer weather as well. Chair Brown stated that over the years, communication has not been great, there were concerns about the temporary boardwalks and pallets that were not getting cleaned up. The commission would like to see a trail map of the cross-country trails. The ski club is working on revising the maps. Fish and Game does monitor that property and that land is a certified tree farm. We need to make sure we are all respectful of the land and to work together.
- **Permit applications updates:** none received
- **NLPB – CIP** – the CIP is looking for major expenses and acquisitions. Chair Brown asked if anyone foresees a need for a major project. Land acquisitions are the only things Bob can see. Rob Prohl did explain the CIP process. Chair Brown stated they may request \$50K with a cap of \$750K. Bob will talk with Adam Ricker.
- **Conservation Land Projects:**
 - a) NL protected/conserved land list – Mike Gelcius has been doing research and stated that there are 79 properties. And 15%. Some owned by town and used by Public Works. Some do not show up if there is an easement. We have a good list to work with, our goal is 25%.
 - b) Low Plain 250 – closing is scheduled for 9/1/2021. There is a minor complication; during the deed search some discrepancies were found and should get fixed. It is up to the owner to do this. The realtor spoke to the owner and an attorney has been hired to fix it before the closing. The closing will most likely be extended. The environmental survey is in process and Mike Gelcius is going to follow up.
 - c) Final clean-up of Low Plains landing area, Leo Maslan will be doing that.

- d) EWWMA – CE & expansion – restated CE Low Plain and Low Plain 200 has been finalized and approved. Documents went to the BOS but were asked not to sign it as it still needs to go to F&G and the Executive council. When the documents are returned there will be an in-person presentation with all parties. Chair Brown mentioned that the attorney had asked about hunting and trapping restrictions. Bob spoke to Peter Stanley and found out that it does require land owner's permission. Special concerns are in regards to dogs and children. If there is a request it will need to state only on the west side of the property.

A motion was made to put in stipulations of where and how and to include a written agreement between the two parties.

IT WAS MOVED (Michael Gelcius) AND SECONDED (Ruth White). THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Trails**

- a) Hemlock has been ordered – approximately 3-4 weeks out.
- b) Overall, the trails are in good shape, Messer Pond boardwalk is being converted to a triple wide path with boards.
- c) Mark Vernon out September and October. Ken Kessler to continue working. Mark stated it would be helpful if Ken and the volunteers could use chainsaws. Discussion followed stating that there is a chainsaw course held around the state. Primex offers two a year (September & October) and it is free. Mark will check with his volunteers and look into it.
- d) Ken Kessler stated he has worked 143 hours from 6/1 to present. Chair Brown stated it would be OK to go beyond the 200 hours.
- e) The CC used to be able to use the Merrimack County Department of Corrections for trail maintenance etc., but since Covid that program has not been available.
- f) There is a person doing community service, Mark stated that he could give them 10 hours.
- g) The Conservation Chair in Wilmot heard about the internship and informed Mark that she has some students from NEC that may be interested next year.
- h) Ruth White spoke about the laminated maps at the Bog. Mike Gelcius is going to look into the cost to laminate and then post the maps at the Bog kiosk.
- i) August 12th, 2021 was the Greenway sponsored trail run, the run went well and there was no litter left behind.

- **Invasive Program - Mike Kennedy**

August 12th, 2021 at 4:00 at Whipple Memorial Hall. Doug Cygan, Invasive Species Coordinator (NHDA) did a presentation. It was very well attended (65+ people). The hall was very hot (91 degrees) there was a Q&A session at the end.

There was discussion about the interest in the invasive species program. Mike Gelcius will look into selecting a site in New London to use as a demonstration of how to treat/get rid of knotweed. A licensed applicator is needed to administer the chemicals.

- **New/Old Business:**

Chair Brown stated that there have been discussions at the BOS meetings in regards to fireworks and the noise pollution it causes. Nothing was mentioned about the pollution from the fireworks itself going into bodies of water.

LSPA and DES have publications with documentation about fireworks. The Master Plan speaks to noise pollution.

Review and accept the July 21, 2021 draft meeting minutes. (Some changes were made)

IT WAS MOVED (Michael Gelcius) AND SECONDED (Ruth White) to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2021 meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion to Adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jackman
Town of New London