



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES September 14, 2020 6:00 PM Whipple Memorial Hall

### **PRESENT:**

Janet Kidder, Chairman  
Nancy Rollins, Selectman  
John Cannon, Selectman  
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator  
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Lyndsay Harkins, New London Resident  
Dan Harkins, New London Resident  
Will Kidder, Town Clerk/Tax Collector  
Rob Prohl, Budget Committee Chair  
Janet Miller Haines, New London Resident  
John Raby, Budget Committee  
Leigh Bosse, *The Messenger*

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

### **Appointments**

#### **Face Mask Resolution – Michael Doheny**

Michael Doheny attended the meeting to discuss the town of New London's face mask resolution. Mr. Doheny referenced the minutes from the Board of Selectmen's meeting held on August 3, 2020 which stated WMUR is reporting that some towns are considering requiring face masks. The towns that were considering an ordinance included Keene, Nashua, Concord, Lebanon, Plymouth, Hanover and a few others around the seacoast.

Town Administrator Kim Hallquist stated that she had not heard from any residents that are requesting such an ordinance and also that if the Selectmen were to consider such an ordinance a public hearing would be held to give the public an opportunity to comment on the plan prior to it becoming effective.

The published agenda for the August 17th meeting indicated there would be a discussion about the adoption of a mask ordinance, not the voting on the adoption of such an ordinance. At this meeting, a resolution was presented and then voted upon without notice to the residents to the town. Mr. Doheny stated he felt the Selectmen were overzealous on voting to adopt the resolution rather than presenting the proposed resolution to the town. Mr. Doheny asked if the board would consider voting to rescind the resolution and get input from the residents of the town. Chair Kidder responded that one of the reasons they acted when they did was due to the fact that students would be returning to Colby-Sawyer College campus. They did not want to act hastily but had to consider the health and safety of the community. Mr.

Doheny replied that he understands that, but the published agenda stated there would be a public meeting held for the town of New London residents to provide input prior to the adoption of any ordinance.

Ms. Hallquist noted that when she made those comments, she spoke to the issue of an ordinance and it was decided not to enact an ordinance. A resolution is different than an ordinance in that there are no penalties. Mr. Doheny stated while they are stating this is not enforceable, he cannot go into a town building or store without being forced to wear a mask so he would argue that it is enforceable. Regardless, this resolution was passed without any notice given to the town people to give input as stated. Chair Kidder stated that they obviously want input from the community. She has heard from three people that are opposed to the resolution, but the majority are in favor of it.

Selectman Rollins responded that she appreciates Mr. Doheny's opinion and they did not take this decision lightly. They received input from the Health officer and law enforcement as well as reviewed information from the state epidemiologist and the CDC. It is within their purview, based on their desire to meet the health, safety and welfare needs of the community to issue such a resolution. Mr. Doheny asked regardless of stating that you would have input to the town prior to adopting an ordinance; the agenda for August 17 was not to vote on the adoption, it was to be a discussion for the potential of it. Chair Kidder stated that at this time the Board will not consider rescinding the resolution pending input from the town. She feels what they did was the right thing.

Mr. Doheny provided data regarding active COVID-19, hospitalizations and deaths in the surrounding towns which are very low. Mr. Doheny stated in the final paragraph of the resolution it reads *"this resolution will remain in effect until it is no longer necessary either because the New London Board of Selectmen declares that COVID-19 no longer poses a threat to New London citizens or when it is replaced by an Ordinance that will impose fines for violations."* Mr. Doheny stated based on the current data and trends, COVID-19 does not pose a threat to the citizens of New London. He also asked what data points were used for this resolution and what data points will be used to lift the resolution. Selectman Rollins replied that first and foremost, the most important data point is that we are in a state of emergency. She stated we are doing well in this area because the citizen's in this area are taking precautions seriously. They are using hand sanitizer, hand washing, observing social distancing and wearing masks. She suggested that the Board will continue the resolution until the state of emergency is lifted. A metric that will be used to lift the resolution will be when the state of emergency is lifted. Mr. Doheny wanted clarification and asked so when the Governor declares there is no longer a state of emergency in the state of New Hampshire, this resolution will become null. Selectman Rollins responded that would be one of the metrics utilized in terms of lifting the resolution. Mr. Doheny would like to know what metrics will be used because it seems the resolution was implemented based on the use of no metrics. Chair Kidder responded that she will not draw a line in the sand because it is hard to know how this will evolve, noting that she is sorry if people are not comfortable wearing masks but we know it is one way of containing the pandemic.

Mr. Doheny observed that now precedence has been set that the Board of Selectmen have the power and authority to enact resolutions about how businesses operate and how people conduct their daily lives without input from the town.

Chair Kidder thanked Mr. Doheny for attending the meeting.

### **Public Comment**

John Raby commented that the Selectmen were faced with a difficult choice as Colby-Sawyer students were returning and they acted on substance. He supports the Board's action.

Janet Miller Haines stated that she would like to follow-up on an issue that was discussed at the recent Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting. It was suggested that a letter be sent to either Hannaford or the owner of the plaza suggesting that they not put a pharmacy in the space where the liquor store currently is. Her opinion is that the town does not need three pharmacies in town.

### **New Business**

#### **Set polling place for November 3 general election**

Chair Kidder stated that it would be her assumption that the election would be held at the Public Works Department again since it worked out well having the Primary Election there. Police Chief Emily Cobb commented that one of the issues was parking so they will work on that but agrees the election should be held there.

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to return to the Department of Public Works garage to hold the election on November 3, 2020. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **Discuss FY2022 budget preparation schedule**

Rob Prohl, Chair of the Budget Committee, stated that the Budget Committee would like to continue with the practice of holding joint Board of Selectman/Budget Committee meetings. The consensus of the group was to do these meetings via Zoom. The first joint meeting will be on September 28, 2020. The schedule for these meetings will be published on the town website.

#### **Resignation of Scott Blewitt, Recreation Director**

Chair Kidder stated that the Board has received the resignation of our Recreation Director Scott Blewitt and his last day will be September 25, 2020. Kim Hallquist stated that generally when an employee leaves, the job is posted in house for a week, so she recommends starting this process this week. If there are no existing employees that are viable candidates, the position will be posted externally. In the past, the Recreation Commission has participated in the interviewing process and made recommendations to the Selectmen.

Ms. Hallquist noted that she received a call from Peter Smith of the Outing Club and their Director resigned a few months ago. He expressed an interest in talking about a potential collaboration of some sort and she will meet with him on Wednesday. Chair Rollins suggested having members of the Recreation Commission at this meeting as well.

Ms. Hallquist recommended that unless the Selectmen are considering not having a full-time Recreation Director, the process of advertising the position in-house, and then externally, be started as soon as possible as it will take several weeks of advertising and interviewing to secure a replacement. Posting the position will not interfere with discussions with the Outing Club, unless the Selectmen feel that discussions might result in the town changing course on having a full-time Recreation Director.

Lyndsay Harkins suggested taking some time to pause during this time to explore possibilities responsibly and in the best interest of the community. She is in favor of the town contributing to recreational activities and this is a very important aspect of the community. She feels it's important to maintain control over this so she does not want to give it over to a private organization. She also wanted

clarification about what the Commissions role should be in this situation since this is a time to reassess and possibly restructure. Selectman Rollins stated that anyone on a Commission or Committee has a role to provide recommendations. They would look to the Recreation Commission to develop that agenda with whoever the Director is and help facilitate that process. It may also be a good idea to get public input noting that there has not been an extensive market analysis for a while to see what people want from a multi-generational standpoint.

Ms. Harkins stated she recognizes the need for a town employee for recreation needs most certainly to oversee the beaches and the day camp programs. As a Budget Committee member, she also sees the opportunity to allocate some of that salary to other organizations with the expectations of programs outlined and we could provide the standards in which they will enact them. She recommends not posting the job at this point. Chair Kidder disagrees and thinks we need to post the job and find candidates capable of filling this position.

Chair Rollins stated based on the conversation she would like to wait to post the position until after the meeting with the Outing Club and the Recreation Commission and discuss this again in two weeks.

## **Old Business**

### **Housing Commission Appointments**

Chair Kidder stated the Selectmen have been given the names of people that have expressed an interest in being on the Housing Commission. Selectman Rollins would like to schedule a time to meet with these individuals. Kim Hallquist will poll the candidates to see if they would prefer to meet in person or via Zoom. The Commission will consist of 7 members and 5 alternates.

### **Town Administrators Report**

Ms. Hallquist provided the following report:

- A letter was received from DES related to the 2009 letter of deficiency (DSP#09-071) issued to the town outlining deficiencies with the Pleasant Lake Dam. DES confirmed that the deficiencies have been resolved.
- Several months ago the assessors recommended an abatement on land at The Seasons Condominium as the assessors determined that the parcel had no taxable value; the was disputed by some who felt that it was taxable as it could be built on. Ms. Hallquist informed the Board that the parties reached agreement, so the question is resolved; the parcel has no taxable value.
- Fire Chief Jay Lyon is asking for permission to take money out of the Capital Reserve fund for some unexpected repairs to engine #2 in the amount is \$9,104. Ms. Hallquist recommended that the Board approve the expenditure but delay deciding if the capital reserve fund will be needed, or if the operating budget has adequate funds. The Board agreed.

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to approve the expenditure of funds for repairs to engine #2. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Committee Meetings & Reports**

- Chair Kidder attended a recent Planning Board meeting. The board approved a tree cutting application, lot line adjustment and final site plan review of a health club on 29 Little Sunapee Road. Plans were reviewed for Dorothy Hitchmoth, Optometrist to move into the section of the Mountain View shopping center where the former Colonial Pharmacy was.

Bar Harbor Bank and Trust applied to subdivide their property into two condominiums. The property consists of two buildings, one being the Bar Harbor Bank and Trust branch and the other the “Carriage House” which is occupied by several commercial businesses.

### **Meeting Minutes**

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to approve the minutes of August 17, 2020 meeting. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.**

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to approve the minutes of August 21, 2020 meeting. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.**

### **Other Business**

Selectman Rollins wanted to publicly acknowledge the Town Clerk, Department of Public Works, Police Department, Fire Department and volunteers who made voting easy and successful.

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

- Next regular Selectmen’s meeting – Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 PM – Whipple Hall
- Conservation Commission – Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 AM – Zoom
- Solid Waste Committee – Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 AM – Zoom
- Planning Board – Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6:30 PM – Zoom
- Master Plan Committee – Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 AM – Zoom
- Buildings & Facilities Committee – Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM – 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
- Warrant Yield Tax Levy for timber cut – Map 114-001-0-0-0
- Birthday Cards
- Raffle Permit by Our Lady of Fatima Church for a holiday raffle to be held at 714 Main Street held in November.
- Application to Use Town Property
  - ✓ Town Common/Bandstand – On Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm for a course in real estate by the Sunapee Board of Realtors.
  - ✓ Town Common/Bandstand – On Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm (rain date Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>) for the “We the People Rally by the New London Democratic Town Committee.

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

#### Sign Permits

- Permanent Signs # 20-17 – Timothy Sileo Jr. VMD, Pleasant Lake Veterinary Hospital, 242 Elkins Road, TM 070-040-0-0-0. Approved

Building Permits

- Phillip Brown & Amelia Bucklin, Wallula Road, TM 033-018-0-0-0. Build new single-family residence. BP 20-087 approved 8/18/20.
- Cameron Kent, 151 Wilmot Center Road, TM 065-003-0-0-0. Add accessory dwelling unit with deck. BP 20-081 approved 8/19/20.
- Lambert Family Trust, 1667 King Hill Road, TM 128-003-0-0-0. Replace an area of siding. BP 20-088 approved 8/19/20.
- Samuel & Kelliann Cavallaro, Surrey Lane, TM 094-014-0-0-0. Build new single-family residence. BP 20-089 approved 8/19/20.
- Jennifer Abel & Mathew Broas, 15 Davis Hill Road, TM 055-008-0-0-0. Demo existing & rebuild new 24'x24' garage. BP 20-090 approved 8/25/20.
- Edward Burt, 130 Sutton Road, TM 128-028-0-0-0. Rebuild foundation under existing section of house. BP 20-092 approved 8/25/20.
- 29 Little Sunapee Rd LLC, 29 Little Sunapee Road, TM 073-052-0-0-0. Demolish existing house & garage. BP 20-094 approved 8/27/20.
- 235 Pilothouse Rd Realty Trust, 235 Pilothouse Road, TM 068-002-0-0-0. Demo existing & rebuild new 26'x26' garage. BP 20-095 approved 9/1/20.
- James & Karen Howell, 130 Summit View Road, TM 138-008-0-0-0. Build a 26'x24' garage. BP 20-096 approved 9/1/20.
- Craig & Gail Williamson, 873 Lakeshore Drive, TM 051-018-0-0-0. Build a breezeway & 24'x24' garage. BP 20-097 approved 9/1/20.
- New London Hospital Associates, 273 County Road, TM 072-018-0-0-0. Adding interior wall. BP 20-099 approved 9/3/20.
- Tyler & Anne Beck, 76 Farwell Lane, TM 081-026-0-0-0. Build an 8'x13' shed. BP 20-100 approved 9/3/20.
- Stephen & Karyn Toy, 478 Knights Hill Road, TM 095-038-0-0-0. Demolish shed. BP 20-101 approved 9/3/20.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson

Recording Secretary  
Town of New London