



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257 • WWW.NL-NH.COM

NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 16, 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 (left early), Mark Vernon, Joe Kubit (left early)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stanley Morono, Andrew Deegan, Michael Kennedy

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. **Call to order** – Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 8:30am. Dode Gladders will be a voting member today.
2. **Public comment** – None
3. **Permit applications updates**

Michael Gelcius reported on the following projects:

Otterville Road – This request involves constructing a driveway in order to access another parcel on Otterville Road that is putting an addition on to the house. They are using the abutting lot to get to the existing house. This will increase the impervious surface from 21.9% to 23.9%. Even though it is an increase, it still falls within the acceptable guidelines. He is hoping there are reasonable protections planned for storm water etc. The addition to the house will be 600 square feet.

Murray Pond – This is a beach replenishment request that falls within the guidelines for acceptable material. Mark Vernon expressed his concern that Japanese Knotweed can be transported with fill and asked if there was any concern when importing sand that includes invasives. Mr. Gelcius stated any time there is a request for beach replenishment, they hope that the contractor or homeowner is aware that they should be cautious about where they get their materials. There are no guarantees and this does create an exposure which can be a problem. Chair Brown stated presumably, if anyone is bringing in beach sand they would bring in a quality, washed sand. Dode Gladders stated if you are taking Japanese knotweed material from an infested site you would most likely know it. It is illegal in New Hampshire to move it so it shouldn't happen but it does occasionally.

235 Pilot House Road - This permit application is for a seasonal dock with two personal watercraft lifts. The biggest issue is a large rock in the water where they want to put the dock so they want to remove it.

Lighthouse View Road – Permit application for a permanent dock as well as the installation of ice protection clusters and a seasonal canopy.

There were four sewage disposal system permits that came in.

Mr. Gelcius noted that if applicants are looking for expedited approval, the rules and regulations state that they need to attend the meeting to give an overview of the project. Otherwise it will go through the regular process.

4. Review, accept and approve the August 19, 2020 draft meeting minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Michael Gelcius) AND SECONDED (Mark Vernon) to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2020 meeting. Chair Brown: Yes, Michael Gelcius: Yes, Dode Gladders: Yes, Mark Vernon: Yes, Ruth White: Yes. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Trails:

- **P/C Bog –boardwalks** – Mark Vernon stated he hasn't been to the bog in over a month but it is on his agenda to do his next project there. Ruth White commented that at the entrance of the bog, rain has created deep runoff channels and it seems to be getting worse. Mr. Vernon is aware and will check it out. Chair Brown asked if it might be worth putting in some steps.
- **Great Brook Bridge replacement** - Mark Vernon stated at the last meeting he reported that the Greenway may help with the re-planking of the footbridge over the lower cascades. They have agreed to fund it and be the project leaders. They hope to get this done this fall.
- **Bike/Multi-Use** – Mark Vernon reported that he and Michael Kennedy have done some research and think it is needed for New London as is emphasized in our strategic plan and the master plan. They also believe they should proceed cautiously in the promotion of sharing biking and hiking trails. The recommendation is to research this further. As an interim step, he recommends buying bike racks that are placed at key trail heads. This is to encourage people to bike to the trails and rack the bikes and hike. This will fulfill the walkable community, multi- use system need. Chair Brown recommended checking to see if any grants were available to help with this.
- **Clear field perimeters** - At Clark Lookout field there are some low branches that need to be cut. He doesn't want to see that field grow in and would like to see if we can get a volunteer to help with that.

Michael Gelcius stated that he reached out to the state ADA department and is hoping to get someone to come out to do a site visit to see if the Clark Lookout trail could be ranked as an ADA compliant trail.

➤ **Spofford Easement -storm water management** – Chair Brown will discuss with Bob Harrington to see if late fall is still reasonable.

➤ **October 3, 2020 trail race** – Mark Vernon provided an update and reported that Brandon Baker is now proposing that the race be held on October 10, 2020. Mr. Baker was going to attend a local race to educate himself on what others are doing related to instituting appropriate COVID measures.

➤ **New trail volunteers** – Mark Vernon stated there will be four or five new people to help on Friday.

➤ **Lumber** – Mark Vernon asked Chair Brown if they were going to be able to order more lumber this fall. Chair Brown responded yes, if they can get it but he is concerned about the pricing. On average, pressure treated lumber costs have increased about 25% and some of the smaller lumber yards are out of it.

6. **2022 Budget** – Our 2022 budget has been submitted and the amount only increased by about \$1,000 over last year's budget. Trail maps are getting low so this will be an additional expense.

7. **Projects:**

➤ **Conservation Land Acquisition projects** – Chair Brown believes the closing on the Messer Farm property will be late October.

➤ **Hamel Parcel** – Mark Vernon commented that it looks as if a little bit of work has been done and a right of way has been cleared. Chair Brown will talk with Bob Harrington again about possible interest in this property.

➤ **Gnome Doors** – Several more children have completed the Gnome Door contest so Ruth White sent them ice cream certificates.

➤ **Webb forest trails -timber harvest** – Mark Vernon reported he was there two weeks ago and things are happening. A bridge has been installed across Great Brook and a lot of material has been brought in.

➤ **Trail Patch Program**- Ruth White reported that another person has completed the Trail patch program. She will continue to mail the patches to the recipients. Others have completed it so Chair Brown will submit the information to Ruth White can get the patches to them.

8. **The American Chestnut Foundation -Restoration**

➤ **Post hole digging** – Chair Brown stated they had difficulty getting the holes dug. The town was mowing with the tractor so it wasn't available to dig the holes. Chair Brown contacted Jay Lyon and he came to Shaker St. and Clark Lookout and dug holes to plant the seedlings. Mr. Lyon volunteered his time, expertise and machinery so Chair Brown sent him a thank you note as this was very generous of him. Mr. Lyon has agreed to mow Clark Lookout and Phillips which we will pay him to do.

Fencing was installed around each one to protect them and a weed mat and 2-3 inches of bark mulch was spread on top. A total of 17 were planted and they need a gallon of water per week until frost hits

9. Low Plain 200 -NHF&G CE amendment – Chair Brown is still trying to contact NH Fish and Game but does have written confirmation that they have agreed to accept the amendment to Low Plain to include the new 30 acres that is called Low Plain 200. He will reach out to them again.

10. Other Business

Mark Vernon noted that he will be attending the New Hampshire Timber Association seminar this Saturday titled “Trail sighting for wildlife” and is looking forward to it. Chair Brown would like to hear his feedback after the seminar.

11. Next meeting date -Wednesday, October 21, 2020

12. 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 9:15AM

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson

Recording Secretary
Town of New London