



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
September 5, 2017
6:00 PM**

PRESENT:

G. William Helm, Jr., Chairman
Nancy Rollins, Selectman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Larisa Djuvelek-Ruggiero, Regional Mobility Manager
Will Kidder, New London Resident
Kim Bonin, New London Resident
John Ellis, New London Resident
Brian Dumais, New London Resident
Phyllis Piotrow, Budget Committee Member
Jim Perkins, New London Archives Committee
Ben Cushing, School Board Member
Bebe Hammond Casey, School Board Member
Ed Andersen, Police Chief
Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent, Kearsarge Regional School District
Todd Fleury, Director of Facilities, KRSD

Chair Helm called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Transportation Options for Town Residents

Larisa Djuvelek-Ruggiero, Regional Mobility Manager of the Mid-State Regional Coordinating Council for Community Transportation (RCC), met with the Board to introduce her organization to the Board and to request that the town become a member. RCC raises awareness of community transportation and encourages collaboration throughout the region.

Ms. Djuvelek-Ruggiero distributed the Mid-State Regional Ride Resource Directory. She is employed by the Community Action Program, Belknap and Merrimack Counties. The Mid State RCC was created in 2009. It was created by the statewide coordinating council (SCC) for community transportation that was enacted by the New Hampshire legislature in 2007. It is broken into 9 regions. In 2008 the SCC asked all the regions to come up with a coordinated transit and human services transportation plan to identify transportation needs in each region. Also at that time, regional ride resource directory was created to keep the public informed of available transportation options in our region. The coordinated plan gets updated every four years. This is

due and will be done again in coordination with Central NH regional planning commission and the Lakes Region Planning Commission in the next year or so.

The coordinated transit plan, in 2010 identified volunteer driver programs would be the best option to serve residents, particularly seniors and people with disabilities in the region to compliment the public transportation in Concord and Lakes Region. The mission of the RCC is to improve mobility and access for all people by coordinating regional and community efforts as well as transportation services information. The SCC supports that effort and is working with the governor.

The RCC includes Belknap and Merrimack County. It doesn't include Hooksett but includes towns of Deering, Hillsboro and Windsor.

There are 32 organizations/members that consist of different human service agencies, local government and regional planning commissions. They meet bi-monthly and try to alternate between Concord and the Lakes Region. Membership is free and you can withdraw at any time. In 2011, Mid State RCC applied for a grant through the Federal Transit Administration and was awarded money to implement a volunteer driver program as well as to expand rural transportation service that runs out of senior centers throughout Belknap/Merrimack counties. Since then, the FTA has been funding these initiatives. In order to access the FTA money, which is funding these initiatives at 80%, they need to have a letter of support saying there is 20% local match to access the money they provide for these services. New Hampshire department of transportation does not provide any money towards any of these services.

One of the latest initiatives is the taxi voucher program that started in 2016. This helps people who are going through the community release program. Central NH Regional Planning Commission is the fiscal agent for the Mid State RCC. All the grants go through the Department of Transportation and get funneled down through the Regional Planning Commission and then to the programs and services. Their goal is update the plan and to increase collaboration. She is hoping a member or volunteer could be assigned to attend meetings. The hope is that it will improve quality of life and the mobility of our residents. The biggest motivator behind it is aging. As we age, our driving ability diminishes so these services are needed.

Ms. Djuvelek-Ruggiero is asking for New London to work with this organization to help residents and perhaps provide their link on our website so residents are aware of these services.

Selectmen Rollins asked if Ms. Djuvelek-Ruggiero had detailed information on what Mountain View Senior Center offers. Ms. Djuvelek-Ruggiero isn't sure on the specifics. She did know that all vehicles are wheel chair accessible and have mobility devices.

Selectmen Kidder wanted clarification on what the local match would be. Ms. Djuvelek-Ruggiero stated it depends from year to year. They use donations from riders to match the funds needed. Would the town be expected to pay the difference? Ms. Djuvelek-Ruggiero explained that she is not here to ask for money. She is here to ask for participation as a RCC member.

Selectmen Rollins asked what the goal of the Regional Coordinating Council is. Ms. Djuvelek-Ruggiero stated that the goal is to improve community transportation in our region. This is done by implementing projects and initiatives identified in our regional transportation plan. The dream is a one call, one click center, but there is a long way to go.

Chair Helm explained that one issue with New London is identifying where we belong. We are part of a regional planning commission in the Upper Valley/Lake Sunapee. Currently we are heavily engaged in transportation planning with them. Ms. Djuvelek-Ruggiero stated that the RCC would say New London should be part of the Mid State RCC. He also stated New London has strong relationship with the Council on Aging and provide funding to them and are involved in their driver transportation program. In our own way we are already engaged. How would New London benefit by working with another group of towns we aren't connected to. Ms. Djuvelek-Ruggiero explained that we do belong to the Mid State RCC. They are looking to involve everyone in collaboration at the regional level.

John Ellis asked if we joined would we have to put money from our budget? Ms. Djuvelek-Ruggiero stated that no, they just want New London to be part of the RCC. This means working with other towns to improve community transportation.

Chair Helm thanked Ms. Djuvelek-Ruggiero and stated they would take this under advisement.

Preservation of the Cupola from the 1941 Building

Will Kidder attended to present the idea of saving the cupola from the 1941 building that will soon be demolished. The school board was willing to pay \$3,500 to have it removed from the roof. Ideas on where to put it were the Ice House Museum or the Historical Society. Then the suggestion was made to put it on Main Street behind the Tom Brennan bench on school property.

Kim Bonin presented a rendering of what the cupola might look like if preserved. A landscape architect and an intern architect worked together to put the rendering together. By reusing some of the bricks from the building it could create a base to set it on and use the bricks for the walkway as well. It would be a walking/park setting. There could be a plaque that would detail the history. The cupola is in good shape and needs very little help structurally.

Mr. Kidder stated they went to the school board and they were agreeable to the location as long as maintenance was provided. Mr. Kidder felt it would be a good thing for the town and would like to go to businesses in town to see if those costs could be covered. It would be a great project for the school district, the town and citizens to do together.

Chair Helm thanked them for their efforts.

Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent of the Kearsarge Regional School District, attended the meeting. He explained he heard about the attempt to save the cupola and the board quickly jumped into action to hear the proposal. The concerns were who could take over to set this in motion. The school district was worried about maintenance and vandalism. He feels the maintenance would be minor and it would be something the school district could consider doing.

Another concern is erecting a structure that may interfere with traffic flow in and out or interfere with future development. These are the details the facilities committee could consider and work with the town to finalize plans. They don't want a structure on school property that isn't cared for. They are interested in a long-range plan and interested in something sustainable and is for the benefit for the town.

Chair Helm asked if the rendering submitted would seem reasonable in terms of location? Superintendent Feneberg stated the facilities committee hasn't had a chance to weigh in yet. The location seems viable. He

wants to caution that the bench that was formerly dedicated to Superintendent Brennan not be overshadowed by another project. As long as that doesn't happen and the traffic pattern is not affected, the school board would like to make that a reality.

Ms. Hallquist was asked by Chair Helm to discuss what the arrangements were for the Baptist church clock. There is a budget item for the clock. The town owns and maintains the clock. Several years ago a lot of work needed to be done so a large sum of money was donated. That money is dwindling. A few years ago a line item was put into the budget for \$260.00. Whenever the clock technician calls and says it needs to be cleaned, we have it done and the town gets the bill. It is common for towns in the area to own the clock. The Administrator is the point person for this.

Selectmen Kidder thinks the cupola rendering looks beautiful and it's a great way to display and save a piece of history for the town. She thanked them all for efforts.

Selectmen Rollins asked who owns the property and is there a cost to the property? The school district owns it. Superintendent Feneberg said they entertained a lease agreement but that could unnecessarily complicate things. Once it is built and the site is organized, the cupola is retained by the school district. It really is just the cost of designing and creating the preservation effort. Assuming there is no vandalism, it shouldn't be a big cost item. This would be the easiest solution. Chair Rollins would like a more detailed cost analysis. It is a wooden structure and might be more to it. How much would be anticipated for fundraising versus any request from the town. She also appreciates all the work that has gone into it.

Chair Helm feels the collaboration has been good and appreciates the School Board's willingness to entertain this. It is a good opportunity to reach out to the community for fundraising.

Mr. Kidder stated they will be meeting with the Facilities committee and the School Board on Thursday. Kim Hallquist will attend.

Ed Andersen, Police Chief, commented that vandalism at the school can be heavy at times. He'd like to see motion lighting around the cupola if possible. If this can be addressed in the planning stages, it may help deter the vandalism. Also, maybe put a security camera that comes into the police department so the dispatchers could watch it.

John Ellis asked if the walkway would go around so individuals could sit on the bench and view the cupola. Ms. Bonin said yes, that is the plan.

Public Comments: None

New Business

Discuss HB121

Ms. Hallquist contacted Senator Ward to see if she is available to come to the next Board of Selectmen meeting on September 19, 2017. We currently collect \$5 per registration. If we decided on an increase, it doesn't have to be \$10, but \$10 is the maximum. Voters would have to vote it in. In 2016 we collected \$25,000. None of these funds have been spent up until this year when we used money to put in sidewalks. Senator Ward is the Vice Chair of the committee.

Selectmen Kidder feels it is an example of the state saying we won't raise taxes but it is being pushed down to the towns and cities. Chair Helm feels it is the local responsibility to do sidewalks. It is good that the town has a way to pay for it. The state says they won't increase fees or taxes when they run for office but towns can.

Chair Helm feels the purpose of having Senator Ward here is to have the committee approve this so the towns have the option. He would like to see the state give us the option and then we can debate locally as to what we want to do. If the state says no, it is their way of saying we can't do something to raise money for a local purpose.

Selectmen Kidder feels there would be no reason for them to say no to this bill. Chair Helm stated the bill is in trouble. Selectmen Rollins stated there is a group who don't want to see any fees of any kind, so some of the opposition may be from them. A number of communities are using the \$5 amount to pay for local transportation. There is a strong advocacy group who want to see the bill pass. Selectmen Rollins feels it's not necessary for Senator Ward to attend our meeting. She is fine letting her know that we think it is ok to raise the amount and then take it to town meeting to see if the citizens want to raise it. Selectmen Kidder agrees. A letter will be written letting her know.

John Ellis asked what the HB121 was about. Chair Helm answered that the NH municipal association has asked member towns to consider supporting the bill so each town will have the option to decide if it wants to ask people who register their cars in that town, to pay an additional fee. Currently we have \$208,000 in this fund. At a town meeting we voted to apply that money to the sidewalk projects going on in town. Mr. Ellis also asked, if we vote to make this our option, can we keep the \$5 this year and change it later if we wanted to? Chair Helm responded that \$5 has been voted on by the town and is there unless the Selectmen or a petition tries to change that. Senator Ward is on the committee that is reviewing this bill and has a vote.

Phyllis stated that the more we encourage the legislature to pass these things that allow towns to pay more and more for everything, the more it will happen. She thinks we should take an opposite view to encourage the legislature to figure out better tax structures so the burden isn't on the towns. Why push the tax burden on the town? Chair Helm responded that if you look at the sidewalk project, it has nothing to do with the state. If we didn't have this \$208,000 we would be voting to take it out of general appropriations. Selectmen Rollins agrees that there should be a better balance, but it gives more flexibility to cities and towns as well.

John Ellis wanted to clarify that we have control over the funds and Chair Helm answered yes.

Review Project Dashboard

- All projects, with the exception of the Elkins guardrail are on track. The Elkins guardrail was slated to be done 9/1 but are awaiting the powdered coated railing from CWS in Andover. It is now expected to be done on 9/30.
- The Pleasant Lake Dam is on schedule, all of the concrete is poured.
- Dennis Thompson is in town and is finishing the Lagoons; he expects to finish before the end of the month.
- The Sprinkler – The Academy building project, may be able to get the pipe into the building before winter but if not, it will be push until the spring.

- The Parkside curbs have been delivered. Mr. Lee is hoping to have Seaman's Road sidewalks completely done this fall, Parkside sidewalks are ahead of schedule so they may also be done this fall.

Selectmen Rollins asked if the Dashboard could be updated in anticipation of the budget meeting at the end of September.

Employee Committee Health Insurance

Ms. Hallquist asked if the members had a chance to look at what the employee committee had prepared, specifically the Peterborough information.

Chair Helm stated that we are at the mercy of the large insurance carriers. We should be focused on trying to arrange the best possible terms we can with HealthTrust. We have tried to make sure our total compensation works for the ongoing as well as for recruiting. The Peterborough information responds to some of the comments we got regarding employee wishes. It looks complicated but it really isn't. It gives choices for the employees and allows them to figure out their own menu of benefits.

Ms. Hallquist feels that option to use some vacation time is appealing especially for those who lose it every year. Essentially, they could have no out of pocket cost if they were able to use vacation time instead of paying cash. Contribution rates are 14%, 15% for new employees and less than that for grandfathered employees.

If we want to engage the employees and ask for input, it would be great to let them individualize their plan. Chair Helm is more focused on trying to make this work as part of our compensation, recruiting and retention program than fussing over a spreadsheet of charges.

Selectman Rollins feels wellness education is important. She is impressed with all of the plans having some form of Smart shopper. It rewards the employee with cash back and wellness benefit packages in some of the plans. It provides flexibility. It will help with increased premiums and should be balanced with employee responsibility.

Chair Helm suggests focusing on HealthTrust and how to individualize it more. There is nothing else to do at this point until late in the budget process.

Department Head Budget Preparation

Budgets are due to Ms. Hallquist on September 11, 2017.

Selectmen Rollins stated that a lot of work has been done with employee salary and benefits. They want to continue that as a commitment to maintaining a quality workforce so would encourage each department to be thoughtful around anything beyond operating costs. They need to be needs, not just wants. That's not to say we want to skimp on safety issues we just need to be mindful. She suggests getting facts down prior to doing their presentation.

Chair Helm would like to add that in the past two years, many infrastructure projects have been completed and there has been a bump in the tax rate. In the long term, we need to be sure the tax rate becomes stabilized. He urged Ms. Hallquist to ask the department heads to look ahead. The Board will get the budget by September 22, 2017.

Whipple Hall Centennial

Selectmen Kidder will get input from Jim Perkins. Chair Helm urged her to get in touch with people at New London Hospital since they will be having a 100-year celebration as well. The kick off for that is January 10, 2018 and there is already a calendar of events throughout the year that we could coordinate with them on.

Recreation Commission Vacancy

Chair Helm feels it would be good to have at least one member of the recreation commission who represents the senior citizens in town. He has been in touch with the Chair of the Council on Aging to see what he thought and thinks it's a great idea. Three names have been given to Selectmen Kidder as possible candidates. This is a hands-on group so wanted suggestions of those who are active. Suggestions should be given to Ms. Hallquist. Chair Helm stated that the Center of the Arts are getting closer with the Recreation Commission and might be useful to have someone from the Center of the Arts on the Recreation Commission. This will be revisited at the next meeting on September 19, 2017.

Town Administrators Report

Ms. Hallquist reported that she has received a letter of resignation from Amy Rankins, the Assessing and Land Use Coordinator. Amy has been an employee for 23 years. Her last day will be Friday, September 15, 2017. Chair Helm expressed his appreciation for over two decades of service to the town. He also wanted to state his appreciation to her and the employee committee for the amount of work put into the benefits presentation.

Committee Reports

Planning Board – Selectmen Kidder reported that there were a number of tree removal applications that were approved.

- A covered cart corral was approved at Hannaford Shopping Center.
- An accessory dwelling unit was approved on Bunker Road.
- 8 Additional parking spaces were approved at Stahlman's building on Pleasant Street.
- A proposal was reviewed for a change of use for Ellen Winkler's building. Office space would be in the front of the building and the Barn would be converted to a bakery/café. The biggest concern is parking. No decision was made.

Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2017 meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2017 meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to enter into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(a): the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee. Roll call vote: Bill Helm: Yes, Janet Kidder: Yes, Nancy Rollins: Yes

The Board entered nonpublic session at 7:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Trina Dawson, Recording Secretary
Town of New London

The Board re-entered the public session at 8:40pm

The Board voted to seal the Minutes. Roll call vote: Bill Helm: Yes, Janet Kidder: Yes, Nancy Rollins: Yes

Items to be signed

- Payroll Authorization Voucher
- Accounts Payable Voucher
- PWIM Services Maintenance Agreement for 10/16/2017 through 10/15/2018
- Current Use Application – John H. Rogers Revocable Trust, 31 Dixie Lane, TM 084-032-000.

Requests to Use Town Property

- Town Common/Whipple Hall by Nicole Southworth of Center for the Arts for Art Festival on Saturday, October 21, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
- Whipple Memorial Town Hall by Nicole Southworth for Center for the Arts for Whipple Memorial Town Hall on October 7 & 8, 2017 from 9 AM to 5 PM
- Whipple Memorial Town Hall by Bob Odell for Little Lake Sunapee Protective Association for the annual association meeting on July 7, 2018 from 9 AM to 12 PM.

Requests for Raffle Permit

- Elkins Fish & Game Club for a rifle raffle on Thursday, July 5, 2018.

Temporary Event/Sale Permits

- First Baptist Church, 461 Main Street for Roast Pork Dinner Event on Saturday, September 23rd from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. **APPROVED**
- Lake Sunapee VNA & Hospice, Little Sunapee Road for a fundraiser party on Tuesday, September 12th from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. **APPROVED**
- Kearsarge Area Crop Hunger Walk, walk around Pleasant Lake starting at Elkin's Beach for a fundraiser on Sunday, October 1st from 12:15 pm to 3:00 pm. **APPROVED**

Sign Permits

- Temporary Sign for First Baptist Church, Main Street during September 16th – 23rd. **APPROVED**
- Permanent Sign for Cicely Markoff Interior Designs, 406 Main Street, TM 085-045-000. **APPROVED**

Building Permits

- Nancy Kingsley 2016 Trustee/Trustee, 43 Edmunds Road, TM 095-024-000. Interior & Exterior Renovations. BP 17-086 **Approved 8-22-2017**
- Steven & Susanne Greenbaum, 500 Otterville Road, TM 042-005-000. Exterior Renovations of Porch. BP 17-087 **Approved 8-22-2017**
- Dale and D'Orsey DeWispelaere Revocable Trustee, 554 Otterville Road, TM 041-003-000. Adding a barn over garage & adding a sewing room in house. BP 17-088 **Approved 8-22-2017**
- Laurie DiClerico Revocable Trust/Trustee, 4 Highland Ridge Road, TM 145-001-004. Addition to Deck. BP 17-089 **Approved 8-22-2017**

- Margaret Eisenbach Real Estate Trust, 450 Hall Farm Road, TM 076-053-000. Adding a 12'x20' Shed. BP 17-090 **Approved 8-22-2017**
- Waldemar & Elzbieta Fryckowski, 45 Little Sunapee Road, TM 060-004-000. Construct an attached Garage. BP 17-091 **Approved 8-22-2017**
- Jeffrey Nintzel & Susan Jamback, 53 Elkins Road, TM 087-006-000. Exterior Renovations. BP 17-092 **Approved 8-22-2017**
- Marybelle Chapin Trust, 51 Hilltop Place, TM 144-001-051. Interior Renovations. BP 17-093 **Approved 8-22-2017**
- Peter & Melissa Hamel, 50 Barrett Road, TM 084-040-000. Extension of BP 15-052. BP 17-095 **Approved 8-22-2017**
- William & Samuel Stevens, 217 Owls Nest Road, TM 135-001-000. Demo existing house. BP 17-096 **Approved 8-22-2017**
- Glenn & Barbara Gladders, 236 Bunker Road, TM 062-037-000. Adding a 4'x12' firewood shed. BP 17-097 **Approved 8-21-2017**
- Harry Snow, Snow Lane, TM 055-012-008. Adding 12'x24' Garage/Shed. Adding 12'x24' Garage/Shed. BP 17-098 **Approved 8-21-2017**
- Good Shepherd Farm, LLC, 51 Squires Lane, TM 096-019-000. Demo existing house. BP 17-099 **Approved 8-30-2017**
- Andy Marshal Revocable Trust, 98 Blueberry Lane, TM 087-002-000. Expanding existing porch & replace roof. BP 17-100 **Approved 8-30-2017**

The Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.