



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES July 29, 2014

PRESENT:

Janet Kidder, Chair
Nancy Rollins, Selectman
Peter Bianchi, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Ed Andersen, Police Chief
Phyllis Piotrow, New London Resident
Minette Sweeney, *Intertown Record*
Gayle Hedrington, WNTK

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

Town Administrator's Report

Ms. Hallquist informed the Board that the plans for the Elkins sidewalk project have been submitted, meeting the August 1st deadline required to keep the project moving forward. Ms. Hallquist reported that the Single-stream Recycling Committee met on Friday July 25th and they elected Joan Lamson as Chair and Alison Seward as their Recording Secretary. Their future meetings will be held at the Lake Sunapee Community Room on Mondays and they are open to the public.

Ms. Hallquist informed the Board that Matthew Grimes has been hired to fill the buildings maintenance position. Mr. Grimes will begin working for the Town on Monday, August 4th. Richard Lee (Public Works Director) plans to schedule Mr. Grimes for one set day a week and then the other hours will be scheduled according to the workload. The job will generally be 20 hours per week.

Ms. Hallquist shared that the dispatch review was going well noting that she got an update from Bob Barry (the person preparing the review) and he feels the study can be completed by Labor Day. Selectman Bianchi stressed the need to keep on this project to ensure it is completed as soon as possible.

Ms. Hallquist said the bandstand has been spruced up (painting and minor repairs) by the Department of Public Works. Mr. Lee will have someone come in to look at some structural issues with the bandstand in the coming weeks.

Ms. Hallquist reported that Underwood Engineering says that the lowest bidder for the Georges Mills vault project has supplied the appropriate insurances and they will have the contract signing on August 14th.

Ms. Hallquist said the Elkins boat docking issue that was raised by Dr. Konopka was examined; there is an area near the children's play area where some small boats come ashore. Signage will be put up to deter people from doing this.

Ms. Hallquist also reported that Chief Andersen has requested an extension in the repeater grant so that if the installation is not completed by September 30th, the grant would still be open, avoiding loss of the 50% grant match (this issue was also discussed at the July 15th Board meeting). The extension will give the town an additional year to complete the project. Preliminary approval of the extension has been given, pending approval by the Governor and Council.

Ms. Hallquist noted that the Kearsarge Lake Sunapee Community Food Pantry submitted a letter thanking the Police Department for putting on the “Stuff a Cruiser” event, collecting donations of food for the food pantry, which was very successful again this year.

It was noted that the non-resident taxpayer meeting will be held on Saturday, August 9th at 7:30am.

Ms. Hallquist reported that Frank Anzalone, a member of the building committee, submitted a list of items that should be included in an RFP (request for proposal) to seek a consultant to review Whipple Hall and report on improvements and repairs that should be made by the Town. Ms. Hallquist noted that if the Board is not yet prepared to send out RFP, they may want to schedule a meeting with Mr. Lee, Mr. Anzalone and members of the building committee to make a decision on how best to move forward. The Board agreed, the RFP will not be sent out at this time. Selectman Bianchi wondered if the building committee planned to move forward with looking at any more buildings in the town. Ms. Hallquist said she was not aware of the committee’s plans to continue their review of town buildings.

Ms. Piotrow noted there was still a large pot hole at the entrance to the Post Office. Ms. Hallquist said the Post Office property is owned by the federal government (and not leased from another property owner as originally suggested) and the Post Master is aware of the problem.

Chief Andersen said he has been asked by the Post Master to enforce the “No Thru Traffic” between the Post Office and Hannaford’s parking lot. Apparently, people have been parking at the Post Office because of the Warner Market Basket issue (Market Basket employees protesting) and more people are shopping in New London, leaving fewer places to park. After Hospital Days the Police Department will spend a week giving warnings to Hannaford’s customers parking at the Post Office. Afterward, they will begin issuing tickets if the problem persists.

Ms. Hallquist noted receipt of a letter from David Mercier of Underwood Engineers that addressed the issue of sewerage flows into the Sunapee Wastewater Treatment Plant between the Town of New London and the Town of Sunapee. The percentage sent by each town is the figure used to assign the payment of the treatment plant expenses. Currently New London pays 65% of the treatment plant expenses and Sunapee has recently suggested the new figure should be 75%. Mr. Mercier notes that while the New London town line meter has consistent readings over the past 2.5 years, the meter at the plant has been inconsistent. He also noted that the town’s meter, while operating consistently, is 13 years old and the recommended life of the unit is 10 years. He suggested for this reason, the town should consider replacing it. The plant upgrade includes a new meter so installing a new meter at the town line will mean the sewer flows will be measured by two new meters, increasing the reliability of the readings and ensuring the percentage assigned to each town is more accurate. Mr. Mercier suggested that since the treatment plant meter readings are not reliable, now is not the time to adjust the percentage for each town. Ms. Hallquist noted that the Sunapee Sewer Commissioners have a copy of the letter and it will be addressed at the next joint meeting.

Ms. Hallquist noted that Mr. Lee agrees that the meter should be replaced so he will take steps to have the work done. The meter is estimated to cost under \$5,000. The new meter should be installed within a month from when it is ordered.

Selectman Bianchi observed that the Frothingham Road pump station used to have meters but at some point they were disconnected and not read anymore, and he did not know why. He noted that it is his understanding that 90% of the sewerage from New London goes through the Frothingham pump station and he felt that it would be worthwhile to measure that flow, and possibly add meters at other locations (Hilltop and High Pines) to get readings on 100% of the flow, to compare what the town line meter says. The town line location has 100% of the flow going through it. Ms. Hallquist suggested that Underwood could be hired to study such a plan, but they were only asked to discuss the two current meters – one at the New London town line and one at the treatment plant. She questioned whether investing in more meters would increase the reliability of the readings, given that no meter is 100% accurate. If they have a reliable meter at the town line where 100% of the flow goes, and a reliable meter at the treatment plant, that would be the first step. Ms. Hallquist was not convinced that more meters would increase the accuracy of what New London and Sunapee send into the treatment plant.

Chair Kidder thought they could see what kind of readings they will get from the new meter and then they can decide if they needed more. Selectman Bianchi thought they should be putting more meters in now to see what New London was pumping into Sunapee.

Selectman Rollins wondered if there was anyone who could assess the efficacy of the old meters they have at the Frothingham Road pump station. Ms. Hallquist said Underwood could. They can determine if they work and see if there is any benefit of adding more meters to their system. Selectman Bianchi thought the company that calibrates their meters could take a look at them to see if they were still usable. Chair Kidder didn't feel additional meters were necessary at this time and thought they could get the information they needed with the meters they have. Ms. Hallquist said they will take up the issue of flow at the next joint meeting of the Selectmen and the Sunapee Sewer Commissioners.

Public Input

No members of the public requested time to address the Board.

Old/Pending Business

There was none.

Committee Reports

Selectman Bianchi said the Planning Board met the week prior and heard from four applicants. Spring Ledge Farm wants to increase parking and add some cold frame structures and a pergola, but decided to take out the parking portion because of a possible problem with abutter, Angeli Associates. They will work together to come up with an amicable parking solution. One of the things they want to do is to make a temporary structure into a permanent one. Selectman Bianchi thought the changes would affect their conservation easement/current use status. The Planning Board approved their site plan without the parking portion and contingent upon the conservation easements and current use status not being affected.

The Flying Goose (Tom Mills) presented at the Planning Board meeting as well. He wants to put in a cold storage building next to the existing building and put his brewing materials under cover. This would also give them room to change the location of the dumpster. Their plans also include putting in an additional septic system to handle waste from the brewery. Selectman Bianchi said the Planning Board rationalized that they were in favor of some aspects of the plan and approved of the parking and moving of the dumpster, contingent upon the approval of the ZBA the following week. The ZBA met the night prior to the Selectmen's meeting and the board has decided to reconvene on August 4th at 6:30pm.

Another applicant presented a change in retail space into counseling space at the Village Green, which had recently been “Reiki in Paradise.” The applicant plans to counsel students and families, as she does already in another location in town.

Lastly, a presentation came before the Planning Board by Cherry Hill for a subdivision on property that abuts Seamans Road, Blueberry Lane and Hall Farm Road. Several abutters came and many questions were asked. The water issues on the property were discussed. Cherry Hill wishes to have eight lots, each of which need a test pit and perk test to show their capability to support a septic system. One lot had some test pits, 9” to ledge and to the seasonal high water; many others pits were very shallow. The Planning Board and abutters were concerned that more work needed to be done to address these drainage issues. The suggestion was brought up to hire an engineer for the town, paid for by the applicant, to look out for the town’s best interests. Cherry Hill said depending on the scope of work and the price, they would comply. There was a walk on the property that day that was attended by some abutters, members of the Planning Board and those from the engineering firm representing Cherry Hill.

Review of Minutes of July 15, 2014

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the minutes of July 15, 2014, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Upcoming Meeting Dates of the Board of Selectmen

Tuesday, August 12, 2014 – 6:00pm
Monday, August 25, 2014 – 6:00pm
Tuesday, September 16, 2014 – 6:00pm
Tuesday, September 30, 2014 – 6:00pm

Upcoming Meetings

August 5, 5:00pm - Recreation Meeting at Whipple Hall
August 26, 7:00pm – Planning Board Meeting

There was some question as to how Springledge Farm should be charged for their Building Permit; Ms. St. John had provided two options depending on how the Selectmen viewed their status. It was decided the fee of \$300 was appropriate; until they get some firm definition of the farm-stand type of business in the ordinance, they shouldn’t charge them more than the minimum.

Application for Building Permit:

Daniel & Jayna Schimberg – 196 Pike Brook Road (135-004-000) – Interior Demo – APPROVED
Calerin, LLC (dba Spring Ledge Farm) – 37 Main Street (073-053-000) – Erect 3 cold frames and one pergola – APPROVED
Mountain View Shopping Center – 255 Newport Road (059-008-000) – Consolidate two interior access/egress stairs into one – APPROVED

Application for Use of Whipple Hall:

Kearsarge Republican Committee – August 18, 2014, 5-7pm - APPROVED
Sunapee Ragged Kearsarge Greenway – August 21, 2014, 3-7:30pm - APPROVED
New London Barn Players – August 2 & 3, 8am – 5pm - APPROVED

Sign Permit Applications:

New London Garden Club – (15) 12” x 8” signs – APPROVED

Lake Sunapee VNA & Hospice – 6 sq’, two sided sign @ Chamber – APPROVED

Other Items to be Signed:

Yield Tax Levy

Investment Policy

Intent to Cut Timber – Ed & Cynthia Canane - Pleasant Street

Syd Crook Conference Room Application – Sunapee Kearsarge Jewish Community – 9/17/2014

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London