



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES Thursday, May 19, 2026 Whipple Memorial Town Hall 5:30 PM

PRESENT:

Janet Kidder, Chairman
Bebe Hammond Casey, Selectman
Richard Anderson, Selectman
Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator
Lynn Lewis, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Russ Moore
Paul Larocque
Gene Weber
Cathy Weber

Woody Canaday
Bob Bowers

Chair Kidder called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Russ Moore, Chair, Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee - Pocket Park Proposal

- **Purpose:** Russ Moore, along with Paul Larocque from Bonin Architects, presented the Pocket Park proposal to the Board of Selectmen, seeking support and feedback to move the project forward.
- **Key Discussion Points:**
 - **Project Vision:** The committee envisions a park with four components: an orientation/information area, a quiet garden, a children's play area, and a walkway with a pollinator garden and pergola.
 - **Community Engagement:** Russ Moore has met with 25-30 community organizations, businesses, and town committees, receiving positive feedback. Spring Ledge Farm is interested in providing plant material. and the Conservation Commission supports the proposal.
 - **Financial Plan & Safeguards:**
 - Construction will not begin until all funds are raised.
 - If the project is not completed, funds will be reallocated to improve biking/walking access and safety in New London (excluding routine DPW maintenance).
 - Non-profit organizations (Bike/Walk Coalition and Bike/Walk Alliance of New Hampshire) will lead fundraising efforts.
 - A sustainability reserve fund of \$150,000-\$250,000 is proposed to cover annual maintenance via investment yield.
 - A "friends" volunteer group will augment landscaping services.

- If fundraising goals are not met by Summer 2028, the project will be scaled back and redesigned.
 - **Design Details (Paul Larocque, Bonin Architects):**
 - Enhance street interface, upgraded paving, information kiosk for wayfinding.
 - Picnic area to draw people in.
 - Quiet garden adjacent to Woodcrest.
 - Family/child area in the back corner, away from the street.
 - Open lawn with pergola for larger group meetings and performances.
 - Walking paths and plantings to define spaces.
 - Current design is diagrammatic and flexible.
 - Existing elevation changes will be worked with; no significant new berms.
 - One large Norway spruce (memorial tree) will remain; another large evergreen should be removed, along with a tree near the proposed kiosk. Two new street trees would be added.
 - The area is approximately 47,000 sq ft (close to an acre).
 - **Stormwater Management:**
 - The park area, being at a higher elevation than the municipal parking lot, will improve drainage and absorption through native planting beds compared to grass. This won't directly address the municipal parking lot's significant stormwater issues but will positively impact the area.
- **Adam Ricker – Planning/ Zoning Pocket Park Feedback**
 - **Stormwater Grant:** The regional planning commission has a grant for an engineer to identify green stormwater techniques for the parking lot, but no implementation money is included. The focus is on the parking lot, not the park.
 - **Erosion on Pleasant Street Bank:** Sam and Adam are looking at independent solutions to address erosion on the bank down to Pleasant Street and discourage pedestrians from using it as a shortcut to the library.
 - **Overall Support:** Adam and Sam are supportive of the park concept as a town asset.
 - **Concerns:**
 - **Construction Management:** The town's responsibility for project oversight is significant.
 - **Clerk of the Works:** Adam suggests funding a temporary, paid "Clerk of the Works" position to manage daily construction, alleviating the burden on town employees.
 - **Long-term Maintenance:** The proposed fund for contracted landscaping is crucial due to the specialized nature of garden upkeep.
 - **Parking Expansion:** Future parking expansion would likely occur south of the current lot due to grade changes and cost-effectiveness, preserving the park's green space.
 - **Sidewalk Material:** Brick for sidewalks is conceptual; concerns exist regarding ADA compliance.
 - **Utilities:** Sewer line for the information booth needs to be mapped but shouldn't present major issues.
 - **Financial Logistics:** Questions remain about how funds raised by outside organizations will be transferred to and managed by the town, and how contracts will be administered. Town Administrator noted that the town would likely administer

funds (pay bills, recoup from trust), and the sustainability fund would function like a cemetery trust (using dividends/interest).

- **Fundraising and Communication:**
 - The town would be the recipient of funds, not directly involved in fundraising.
 - The Bike/Walk Alliance of New Hampshire has mechanisms for receiving and recording donations. Funds would be restricted for the park's purpose.
 - Specific language will be used in the campaign regarding the reallocation of surplus or unneeded funds to broader bike/walk safety initiatives, not donor refunds.
 - Seeking clear direction from BOS on communicating the plan to the public and authorizing fundraising efforts.

- **BOS Sentiments:**
 - General agreement on the park's merit and desire to move forward.
 - Acknowledgement of existing parking issues, which the park won't solve.
 - Emphasis on formalizing the financial handling and the Clerk of the Works position.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

- **Solar Array (Stump Dump):**
 - Status: Vendor identified, waiting on final cost and contract from Jamie Hess.
 - Next Steps: Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator, will receive final cost and company information this week.

- **Mountain Road Landfill:**
 - Status: Ongoing conversations with Jamie Hess, Chair of the Energy Committee and DES regarding landfill monitoring. Project will "slow roll" due to DES requirements.
 - Next Steps: DES monitoring expected within 6 months. Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator, will keep Jamie Hess updated.

- **Dispatch RFP Responses:**
 - Status: Five proposals received; copies available to the public at town offices.
 - Note: Only one proposal is under \$30,000; the others are above. Board members are encouraged to review proposals before costs.
 - Next Steps: Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator, and Chief Cobb will schedule a meeting (likely June 4th or June 18th/19th) to review proposals as a group and decide on interviews.

- **Eversource Planned Outage:**
 - Date/Time: **June 23rd, 9 AM to 1 PM** (rain date June 24th).
 - Impact: Widespread outage across a large portion of town. Hospital and shopping center are exempt.
 - Reason: Replacing copper wiring.
 - Communication: Eversource will notify customers; Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator, will include information in Municipal Matters next week.
 - Stakeholder Awareness: Coly-Sawyer, the school district, and hospital were informed.

- **Parking Discussions:**
 - **Blue Loon Staff:** The Glicks (new owners) asked about using the school parking lot for staff; Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator, directed them to the school.
 - **Barn Playhouse Staff:** Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator, has a meeting with Keith Coughlin, Executive Artistic Director, to discuss staff parking on Barrett Road and Everett Park, which caused issues last summer.

- **Overall Parking Crunch:** Acknowledged the loss of the bank's parking lot, Pizza Chef lot filling with construction/employee parking, and a proposal to reduce spaces behind the Village Green for green space.
- **Strategy:** Conversations with "frequent flyers" of the municipal lot to alleviate pressure.
- **Richard Anderson, Board of Selectmen: Dartmouth College Engineering Program:**
 - **Proposal:** Selectman Anderson suggested engaging Dartmouth College graduate engineering students for a nine-week project to analyze dispatch operations and system optimization.
 - **Cost:** Projects range from \$12,000-\$20,000.
 - **Benefits:** High-level expertise (graduate students), potential cost savings, and collaboration with a local institution.
 - **Action Item:** Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator, to speak with Dartmouth faculty about the possibility.
- **Hospital Days & Parking:** Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator, spoke with Carrie Hamel from New London Hospital about parking pressures and asked that they market handicapped accessible parking locations. Putnam is doing similar for Strawberry Fest.
- **Committee Reappointments/Appointments:**
 - Request: Solidify a date for a meeting in June.
 - Proposed Date: Tuesday, June 16th (updated to Monday, June 15th).
 - Preparation: Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator, will connect with individual Selectmen to understand desired changes and provide data on committee members' tenure.
 - Conservation Commission: Board approved appointing Don Osler as a full member, replacing Michael Gelcius. Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator, will inform Bob Brown, Chair, Conservation Commission tonight or tomorrow morning.
- **Pingree Rd House Auction:**
 - Date: June 13th.
 - Status: Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator, has hired a crew to clean out the house, communicating with lien holders, and an heir regarding personal belongings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Cathy Weber:**
 - Expressed strong support for the park, citing her fundraising experience and belief in the community's ability to raise funds.
 - Highlighted the "win-win" nature of the project due to its diverse beneficiaries (Woodcrest, Barn Playhouse dormitories, Montessori school, library).
 - Offered insights on garden maintenance, contrasting the high-maintenance Tracy Library botanical garden with the low-maintenance pollinator garden at the elementary school, suggesting the park's gardens would be closer to the latter. Noted a large volunteer gardening community in New London.
 - Proposed a formal MOU with the school district for public parking in school lots during non-school hours (summer).

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REPORTS

- **Planning Board (May 12th):**
 - Approved site improvements at 475 Bunker Roads.
 - Approved shoreland improvements at 870 Lakeshore Drive.
 - Colby-Sawyer College received approval to return the caretakers' cottage to residential use (five students, four bedrooms, two baths), pending water precinct approval.
 - First Baptist Church received approval for lighting and adding an ADA parking space.
- **Fire Wards (Yesterday - May 18th):**
 - Planning EMT classes at the fire station.
 - Advertising open positions.
 - Andrew Sarnevitiz is in discussions to return to the fire department.

MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes approval was postponed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

APPROVAL OF PAY VOUCHERS, PERMITS etc.

Items to be signed:

Payroll Authorization Vouchers and Accounts Payable

- May 14, 2026
- May 21, 2026

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Building/Zoning Permits – Approved

- Robert & Melissa Carroll- 132 Baker Rd. – 112-009-000-BP-26-33-Build barn w/ loft
- Burpee 403 LLC – 403 Burpee Hill Rd. -070-009-000-BP-26-35-Interior reno, greenhouse, add to porch
- Jane Phillips- 325 Little Sunapee Rd. – 046-004-000-BP-26-40-Add addition that will be an office
- Frankenstein/Mitchell Family Trust – 77 Wilmot Center Rd. – 078-006-000-BP-26-42-relocate interior door, add to stairway/landing, and 2 storage containers
- Terence & Christine Harrigan – 779 Sugarhouse Rd. -034-010-000-BP -26-44-update deck
- Laurids & Heidi Lauridsen- 193 Davis Hill Rd. – 055-001-000-BP-26-46-new carriage shed

- Kevin & Loranna Lucey- 55 Queenswood Rd. – 118-004-000-BP-26-47-interior reno and add dormer
- Paul Fox & Judith Mize – 475 Bunker Rd. – 063-004-000-BP-26-39-New Build
- Mark Picton – 38 Mill Pond Rd. – 042-015-000-BP-26-48-Demo and Rebuild
- Gloria Reed – 454 Main St. – 085-038-000-BP-26-49-Deck

Warrant for Wastewater Charges _DPW – Approved

Eversource Pole Replacement Plan – Approved

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Biuso
Town of New London

Note: RSA 91-A:2, II provides that “*Minutes of all such meetings, including nonpublic sessions, shall include the names of members, persons appearing before the public bodies, and a brief description of the subject matter discussed and final decisions.*” A video of the entire meeting may be available for viewing on the town website, NewLondon.NH.gov, if more than the brief description contained in these meeting minutes is desired.