



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 23, 2026
Whipple Memorial Town Hall
5:30 PM

PRESENT:

Bebe Hammond Casey, Chairman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
Richard Anderson, Selectman
Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator
Lynn Lewis, Finance Officer
Emily Cobb, Chief of Police
Putnam Kidder, Recreation Director

ALSO PRESENT:

Sergeant Nick Boisvert, Sunapee Police
Madison Kricko
Greg Barthol
Lieutenant Keith
Barry Fougere
Howard Brown
Jamie Hess
Michael Todd
Don Eberly
Woody Canaday

Rob Prohl
John Ellis
Russ Moore
Emily Campbell
Maureen Prohl
Paul Laroque
Tom Miller
Amy Battles

Chair Kidder called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM. Plaque Presentation to New London Telecommunications Division

- Sergeant Nick Boisvert, Sunapee Police Department & Sunapee Police Benevolent Association
 - Chief Cobb initiated the presentation, highlighting National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.
 - Sergeant Boisvert expressed appreciation for the New London Telecommunications Division, recognizing their role as "first of the first responders" and their commitment to public safety.
 - He read a plaque acknowledging their outstanding service, professionalism, dedication, and quick thinking.
 - Communications Specialists Greg Barthol and Madison Kricko were present to represent the New London dispatch team.

Employee Contact Policy: A reminder that town employees use personal cell phones not reimbursed by the town. Residents are asked to use discretion when contacting employees outside of regular working

hours (Mon-Fri, 8 am - 4 pm). Non-urgent matters should be directed to the appropriate departments via email or office phone. Urgent issues should go through emergency/after-hour channels (dispatch or town administrator).

Public Hearing: Acceptance of Gift of funds for the Elkins Bandstand

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with RSA 31:95-b, the Board of Selectmen hereby gives notice that a public hearing will be held to consider the acceptance of a gift in the amount of thirty-one thousand, six hundred fifty-four and 28/100 dollars (\$31,654.28), received from the dissolution of the Scytheville-Elkins Sesquicentennial Association.

This gift is made in accordance with the terms set forth in the Association's Articles of Agreement, Part FOURTH, paragraph b). The funds are to be expended by the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of providing public concerts, free of charge, at the Elkins Bandstand, consistent with the original intent outlined in Part SECOND of the Articles of Agreement.

- **Presenter:** Michael Todd, Bandstand Committee
- **Discussion:**
 - The gift is for providing free public concerts at the Elkins bandstand, consistent with the original intent of the association.
 - The 2026 town meeting had previously authorized the selectmen to accept such private gifts (Article 30).
 - Tom Miller, a former board member of the now-defunct Sesquicentennial Committee, was present to provide historical context if needed.
 - Funds have been turned over to the Town of New London.
 - The Bandstand Committee has scheduled four concerts at the Elkins bandstand on Sundays at 5:00 PM: July 19th, July 26th, August 2nd, and August 9th.
 - Total cost for the bands is \$4,000.
 - Request: After acceptance of funds, a disbursement to the Town of New London Bandstand Committee Inc. is requested to pay the bands.
 - The Masonic Lodge lends its parking lot and provides public restroom usage during concerts, and is considering selling food.
- **Fund Management:** Lynn Lewis, Finance Officer, confirmed that an account named "Elkins Bandstand" will be opened for these funds. She will pay the \$4,000 and then request a drawdown to replenish the account.

IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Hammond Casey) AND SECONDED (Richard Anderson) to accept the \$31,654.28 for the Scytheville-Elkins Sesquicentennial Bandstand. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Solar Array Proposals

- **Presenter:** Jamie Hess, Chair of the Energy Committee
- **Discussion:**
 - Jamie recognized Selectman Kidder and Town Administrator Seybold for attending a site visit.
 - Two proposals received so far are over budget.
 - Two more vendors are expected to submit proposals significantly under budget.
 - Two additional vendors have conducted site visits but haven't provided numbers yet.

- Financial Outlook: A committee volunteer calculated a Net Present Value of \$216,000 for one array based on the original budget. This value assumes borrowing most of the money and paying interest.
- The project aims to achieve renewable electricity goals and generate profit for the town.
- Sam Clarke (Director of Public Works) will assist in investigating subsurface conditions at the two solar array sites to choose the most economical method for anchoring the arrays.
- **Decision:** No decision made, the committee will continue to gather proposals. The Board of Selectmen thanked the committee for its work.

“Walkable New London” and Pocket Park Proposal

- **Presenter:** Russ Moore, Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- **Discussion:**
 - **Purpose:** To discuss the Pocket Park proposal at 328 Main Street (Chamber of Commerce information booth location).
 - **Committee Work:** Over a year of effort, approvals/reviews from Recreation, Conservation, and Citizens committees, and meetings with over 20 organizations (e.g., Bar Harbor Bank, NH Charitable Foundation, Chamber of Commerce, Garden Club, Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners, Keyser Lake Protective Association, Council on Aging, Kearsarge Regional School).
 - **Justification for Park Location:** The committee strongly believes 328 Main Street is the "highest and best use" for a park, benefiting all ages and abilities. It's an intimate space well-suited to discreet design elements, unlike large grassy areas.
 - **Parking Solutions:** Russ acknowledged the need for a comprehensive downtown parking plan. Suggested utilizing the Pizza Chef parking lot with directional signage and encouraging walking/biking to reduce parking demand.
 - **Stormwater Management:** The Upper Valley Regional Planning Commission has awarded a grant for engineering design in the municipal parking lot. This grant is for planning, not installation. The park would enhance water filtration and absorption, not exacerbate the issue.
 - **Impact of Delay:** Russ expressed concern that delaying the planning process would hurt committee momentum and community outreach plans for the summer (online survey, community forum, attending festivals).
 - **Funding:** All fundraising will be from private sources, not town or taxpayer funds. Expected costs are \$150,000-\$300,000, with an estimated \$25,000 in in-kind contributions. Russ (with extensive fundraising experience) is confident in securing funds from various sources (small businesses, large companies, individuals, family foundations), utilizing matching funds and donor recognition.
 - **Administrative Support:** Russ submitted a proposal to Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator, on how to manage donations, leveraging the New London Bike Walk Coalition (a 501c3 affiliate of the Bike-Walk Alliance of New Hampshire) for processing gifts and accounting to minimize burden on town staff.
 - **Board Member Views:**

- **Selectman Casey:** Supported the park, recognizing its origin from sidewalk improvement and walkability initiatives. Emphasized the "kiosk with maps" idea. Expressed concern about losing committee momentum and suggested potentially scaling down the project. Also noted the Upper Valley Regional Planning Commission's grant for design work on the property related to the Keyser Lake watershed.
- **Selectman Anderson:** Supported the project, comparing it to public gardens and parks that become cherished town assets. Acknowledged parking concerns but saw the park as a "new gem" for the town.
- **Chair Kidder:** Expressed reservations about parking but concurred with Rich Anderson and Bebe Hammond Casey to proceed, given the committee's momentum.
 - **Revised Design:** Russ noted a revised design for the park that the committee wants feedback on. Ashley Seybold will distribute for review.
- **Decision:** The Board of Selectmen approved the committee to proceed with planning, with the understanding that they would review the revised design. The Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee will come to a future meeting to discuss next steps.

"Art and Bloom" Event Approval

- **Presenter:** Barry Fougere, Executive Director of the CFA (Center for the Arts)
- **Discussion:**
 - **Art in Bloom Festival:**
 - **Dates:** June 12th-14th.
 - **Concept:** A three-day festival starting Friday (music), Saturday (main event with art and artisans, live music, food, kids' activities, demonstrations, beer/wine), Sunday (concert).
 - **Partnerships:** Working with local organizations, businesses, and artists. Expected 30-40 vendors.
 - **Alcohol at Whipple Hall:** Similar to "New Year's New London", a mobile bar would be used, located inside the hall (not in the hallway), to address previous concerns about alcohol leaving the premises.

IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Hammond Casey) AND SECONDED (Richard Anderson) To approve the "Art in Bloom" event for June 12th-14th. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Action Item for:** Sign the permit in the signing folder.

Chair Kidder read a statement regarding the Secret Cove property on Davis Hill Road.

- **Follow-up from the last meeting:** Town Administrator Ashley Seybold invited representatives from Secret Cove to a Planning Board or Board of Selectmen meeting to provide project information on Davis Hill Road.
- **Response:** The invitation was declined, as was a similar invitation last fall.
- **Permits:** An alteration of terrain permit has been filed with the State of New Hampshire. No additional permits have been filed by Valerie Mars or Secret Cove representatives with the town.

- **Decision:** No action taken; the board remains hopeful for future engagement

Capital Reserve Fund Requests (Police Department)

- **Presenter:** Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator & Chief Cobb
- **Requests:**
 - A. Computer Capital Reserve: \$9,962 total for three items for the New London Police Department.
 - \$3,494 for a replacement PC and mugshot module for fingerprinting (required upgrade, old system 6 years old, no vendor alternative for parts/updates).
 - \$3,925 to replace two end-of-life laptops.
 - \$2,543 for a UPS battery backup for the police station server (started malfunctioning this week; essential for temporary power until generator starts).

IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Hammond Casey) AND SECONDED (Richard Anderson) to approve \$9,962 from the Computer Capital Reserve fund for the replacement of a PC, 2 laptops, and a UPS battery backup. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B. Communications Equipment Capital Reserve: \$10,472.28 for two items.
 - Replacement microwave panel damaged by ice on Mount Sunapee.
 - Replacement lightning arrestor for Mount Kearsarge.
 - Logistics: Equipment will likely be taken up Mount Kearsarge when driving access is possible.

IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Hammond Casey) AND SECONDED (Richard Anderson) to approve \$10,472.28 for replacement microwave panels and a lightning arrestor. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Cemetery Maintenance

- **Presenter:** Lynn Lewis, Finance Officer
- **Request:** Withdrawal of \$4,277.13 for cemetery maintenance.
 - This addresses items pulled from the 2026 operating budget.
 - Includes \$3,229.05 for a lawn mower.
 - Includes \$1,048.08 for flags to be replaced this year.

IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Hammond Casey) AND SECONDED (Richard Anderson) to approve \$4,277.13 for cemetery maintenance. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Building Fund (Keypads/Cameras)

- **Presenter:** Lynn Lewis, Finance Director
- **Request:** An additional \$7,124.00 from the Town Building Fund.
 - Original quote for keypads and cameras was \$92,191.23.
 - During installation, additional wiring was required for keypads in the Buer building due to archaic wiring.
 - Camera System Feedback: The new camera system is an improvement over the old, piecemeal system. Ashley plans to get a larger storage device to extend video retention

beyond 13 days, especially for police department booking cameras, and anticipates funding this from her operating budget.

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IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Hammond Casey) AND SECONDED (Richard Anderson) To approve \$7,124.00 from the Town Building Fund for the additional work needed to install the security system. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Administrator Report:

- **Secret Cove Project:**
 - Ashley confirmed receiving multiple phone calls from residents seeking updates, and that community interest is growing despite the lack of new information.
 - Ashley spoke with an associate of "Kearsarge Community Commons" (the LLC formed) last Friday, urging transparency with New London residents, especially since the LLC is holding public meetings in Sutton. The invitation was declined.
- **Staffing Updates:**
 - **Casey Biuso (Administrative Assistant):** Gave notice, moving to the Center for the Arts. Her last full-time day is tomorrow, then 3 days/week until the end of May. Interviews for her replacement start Monday.
 - **Public Works:** Karen Welch is retiring (the end of May) after 40 years. Two other employees are out for medical reasons, creating two open Public Works roles. Posting ads and doing outreach.
- **Dispatch RFP Update:**
 - RFP published, questions received from potential vendors. Chief Cobb and Ashley have answered most, with an FAQ document posted online.
 - **Pre-bid Meeting:** A pre-bid meeting is required. The first week of May is the only opportunity.
 - **Board Input:** The Board expressed a desire for at least one member to attend the pre-bid meeting.
 - **RFP Scope/Budget:** Vendors have asked about flexibility in scope or budget. The response is no flexibility on the budget, but flexibility on the scope. The goal is to understand costs for the requested scope.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Amy Battles, Intertown Record, asked for clarification regarding the current plan for the pocket park, which doesn't remove existing parking. The Board of Selectmen shared that the concern is about the future expansion of the municipal parking lot, if needed, as the park would prevent adding more paved spaces in that specific area.

MEETING MINUTES:

IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Hammond Casey) AND SECONDED (Richard Anderson) to accept the minutes of the April 9, 2026 meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

OTHER BUSINESS:

APPROVAL OF PAY VOUCHERS, PERMITS etc.

Items to be signed:

Payroll Authorization Vouchers and Accounts Payable

- April 16, 2026
- April 23, 2026

Report of Cut

- Sam & Amelia Stevens – 136-010-000
- Secret Cove – 068-006-002, 068-006-003, 068-006-004

Septic Waivers

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Building/Zoning Permits – Approved

- Daniel & Eleanor Snyder – 283 Elkins Rd. – 077-009-000 – BP 26-32
- KC Slocum Wright – 217 Main St. – 084-067-000 – ZP – 26-05
- John & Frank Souliotis – 394 Main St. – 085-045-000 – ZP – 26-07
- Thomas & Francine Kane – 29 Farwell Lane – 070-003-000 – DW – 26-03
- Glen & Kristine Lohmann – 90 Oxbow Lane – 121-028-000 – DW – 26-04
- Alan & Wendy Fredericksen – 40 Murray Pond Rd. – 045-014-000 – BP – 26-27
- James & Sandra Raeuchle – 599 Hall Farm Rd. – 087-014-000 – BP -36-34
- Todd & Mary Beth Westward – 344 Brookside Dr. -0121-016-000 – BP – 26-37
- Jennifer & Jerod Rockwell – 42 Pressy Ct. – 073-065-000 – BP-26-38

Application for property tax credit/exemption

- Gloria Reed – 454 Main St. – 085-038-000 – Veteran’s Credit
- Leigh Bryant & Robert Dunn – 93 Rowell Hill Rd. – 122-005-000 – Solar Credit
- Scott & Bettina Wisniewski – 938 Morgan Hill Rd. – 007-002-000 – Solar Credit

Application for Report of Timber Cut

- Sam Stevens & Amelia Stevens – 136-010-000 – Soo Nipi Park Rd.
- Secret Cove – 068-006-002, 068-006-003, 068-006-004 – Davis Hill Rd.
- Justin & Jordan Beauchaine – 086-005-000 – Sargent Rd.

Application for Raffle Permit for Charitable Organization – Approved

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Application to Use New London Town Property – Approved

- Carolyn Fraley – Garden at Tracy Library – June 26-29, 2026 – Garden at Tracy Library- Annual Garden Party
- Barry Fougere – Center for the Arts – June 11-14, 2026 – Whipple Hall Conference Room and Whipple Hall – Art in Bloom

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 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.

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