



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES Thursday, May 7, 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

ALSO PRESENT:

Will Kidder	Carol Fraley
Putnam Kidder	Judy Butler
Chief Emily Cobb	Peter Nichols
Monica Thibault	Joanne Palmisano
Rich Epstein	Bob Bowers
John Ellis	

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

As part of the cable TV franchise renewal between the Town of New London, NH, and Comcast of Connecticut/Georgia/Massachusetts/New Hampshire/New York/North Carolina/Virginia/Vermont, LLC pursuant to NH RSA 53-C: 3-a, the Town will be holding a public hearing on the proposal for a cable television franchise agreement renewal.

- Monica Thibault from Comcast Government Affairs presented on the proposed five-year franchise renewal agreement, which is similar to the existing one. She explained that the franchise fee is 3.5% of video subscriber revenue, paid quarterly, and is approximately \$ 1,542.93 per quarter. This fee is collected from video subscribers and goes into the town's general fund.
- **Discussion on Franchise Fees:**
 - The 3.5% fee is not standard across all municipalities; the maximum allowed is 5%. Some towns opt for the full 5%, especially those with strong Public, Education, and Government (PEG) channels, while others choose a lower percentage to avoid passing additional costs to residents.
- **Public Comment**
 - **Peter Nichols:** Inquired about the nature of the agreement compared to other utilities like Eversource, clarifying that this is under the FCC's Cable Act of 1984, unlike power utilities that may pay real estate taxes for poles.
- **Decision:** No formal motion was required at this public hearing stage.

Appointment of Library Trustee Alternate

- Joanne Palmisano, Chair of the Tracy Memorial Library Board of Trustees, requested the appointment of Betsy Gunby as a second alternate trustee for a one-year term. She clarified that alternate trustees vote only to meet quorum requirements and are excluded from non-public sessions and discussions involving personnel or budget issues. Betsy Gunby is a 15-year resident with a policy degree from Harvard and is the sister-in-law of the assistant director, Matthew Gunby. The board unanimously endorsed her appointment, acknowledging her understanding of the limitations due to potential conflicts of interest.

IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Hammond Casey) AND SECONDED (Richard Anderson) to approve Elizabeth (Betsy) Gunby as an alternate trustee for the Tracy Memorial Library for one year. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tracy Memorial Library Garden Club Fee Waiver Request

- **Discussion:** Carol Fraley and Judy Butler from the Tracy Memorial Library Garden requested a waiver of usage fees for their annual event on June 28th, celebrating the garden's 100th year. They highlighted that the club maintains the garden for the town, raises its own funds, and has had fees waived in the past. The event will feature a speaker and a garden tour, and is free and open to the public.
- **Decision:** Motion to waive the usage fee for Tracy Memorial Library on June 28th.

IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Hammond Casey) AND SECONDED (Richard Anderson) to waive the usage fee for Tracy Memorial Library Garden on June 28th. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Parking Ticket Fees and Ordinance Updates

- **Discussion:** Putnam Kidder, Recreation Director, presented proposed updates to the beach use, parking, and transfer station/beach parking permit ordinances, in collaboration with Police Chief Emily Cobb and Town Clerk Will Kidder.
 - **Proposed Changes:** Increase penalty fines for violations and raise the replacement fee for a guest beach parking permit and parking violations at both Bucklin and Elkins beaches from \$25 to \$100.
 - **Rationale:** Mitigate resident complaints about limited beach parking being occupied by non-permitted vehicles, along with those who may be giving guest passes to friends in neighboring towns..
 - **Implementation Plan:** Present detailed changes to the Board of Selectmen on May 19th, followed by a public hearing by the end of June for implementation this summer. They plan to phase in the changes to inform the public and coordinate with DPW for cost-effective signage.
- **Discussion on Guest Pass Fee:** Concerns were raised about the \$100 replacement fee being "harsh," but Will Kidder argued that the current \$25 fee is not a deterrent and leads to misuse (e.g., residents obtaining replacement passes to give to non-resident friends). He noted that Sunapee has a similar \$100 fee. While acknowledging the potential harshness, he suggested the fee might prevent widespread abuse.
- **Decision:** No immediate decision was made; further discussion and review are scheduled for the May 19th meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Ohler Project Funding

- **Discussion:** An oversight was identified from a previous meeting where the \$50,000 contribution from the conservation fund for the Ohler project was supported, but not formally voted on as its source.

IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Hammond Casey) AND SECONDED (Richard Anderson) motion for the \$50,000 for the Ohler project to come from the land acquisition fund from conservation. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Action Item:** Follow up on Haddad Fund Balance- Clarify the exact balance of the Haddad Fund with the trustees.
 - a. Lynn Lewis confirmed balance of \$337,869.

Trustee Stipend

- **Discussion:** Historically, the \$500 trustee stipend went to the chair, Joe Kubitt, who performed the majority of the work. With Joe Kubitt's departure, the new trustees (Tom Carley, Laurie Schive, and Kevin Sullivan) unanimously agreed that the stipend should go to Laurie Schive, as she will be handling the bookkeeping and secretary duties. This aligns with a statute that allows compensation for the secretary, as determined by the town meeting.

IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Hammond Casey) AND SECONDED (Richard Anderson) to reiterate that the \$500 trustee stipend will go to the secretary (Laurie Shive). THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

- **Tree City USA Distinction:** New London received the Tree City USA distinction for the 39th consecutive year, a significant achievement. Dave Carey (Tree Warden), Adam Ricker, and Sam Clarke were acknowledged for their efforts. A press release was sent to local news outlets.
- **Dispatch Study Update:** A pre-bid meeting was held with potential vendors for the dispatch study. The deadline for proposal submissions is next Friday (May 15th). Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator, felt it was a fruitful and enlightening conversation.
- **Eversource Planned Outage:** Eversource will conduct a planned outage for 4-5 hours in late June to replace copper wires on Main Street. Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator, has requested an outage map for all four corners and will communicate details to the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Bob Bowers, Resident:** Inquired about the DPW site project and the potential for a police station.
 - **Town Administrator Response:** The project with Wiemann Lamphere (design and engineering firm) is five months in. Sam Clarke and Adam Ricker are expected to present plans (narrowed down from eight) to the Board of Selectmen and the public in June. This includes examining the site for a potential police station.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REPORTS

Watering Precinct (Monday): Selectman Casey reported on the water precinct meeting:

- Water usage remains consistent year-over-year.

- Update on the lead pipe investigation requirement, where 71 houses need checking. Rob Thorpe offered advice to Slope and Shore, who are facing a similarly large project.
- \$15,000 was added to the general budget for pump station repairs (alarms and power outage).
- Ken Jaques indicated that their attorney is providing information on business plans for working with towns, and they will present this to the Board of Selectmen after the town meeting.
- Vendor is expected to return to fix the paving on Main Street.
- The engineering study for Colby Point will be delayed until the fall (after Labor Day).

OTHER BUSINESS:

APPROVAL OF PAY VOUCHERS, PERMITS etc.

Items to be signed:

Payroll Authorization Vouchers and Accounts Payable

- April 30, 2026
- May 7, 2026

Report of Cut

- Secret Cove – 068-006-002, 068-006-003, 068-006-004

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Building/Zoning Permits – Approved

- Harry & Jane Snow-465 Otterville Rd.- 042-007-000-BP26-45-New Build-3 Bay Garage w/ storage bedroom.

NONPUBLIC: The Board of Selectmen may enter into nonpublic session, if so voted, to discuss items listed under RSA 91-A:3, II.

IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Hammond Casey) AND SECONDED (Rich Anderson) to enter into a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (b: the hiring of any person as a public employee.

Roll call vote: Casey: Yes; Kidder: Yes; Anderson: Yes:

The Board entered nonpublic session at 6:07 PM.

The Board reentered the public session at 7:31 PM.

IT WAS MOVED Bebe Hammond Casey AND SECONDED Rich Anderson to seal the nonpublic session meeting minutes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Hammond Casey) AND SECONDED (Rich Anderson) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 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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