



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, January 15, 2025 DRAFT

MEMBERS' PRESENT:

Bob Brown (Chair) Michael Gelcius (Vice Chair) Jim Dexter, Mark Vernon, Sue Andrews, Michael Kennedy

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rob Prohl, Dave Hollinger

OTHER PRESENT: Don Ostler, Don Bartlett, Ella Doherty, Andy Deegan (ASLP)

APPOINTMENTS:

- Ella Doherty (AmeriCorps member) CSC is holding an environmental expo on April 24, 2:00-4:00 PM . in conjunction with a craft fair from the sustainability club. Ella stated that her project is going to be on native pollinators. They will be putting in a garden on Pleasant St. and working with Ausbon Sargent.
- Andy Deegan – ASLT – there is a piece of property near Clark Lookout (068-004) that is privately owned (16-17 acres) and the owners would like to sell it. The asking price is 1.5 million dollars. Ausbon Sargent is interested in seeing this property conserved. The benefit would be that it expands on town/CC land. It has old carriage trails and a view of Lake Sunapee and would give NL more trail access. Discussion followed, and the CC board stated that it needs to be in the right price range and to find out what the owner would accept. Andy is going to research and is going to be attending the February 2025 CC meeting with some updates on what is going on in New London.

Permits – Mike Gelcius – none

Projects etc.

088-006 – closing is scheduled for week of 1/27/25.

089-013 – this parcel is town owned, backs up to Laurel Lane, it will add 30+/- acres – Chair Brown will ask the selectmen if it can have a conservation easement added.

Motion was made by Mike Gelcius to add 089-013 to conservation easement along with 088-006 for the protection of the pleasant lake water shed to conserve land in New London and expand Esther Currier Wildlife Management Area at Low Plain. **Second** by Jim Dexter – **unanimously approved.**

- Mark Vernon commented that if 088-006 falls through the CC should still put 089-013 into an easement.

CLAF – the selectmen do not support CLAF, they do not believe in a reserve fund. Discussion followed about the town meeting/warrant article/petition. Chair Brown stated that Rob Prohl met with the budget committee and that they seem agreeable to our operating request, CLAF was not discussed at that Budget meeting.

American Chestnut trees – Bob Brown said that there are one hundred seeds nuts that need to be started in the spring, he spoke to Greg Berger at Spring Ledge, and they are willing to let the CC use

some greenhouse space. Bob contacted the Cemetery commission and DPW to discuss possible American Chestnut plants at the Old Main Street expansion site.

Diamond Anniversary - perhaps this celebration could be in conjunction with the re-opening of the bog. Michael Kennedy did some research on other Conservation committees in NH, and he discovered that some towns meet more often than others, some websites are elaborate, and some are lacking. No mention of a diamond anniversary and he thought perhaps they all did a celebration on the 50th anniversary.

Trails

- Janet Kider told Chair Brown that she is pleased with the quality and maintenance of the trails and appreciates all the hard work put into them by the NLCC.
- Numbering – Chair Brown has spoken with DPW and Mike G. sent DPW the GPS coordinates for the numbering/addresses of the trail heads. Once done, it was suggested that the CC produces a list of land owners and mark their driveways/trail heads as well.
- Two game cameras have arrived, Mike G. is going to get them up and running and then install them, one may go in the Bog.

Invasives

- Chair Brown restated that the BOS said that the Town will not approve the use chemicals to treat invasives. Bob recommends that the CC learn more about the treatment of invasives.
- A Sunapee resident (Laurie Bride) spoke to Bob and told him that Sunapee has a Knotweed Task Force. She would like to attend a CC meeting. Bob will invite her to the February CC meeting.
- Mark Vernon stated that the invasives are going to get worse as time goes on, and should the CC be in an advisory position? Perhaps work up a flyer/document with pertinent information about invasives.

0119-002 – Messer Pond/Clark Pond water flow report will be sent out to the pond property owners. The water level is down to 0.9 feet at the Bog Road culvert.

Philbrick/Cricenti Bog

- Mark Vernon updated the committee on the status of the signs for the P-C bog. It was discussed that he will order one prototype to see what it looks like and then upon CC approval he will order the rest.
- Mark met with Sean Fleming (a resident that has mapping experience) and will be creating a new P-C bog map, by the next meeting Mark will have an update.
- Don Ostler mentioned that there were a few trees down on the Tundra trail in the P-C bog.
- Piggy Bank collected \$12.00

New Business

- A donation was received (Fidelity) and on the check it was stated for Conservation Commission use. Mike G. is looking into who to send a thank you note to.
- Tuesday 2-25-25 10A-2P there will be a kids snowshoe hike with the NL Recreation department. Meeting at Whipple and being bused to Clark Lookout. This may be a great way to introduce the Junior Hiking Patch program.

- Elkins F&G is going to be putting wood duck boxes in the Low Plain area, Kidder Marsh, and Messer Pond. Mike G. is looking into other areas to put up more boxes in the future. He will make a list of potential sites and bring it to the February meeting.
- Mark Vernon asked if anyone knew Steven Priest/Outdoor Steve? Mark has seen some of his information on social media and it mentions NL trails.

Motion made by Michael Gelcius to accept December 15th, 2024; meeting minutes as amended. **Second** by Michael Kennedy unanimously **approved**.

Motion made by Mike Gelcius to adjourn the meeting. **Second** by Mark Vernon. **Unanimously approved**. The meeting was adjourned.

- Next meeting, February 19th, 2025, at 8:30 AM at Whipple Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jackman
Town of New London