



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION Meeting Minutes – Wednesday January 21, 2026 Whipple Memorial Hall

MEMBERS' PRESENT:

Bob Brown (Chair), Michael Gelcius (Vice Chair), Jim Dexter, Mark Vernon, Michael Kennedy, Sue Andrews, Dave Hollinger (9:30) (alt.), Don Ostler (alt.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rob Prohl

OTHERS PRESENT:

Putnam Kidder – New London Recreation

Beth Williams – Colby Sawyer College

Putnam Kidder spoke to the committee about an upcoming Recreation department winter activity. On February 24th – they are planning a guided snowshoe/hike to Clark Lookout. It will be in combination with adults and kids during February vacation. More information is on the Recreation website,

Permits – Mike Gelcius – none

Projects

- Kearsarge Trail Coalition bicycle group – Mark Vernon updated the committee – he stated that they took Lyon Brook Trail off the list as a property owner does not want it to be used by the group. The ball is in the KTC group's court. The group needs to be aware that it is a process to have access to trails. Mark will reach out to them. (The group does not have a phone number, email address or website. If you do a Google search the only thing that comes up is the Sunapee Ragged Kearsarge Greenway Coalition, which is a different organization.
- At the 1/8/2026 BOS meeting the CLAF was discussed. The BOS and the Budget committee cannot justify funding for that, and they are not going to approve any additional funding.
- The CC received authorization for management of property 101-003 on Mountain Rd.
- The CC's contribution to the Ohler project does not need to be approved by a warrant article at the Town Meeting.
- Chair Brown stated that adding Low Plain (lots 088-006 & 089-013) to the existing NHF&G easement does require a warrant. He said it is in the works.
- Messer Farm Trail was discussed. There had been changes in the Zoning amendments in 2020-2021 that resulted in trails not being established.
- Conservation Easements/Trail restrictions/signage:
 - Dave Hollinger and Sue Andrews will be working together on the documents and Mark Vernon will be working on actual signage.

- Chair Brown would like to see the Low Plain invasive project expanded.
- Mark Vernon asked about the tree removal at KCC near Aspen Lane and Mike Gelcius said the tree had already been taken down.
- Ruth White – Mark Vernon did some research and did not find a proclamation. He will work with Sue Andrews to create one. Mark suggested perhaps a bench or a plaque with her name on it.
- Mark Vernon will be reaching out to the Citizens Committee to see if the CC can do a presentation at one of their meetings.
- Mark Vernon stated that he went to a Sutton CC meeting and that they are in the process of implementing a QR code system to accept donations.
- Bob Brown asked the board if they were happy with the pollinator garden at Low Plain? It was suggested that the area be monitored and possibly expanded. Mike Gelcius to follow up and will contact the NL Garden club.
- Mark Vernon stated that Knights Hill has 4 fields that get mowed, he would like to see the mowing schedule and hopes to improve plant diversity.
- The Philips property had a low wire, Comcast fixed it.
- The gauge at Bog Road is free of ice.

Motion made by Jim Dexter to accept the December 17th, 2025, meeting minutes as amended. Seconded by Mike Gelcius - unanimously **approved**.

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

Next meeting is scheduled for 1/21/2026– 8:30AM – Whipple Memorial Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jackman
Town of New London