



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, October 16, 2024 APPROVED

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dave Hollinger

### **OTHERS PRESENT:** Don Bartlett, Don Ostler, Malcolm Cleveland, Peter Gribbin

- Two students (Malcolm Cleveland, Peter Gribbin) from the Environmental Science program at Colby Sawyer college attended the CC meeting to inform the committee that they are working with Professor Nick Baer (NL Health officer) on a community-based program. The program consists of setting up game cameras and doing all kinds of monitoring. They are also working with Ausbon Sargent, the Forestr society and other groups. They were there to ask the CC if there is anything the CC needs them to include in their study. Mark Vernon asked that the CC be sent their study results, which should be completed by December 5<sup>th</sup>. Chair Brown would like a meeting with the students to discuss the needs of the CC.
- Ella Doherty AmeriCorps member, Climate Action Leader is continuing the Low Plain project. (she was on the agenda but did not attend the meeting)

### **Permits** – Mike Gelcius

- A special meeting was held (10-14-24) to discuss an expedited permit for 153 Owls Nest. The permit was approved. (see minutes from 10-14-24)

### **Trails, projects etc.**

- Trailhead numbering is a work in progress. Mike G. to follow up with Cara Leone.
- Town owned land and CE's – Sue Andrews
  - Springledge farm was done last week, Lyon Brook area is next.
  - Discussion followed about the monitoring program.
- Jr. Trail program – Mike G. stated that the logo is with Putnam Kidder.
- Arbor Day Celebration – was held on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:00 AM, at Clark Lookout, there were 2 official guests and many hikers/visitors as well. This will allow New London to continue to be an official Tree City.
- The tiny library at Clark Lookout needs to be replenished often. Mike G. is going to refurbish the library door when the weather gets colder.
- Bog road wetlands & Clark Pond/creek area – Jim Dexter stated that there were 3 small rebuilds and he cleaned them out. Chair Brown stated that there continues to be around 6" of water in the culvert and the water is moving.

- Messer Pond Natural Area signs have been installed and look great.
- Mark Vernon stated that the glossy buck thorn plant is taking over the Kidder-Cleveland-Clark wetland area. Mark, Tim Fluery and Dode Gladders walked the area and noted that there is a lot of “established” growth of this invasive plant. Don Bartlett said that he has seen some in the Bog.
- TACF – Shaker St. and Clark Lookout area look great with their new cages etc.
  - Bob Brown & Mark Vernon went to Bethel VT for a day and helped TACF group shuck hundreds of burrs to get their seeds out.
  - Bob Brown said the CC got a bag of 50 seeds from last year’s trees.
- Sue Andrews mentioned that there is a similar program going with Ash trees. Chair Brown said he would like to know more about it,

**088-006-** Bob Brown - Waiting for the deed

### **Philbrick/Cricenti Bog**

- Don Bartlett has made a lot of progress, he has installed 40+ railings, relocated a bench and added a new bench. Worked on some of the platforms and spread more wood chips.
- The Grand Junction area is a work in progress, eventually make it a level platform and add benches.
- The Piggy Bank donations are being collected. (\$119.78 deposit)
- Chair Brown suggested a plaque of some sort be put in the bog in memory of Mary Haddad.
- All Thank you letters have been sent.
- Technical Assistance Grant – Mark V. – the sign mockups are being developed by the extension service.

### **Budget**

- The budget committee is working on 2026 budget. A small group from the CC met and came up with at 15% reduction. The amount of \$76,496. Will be submitted for the 2026 budget. Also, a request in the CIP for \$75K for the land acquisition account.

### **Old/New Business**

- Jim Dexter stated that the Lake Sunapee Water Shed Committee (working with Nick Baer, NL Health officer) is proposing the new septic system program that would require septic systems be monitored.

**Motion** made by Michael Gelcius to accept the September 18th, 2024, meeting minutes as amended. **Second** by Jim Dexter, unanimously **approved**.

**Motion** made by Jim Dexter to adjourn the meeting. **Second** by Michael Kennedy. **Unanimously approved**. The meeting was adjourned.

- Next meeting, November 20th, 2024 at 8:30 AM at Whipple Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jackman  
Town of New London

