



TOWN OF  
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**NEW LONDON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, November 20, 2024**  
**APPROVED**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** none

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Don Ostler, Ella Doherty AmeriCorps, Putnam Kidder, NL Rec.

**Appointments:**

- Putnam Kidder – NL Recreation – discussion about the Junior Hiking (name may be changed) program, Putnam would like to create a reduced list of trails that children 17 and under could hike on and then receive a sticker. The stickers are being redesigned by Mike Gelcius and Putnam Kidder. Research is being done on who to use to print the stickers. NL Recreation would like to promote general awareness of the trails in New London. February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 is a teacher work day and perhaps that would be a great day to plan and advertise a snow shoe hike up Clark Lookout.
- Ella Doherty Campus Climate Action Leader. – Ella spoke to the CC about her role with CSC until July of 2025. She worked with Anna White (former CCA leader) in the knot weed project. Ella has not been assigned a project yet, but she is interested in the energy/eco/environmental/waste reduction committees. She works in the sustainability office at CSC. She has some ideas for Earth Day. She will keep the CC informed of her projects.

**Permits** – Mike Gelcius - none

**Trails, projects etc.**

- Trailhead numbering should be complete by the December meeting.
- All mowing is done.
- Mark Vernon – trail adopter list had two open trails. Sue Andrews and Don Ostler adopted them.
- Michael Kennedy asked about the history of any of the trails, he and Mark are going to contact Jim Perkins (NL Archives) and possibly work on gathering history on the trails.
- TACF gave the CC 100 seednuts and they are in stratification in Bob Browns shop. Some may be used in the spring at the Old Main St. cemetery extension.
- Elkins F&G have repaired and/or replaced the observation blinds at Turtle point and Marsh point in the Low plains area.

**Messer Pond & 0119-0002**- see attached pdf

- Ethan Simon (CC volunteer) asked the CC if they were aware of a small patch (100 sf) of knotweed and he suggested that the area be dredged and apply chemicals to remove it. Jim Dexter will take a look at the area. Discussion followed.
- **Motion** was made by Jim Dexter and **Second** by Mike Gelcius to not use any chemicals on any conservation land to control invasives. **Unanimously Approved.**
- **2nd Motion** was made by Mike Gelcius and **Second** by Mark Vernon to evaluate invasives such as knotweed as reported. **Unanimously Approved.**

**Environmental Project at CSC**

- Sue Andrews, Mike Gelcius and Bob Brown attended a presentation at the college. Nick Baer is the CSC professor. The students in this class are in the process of creating a procedure manual. They propose to put out game cameras, use drones, audio tracking and maps to track wildlife, insects, and also monitor trees, plants and growth. They would have a data base for people to access. They are scheduled to have a presentation at the college on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

**088-006**- Bob Brown - Waiting for closing status.

- Bob Brown will reach out to Leo Mastin for a property assessment.

**Philbrick/Cricenti Bog**

- Don Bartlett has done a remarkable job in the bog; the CC deeply appreciates all his hard work.
- The Piggy Bank donations are being collected. (\$302.75 deposit)
- The visitor log showed over 19 states and the Bahamas!
- Cub Scout Pack 71 (5 cubs) did a service project and a hike in the bog. A Thank you note will be sent to the Cub Master.
- Technical Assistance Grant – Mark V. – signs for the bog, Mark is going to send an email to all CC members asking for their feedback.

**Budget** – Rob Prohl will represent the CC at these meetings.

**Old/New Business**

- Graffiti on the under passes of I89. Chair Brown has reached out to the state asking what the process is to remove the graffiti, he was told it is the NHDOT bridge maintenance department.
- Dode Gladders gave Mike Gelcius information about a funding grant that Mike is going to look into. It is from the USDA and it may help with funding of the seed gardens identification at Low Plain.
- Mark Vernon attended the NHACC meeting and stated that it is worth going to this meeting.

**Motion** made by Michael Gelcius to accept the October 16th, 2024, meeting minutes as amended. **Second** by Mark Vernon, unanimously **approved.**

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

- Next meeting, December 18th, 2024 at 8:30 AM at Whipple Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jackman  
Town of New London