



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## **APPROVED Minutes of the August 18, 2010 Conservation Commission Meeting**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dan Allen, Terry Dancy, Laura Alexander, Andy Deegan, Bob Crane, Emma Crane, Ruth White, Vicki Koron

**MEMBERSABSENT:** Bob Brown (Chairman), Sue Clough, Peter Stanley (Zoning Board Administrator)

Laura Alexander explained that Chair Brown asked her to run the meeting in his absence, and called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

### **Minutes Review**

Ms. Alexander noted that the minutes were on the website and asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to approve them. There were a few changes to the minutes, which were updated by the recording secretary.

**IT WAS MOVED (Terry Dancy) AND SECONDED (Emma Crane) to accept the minutes of July 21, 2010, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Conservation Commission Land Acquisitions Study**

Ms. Alexander said that the Philips piece is still on hold and there is no news on the Crowell piece. Mr. Deegan said the Crowells want to give the land to the town as long as the town pays for the appraisal, the survey and all attorney fees. That acquisition is on hold until the Philips property moves forward.

### **Trail Projects**

Mr. Allen said he is working on blasting still. He wanted to know if anything had been done about the bridge on the Great Brook Trail. Mr. Crane said the bridge is a little springy but hasn't gotten to the point where repair is needed. Ms. White said that the log bridges on the Interpretive Trail are in need of repair. Mr. Crane said that Chair Brown has talked to Mark Vernon, who is happy to have the bridges repaired. Mr. Webb has given permission for the Conservation Commission to drive up his property to deliver the wood needed for repairs. Mr. Allen said that it would be about an 800' carry and so they are waiting on getting some help to do this project.

Mr. Allen noted that there is a canoe chained to the tree on the line between the Green property and the town's property at Clark Pond. The width of the chain is large, at 1/2". He felt that they need a policy to deal with this sort of thing, and he wanted to know if they can confiscate such items or how it should be handled. It was Mr. Allen's recollection that they had agreed not to allow boats to stay there. Ms. White asked if there was a sign stating that no boats were to be left there. Mr. Allen said that there was not. Ms. White suggested putting a sign at the beginning of the trail noting that they are not allowed to leave the boats. Ms. Alexander wondered if when they start the trail, it would make sense to have a sign there saying that boats were welcome on a carry-in, carry-out basis. Mr. Allen thought this was a good idea. Ms. Alexander thought perhaps they should put a note on the boat that is there asking them to remove it. Mr. Allen asked about enforcement and how they could prepare for this sort of scenario in the future. He wondered if they should adopt an ordinance. Ms. White said they shouldn't do anything about removing the boat now because it isn't written anywhere that it is not allowed. The rest of the Conservation

Commission agreed that this was a good solution. Mr. Deegan suggested the wording of the sign as “Boats welcome – No overnight storage.” It was indicated that Chair Brown would make the sign.

Mr. Dancy said he has finished the last five signs for the Webb Forest Trail, which he delivered last week.

Chair Brown has also made more signs for the Bog Trail and they have been put up.

### **Trail Maps**

Mr. Dancy recalled that a question came up as to whether they would reprint the forest trail map or brochure. He said that they have quite a large number in stock already. They do have some new text and things have been slightly re-numbered but it was questionable as to whether they should re-print them. Several members of the Commission thought they should keep the stock they have and not re-print.

Ms. Koron said there are 2,000 Bog Trail maps still in stock. Ms. White said they can either leave them alone or, if there are enough changes to warrant it, before putting a batch of them out, they make the corrections by hand. They have done this in the past on thousands of brochures. It was the consensus that they would use the ones they have until they are used up. The Commission thanked Mark Vernon for his efforts.

### ***General Maps from the Bog***

Ms. Koron said that the prices for the printer in Concord had been cheaper last time the Bog maps were printed. She contacted Howard Hoke, who printed them for \$214, which is a difference of about \$80 from what they paid previously. Ms. Koron said that she went local and got the best price. Mr. Crane noted that Mr. Hoke gives a community discount.

### **Website**

Mr. Crane said that the NH Conservation Office has a list of all the websites for Conservation Commissions in the state. Most of the websites have just the time of the meetings and a list of people who were on the commission. The only website that is close to what New London has is Hanover. Ms. Alexander asked if there was a counter on the website to see how many people were visiting it. Mr. Crane said that they do and he has that information available. He commented that there are a lot of hits on the Bog information.

Ms. Alexander noted that Mr. Crane is still looking for someone to take over the website. Mr. Crane noted that perhaps Chad Denning from the Recreation Department would be willing and able to do this, but he has not yet been approached about it.

### **Budget Committee**

Ms. Alexander read from an email that Chair Brown sent to her regarding the topics he covered at the CIP meeting. Mr. Crane opined that Chair Brown did a good job presenting their requests. Ms. Crane said that it was less confrontational this year as in past years. They seemed more receptive to the Phillips land acquisition project when they found that the Conservation Commission wasn't doing it alone. It was noted that there is still a tough economic climate and that there would always be differences in philosophy between those on the Conservation Commission and those on the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committees.

### **Mail**

The Planning Board agenda for the next meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup> was reviewed. It was determined that there was nothing they really needed to look further into.

**Other**

Ms. Koron said she had a bill that needed to be paid for the Bog maps. Ms. Alexander took the bill for \$214.00. She asked for a motion to pay the bill.

**IT WAS MOVED (Vicki Koron) AND SECONDED (Andy Deegan) to pay the bill for \$214 for the printing of the Bog maps. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Deegan said Messer pond parcel had been approved by the attorney. There has been a slight change in material and he has to get there to do the baseline the week after next. They will then be set to go. Mr. Deegan said he would email this to everyone to make sure they agree with what he has said. They will then be ready to close.

Mr. Dancy said he had received an email about Milfoil that had appeared in the Union Leader. Apparently, there has been a drop in property values on Lake Winnepesaukee due to milfoil being present in the lake. He felt that they should make certain this information is available to the Board of Selectmen in case they question funding for milfoil prevention in the future; they will be able to see some effects of milfoil in other places. Mr. Allen suggested sending a copy of the article to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Dancy suggested forwarding the article to Ms. Levine, Town Administrator. He said that the article talked about expenditures and the use of Round-Up to attempt to remove the milfoil. The headline brought attention to there being a drop in property values, due to milfoil being present in the lake.

Ms. Alexander asked about the Asian Long-Horned Beetle exhibit in town. She hadn't heard anything about it and was surprised when she saw it. Ms. White said there were two open forums in the state on this topic to alert people to this invasive species.

There being no other business, Ms. Alexander asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**IT WAS MOVED (Emma Crane) AND SECONDED (Vicki Koron) to adjourn the Conservation Commission Meeting of August 18, 2010. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:06am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London