

**TOWN OF NEW LONDON  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
JANUARY 18, 2006  
MEETING MINUTES (Approved February 15, 2006)**

PRESENT: Dan Allen, Dale Conly, Bob Crane, Emma Crane, Terry Dancy, Les Norman, Peter Stanley, Ruth White.

GUESTS: Tom and Ann Marie Thomas, Peter Blakeman, John and Kittie Wilson (PLPA)

Les Norman, Chair, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

1. Minutes of the 12/21 regular NLCC meeting, the 1/11 special meeting and the 1/3 subcommittee meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Thomas' Driveway: NLCC received correspondence from DES recognizing the Commission's comments and concerns. DES has not changed their position regarding the original proposal for driveway re-location and its effect being a major disturbance to wetlands. Subsequently, Peter Blakeman met with DES. Based on this meeting and discussion during the NLCC site visit to the Thomas property, Mr. Blackman presented a new draft proposal for the driveway re-location. This proposal only showed the new location for the driveway and not the garage. It was agreed by the NLCC members that they were moving in the right direction. A new, more detailed plan will be submitted to the NLCC for review at their next meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. PLPA: John and Kitty Wilson, representing the PLPA, met with the Selectman on 1/17/06 to voice their concerns about run off that could occur if the KARMA project is built in New London. The Selectman suggested that they voice these concerns to the NLCC. The wetlands immediately adjacent to the proposed KARMA site are an important buffer zone and any disturbance to them could have an environmental impact on Pleasant Lake. Recent presentations made by Peter Schiess and others representing the KARMA project suggest that there are no red flags regarding wetlands in the area. CC members felt that the truth was being stretched and material being circulated did not reflect the position of the NLCC. Mr. Schiess made an informal presentation to the CC on 12/21. The CC 12/21 meeting minutes clearly reflect that the CC did not have enough information about the project to assess any environmental impact from the proposed KARMA project. The concern of the PLPA is that voters will be asked to vote on the proposed project without having a clear understanding of the environmental impact.

Concern about wetlands on this site and the surrounding area is not a myth, as stated in the KARMA presentation. It is a matter of serious and long-standing concern. On April 27, 2000, a letter was written by the Commission to the then chair of the School Board expressing concern over the proposed filling of wetlands to create an expansion of playing fields for the school.

All CC members were in agreement that the record on this issue needed to be set straight. Les will draft a letter to be sent to the appropriate groups and

the local newspapers. The letter will be circulated to CC members for review and comment before being sent.

4. Work on Suggested Zoning Changes (Dancy, Crane, B.): Bob Crane reviewed zoning regulations from Maine and Terry Dancy reviewed regulations from the six surrounding NL communities as they pertain to lakeshore setbacks, lakefront restrictions, stream setbacks, wetland buffer zones, septic setbacks, leach fields, erosion control regulations, lot size, slope restrictions and ridgeline and hillside restrictions. It is a goal of the CC to determine if changes in zoning regulations are needed, and if so, make recommendations to the Zoning Board for 2007. It was decided that the CC would discuss one issue at each meeting. Terry Dancy will make available the pertinent regulations from the surrounding towns.
5. Master Plan Update Suggestions: The 1998 Master Plan has thirteen recommendations from the NLCC. The following suggestions were made for updating the next edition of the Master Plan:
  - a. Include invasive species as an issue.
  - b. Include stronger language to support the 1985 Master Plan goal of not allowing development of commercial areas along highways and interstate exchanges.
  - c. Develop recommendations that can be completed.

Over the next year, the current Master Plan goals and recommendations will be reviewed to determine which ones have been completed and the impact they have had. Recommendations that have not been completed need to be evaluated to determine if they can be completed, are still valid and necessary.

6. Other Business:
  - a. Bob Crane updated the CC on the town map. Blue line has been approved and is at press. It should be ready for the next CC meeting.
  - b. Dan Allen updated the CC on the status of how to best eradicate the Japanese knotweed - chemical versus mechanical removal.
  - c. Les spoke to Janet Howe of the Wilmot Conservation Commission regarding proposed development in Wilmot that would impact New London. Janice assured Les they saw development as a regional issue and appropriate collaboration would occur.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Submitted by

Linda Hanlon  
Recording Secretary