

**TOWN OF NEW LONDON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
September 20, 2006
Meeting Minutes (final approved)**

Present: Laura Alexander, Dan Allen, Dale Conly, Bob Crane, Emma Crane, Terry Dancy, Vicki Koron, Les Norman, Ruth White.

Guest(s): Jessie Levine, Beth McGuinn, Dave Cook

Meeting was called to order by Les Norman at 1:00 p.m.

1. Minutes of August 16th meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Proposed Ewing Easement (tax map 96-40): Beth McGuinn from ASLPT outlined the proposed Ewing Conservation Easement of 61.7 acres, and the opportunity to include a permanent right for recreational access on the Lyon Brook Trail through the property, if New London places a Conservation Easement on its adjacent Lagoon Property. Peter Stanley noted that an easement and sealing of the Lagoons would help to protect the town and prevent water from leaving the lagoons and going into Lyon Brook. The lagoons will need to be filled sequentially and over time. Such an easement would need to be approved by the Selectman and brought to the town for a vote in 2007. The NLCC unanimously approved a resolution to move to create a conservation easement on the lagoon property of town land subject to sealing the lagoons with the appropriate state oversight, and reclamation of the roads needed to fill the lagoons to current conditions.
3. Pleasant Lake High Trail: Dave Cook indicated there was an error on the trail map regarding Pleasant Lake High Trail. This will be corrected on the website now and on the next printing of the trail maps. Trail is signed and blazed. He would like another sign at Whitney Brook Road. Terry Dancy will make the sign.

The second concern for discussion was that there are multiple trails on the Cook and Deming properties that Dave would like to have put under the auspices of the NLCC but he wanted to be sure that it met with the NLCC goals. The CC needs to review easements and permissions on these trails that pass over private property and ultimately get written agreements that give the NLCC permission to maintain the trails and users to use the trails.

Dave also plans to donate approximately 69 acres to the NLCC at some point in the future. This will require a public meeting.

4. Proposed Lynch Land Swap (at Esther Currier Wildlife Trail and Mountain Road): The NLCC has not received anything yet so further discussion of this item was postponed.
5. LSPA Milfoil Application: Application was received, reviewed and approved.
6. Knotweed Project: Dan reported on results. To date, it seems the black plastic treatment seems to be working but will know better next year.

7. Trails Updates:

- a. Dan has registered for a conference at Cornell University and will be doing a short presentation. Unfortunately, there is no funding in the NLCC budget for this.
- b. October 13th at the Sullivan County Farm in Unity, NH: there is a talk on "Invasive Plant Ecology and Control in the CT River Valley". Admission is \$10 and will run from 12:00 – 4:30 p.m.
- c. Bob Crane reported that the boardwalk at Cricenti Bog is in terrible shape. The boards need to be anchored in some way. It was suggested that some kind of flotation mechanism be used.
- d. There is interest in making Temple Mountain (east of Peterboro off route 101) a state park. The NLCC is not interested in becoming involved in this project at this time.
- e. Corrugated metal roofs on blinds are not working. It was suggested that they be re-done in two pieces, hinged in the middle. This will be tried.
- f. Twenty-four cans of paint have been ordered for trail blazing.

8. Other Business:

- a. Laura Alexander has a student who would like to create a plan for an interpretive trail (Clough Trail) for his capstone project and has been in touch with John Clough and Greg Berger (Springledge Farm) about this. Dan Allen and Bob Crane would like to be involved with the project and will work with the student.
- b. Correspondence: Les Norman reviewed correspondence that had come in since the last meeting and it is on file.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45

Submitted by Linda Hanlon
Recording Secretary