



Municipal Matters

New London, New Hampshire

February 2017

Selectmen and Budget Committee hold budget reconciliation meeting

The Selectmen and Budget Committee met in a joint meeting on Wednesday, February 1st, to discuss the areas in their respective budgets where there was disagreement. While two different budgets could be presented at Town Meeting for consideration by the voters, both boards feel that it is in the best interest of voters if agreement can be reached, if possible.

Both boards agreed that \$875,000 is the correct amount to seek voter approval for a bond. This amount will allow necessary repairs to the Academy Building, completion of the sewer lagoon closure project, upgrades to the Pleasant Lake Dam and a study on the Buker Municipal Building, and other sites, for the police, dispatching and recreation departments, and other sites, for the future.

A fair amount of the joint meeting was dedicated to a discussion of whether or not to purchase a street sweeper or to instead contract out street sweeping services as needed. Proponents of contracting the service argued that spending \$210,000 to own a sweeper was not cost effective when contractors could be hired for \$10,000-\$20,000 per year instead. Those in favor of purchasing the sweeper pointed to having the roads cleaned earlier in the spring and the ability to clean streets more often as main reasons in favor of owning. All agreed that getting the roads cleaned is important as the negative environmental impact of road sand getting into the road ditches and eventually into the lakes and streams should be avoided. The Selectmen and Budget Committee ultimately opted to support the purchase of a sweeper. Voters will have the opportunity to make the final decision on March 15th at Town Meeting.

The FY2018 operating budget as agreed to by both Boards is 2.54% higher than the previous year.

Tom Anderson Retires from the New London Police Department after 17 years!

Tom is very much deserving of some time off after 17 years dedicated to serving the citizens of New London as patrol officer, detective, lieutenant and friend. He has served the town professionally and with compassion and a sense of humor.

You may still see Tom around town in uniform as he helps out by filling shifts when needed.

Thanks very much for your dedication Tom, and enjoy your retirement!



Lieutenant Thomas H. Anderson

Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events

New London Police Officer Joshua Fisher and Sergeant David Keith presented a very informative, and sobering lecture on active shooter events and how civilians should react in the event they find themselves in such an event. Unfortunately these events are becoming more numerous across the country, so educating the public on steps they should take to increase their safety is critically important.

Officer Fisher and Sergeant Keith are very well versed in this part of their duties as law enforcement officers and they did an excellent job giving attendees some practical information of what to look for, and how to react, in such an event. If this lecture is offered again in the future, please consider attending—the information is invaluable.

Pre-Town Meeting Potluck is Back!!!

Please participate in this time-honored Town Meeting tradition by contacting this year's organizer Janet Roberts at 526-4428 or jsidmore@tds.net to let her know what dish you plan to bring and share. The pot luck will be held prior to Town Meeting on March 15th.

Zoning Amendment Season in New Hampshire

The New London Planning Board has been very busy discussing potential zoning amendment language for consideration in March 2017. Two subcommittees were established to address Signs and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU). The impetus for changes to the Sign provisions are to address the US Supreme Court decision *Reed v. Town of Gilbert, Arizona* (June 2015). This decision requires sign provisions to be content - neutral. This means to regulate signs by zoning and land use, not content and to treat all forms of speech equally. For example, the current provisions of the Zoning Ordinance allow a building contractor and others to have a certain type, amount and size of signage, different from that granted to a nonprofit organization. This is no longer allowed. Much of New London's sign provisions are not content-neutral and thusly, the Planning Board is proposing Zoning Amendment language for consideration in March. The proposed language may need to be changed again in the future as towns and cities opine the impacts of this Supreme Court decision. The Planning Board Sign Subcommittee included Paul Gorman (chair), Janet Kidder and Liz Meller. Not every issue related to signs is or could be addressed in the proposed amendment language, but the Subcommittee worked diligently on making the proposed amendments in keeping with much of the current sign provisions, and to reflect the changes needed to be more in compliance with the US Supreme Court decision. The Planning Board is asking for your support in approving the proposed sign amendment language.

The impetus for changes to the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) provisions is the NH law which takes effect on June 1, 2017. The Planning Board ADU Subcommittee included Jeremy Bonin (chair), Paul Gorman and Marianne McEnrue. The subcommittee meetings were well attended. The new law requires that every municipality with a zoning ordinance shall allow accessory dwelling units as a matter of right or by conditional use permit or by special exception, in all zoning districts that permit single-family dwellings. All of the zoning districts permit single-family dwellings. One of the biggest concerns was about the impact this could have on lakefront properties, in terms of environmental issues, as well as affecting the tax base. Another much debated issue was whether detached ADUs should be permitted, after much discussion the Planning Board is not proposing detached ADU. The Planning Board is proposing zoning amendment changes for attached ADU, and which will require a Conditional Use Permit (CUP), from the Planning Board, as the current ADU provisions allow an attached ADU under the building permit process. The Planning Board thanks all that participated in the discussions. The Planning Board is asking for your support in approving the proposed ADU zoning amendment language. It should also be noted that the NH Legislature will be discussing the ADU law in 2017, as there are many unintended consequences which have been brought to the forefront since the signage of the ADU law. Stay tuned.

Publications generated by the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) and the NH Office of Energy and Planning (NH OEP) have been posted on the Town's website under the Planning Board meeting materials regarding ADU and Signs. In addition to the ADU and Signs, some minor housekeeping amendments are proposed, and a petitioned zoning amendment has been submitted to rezone approximately 1.98 acres on Main Street from R-1, Residential to Commercial.

The Planning Board had the Public Hearing on the proposed zoning amendments on Monday, January 23, 2017. Four amendments will be included on the ballot, including the Planning Board support of the petitioned amendment. The Zoning Ordinance is a document approved by the voters of New London.

—Lucy A. St. John, AICP
Planning & Zoning Administrator

Richard Lee

After reading Richard Lee's resignation letter last month, it made me reflect on the years that the New London Fire Department has worked with him. It's been beneficial to work with a Town employee who has been dedicated to his job for so many years and we are very appreciative for his commitment.

In his retirement letter he mentioned a few of the major projects that he has overseen, but some may not realize the degree to which he is willing to help. When notified, Richard (pictured in the photo) quickly responded to the transfer station to drive the tractor-trailer away from the structure. This was to ensure minimizing the damage to the building and to allow for firefighters to gain better access to the debris burning inside. Richard and his personnel have also assisted with multiple projects to help the Fire Department. He aided with the expansion of the fire station as well as with the installation of multiple dry hydrants around New London in an effort to better protect the more rural areas that are not covered by the pressurized hydrants in the center of town.

Although the larger icing events have hit this area every ten years (1998 & 2008), New London seems to have more extreme weather than some of its surrounding towns because of its elevation. Whenever we have one of these events, Richard's crew is always around to do what's needed to clear roads and the like. One of the other areas that Richard's expertise has been beneficial is with the FEMA reimbursement program. When the storm is over, the paperwork begins. He has overseen the reimbursement of thousands of dollars for personnel and equipment utilized during these incidents and has always been an important part of the Emergency Management Committee.

Now that I think of it, maybe Richard knows that the Ice Storm of 2018 is just around the corner; and hence the December 15, 2017 retirement date... The New London Fire Department wishes Richard and his family a happy retirement and hopefully his winters in South Carolina will be warm enough for year-round golfing and motorcycle riding.



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—Jay Lyon, Fire Chief

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

NO Motor Vehicle Transactions from 2/17/17 – 2/22/17

The NH Department of Safety, Division of Motor Vehicles is pleased to announce that a new computer system (VISION) will be implemented in the month of February. As a result, there will be an interruption of motor vehicle registration processing statewide. Town/City Clerk's offices along with the DMV offices will be unable to process new or renewal registrations over the President's Day holiday weekend beginning Friday, February 17, 2017, and will be resuming transactions on Wednesday, February 22, 2017. Throughout this process, the Town Clerk's office WILL BE OPEN during our normal, scheduled hours of operation for other transactions. If you have a new registration, a temporary plate or your registration renewal is due during the month of February, please make sure you are aware of the processing interruption. Our apologies for any inconvenience. Feel free to visit the DMV website www.nh.gov/dmv for any updates.



dreamstime.com

Tracy Memorial Library

- Circulation in 2016 was up 2.7% over the previous year. Gains were seen in adult fiction, adult nonfiction, children's books, and downloadables. The top-circulating titles in 2016 were:

Fiction: *My Name Is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout

Nonfiction: *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi

Movie: *Inside Out* (animated) and *The Intern* (starring Robert DeNiro) in a tie

Audiobook: *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee (fiction) and *The Conquering Tide: War in the Pacific Islands* by Ian Toll (nonfiction)

- At the end of December, we unfortunately experienced a flood in the ground-floor Children's Department. Thank you to the members of the Fire Department for pumping out the water. We were able to reopen the youth fiction, nonfiction and computer areas relatively quickly, but the Tomie dePaola Room sustained water damage to the flooring and radiant heat system. Trustees and staff are investigating further options in order to safeguard this area that is so important to our youngest customers and their families.
- Join Ms. Kristine for fun and energetic story times on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:00. We also offer family story time on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00.
- After-school programs are booming with Lego® Club and crafts (and more!) on Wednesdays. The popular student café on Thursdays offers after-school snacks, and a place to meet friends and enjoy movies from the Library's collection.
- Please join us for musical fun with "Toe Jam Puppet Band" on February 17 at 4:00 at Whipple Memorial Town Hall. This program is co-sponsored by the Friends of TML and New London Police Association as part of Winter Carnival 2017. Free tickets are available online at www.nlrec.com and at the Library.

Mark Your Calendar



- Citizens Advisory Committee—Sat, Feb. 4th @ 7:30am
- Board of Selectmen—Mon, Feb 6th @ 6:00pm
- Recreation Commission—Tues, Feb. 7th @ 5:00pm—Whipple Hall
- **Budget Committee Public Hearing—Wed, Feb. 8th @ 7:00pm—Whipple Memorial Town Hall**
- Board of Selectmen— Tuesday, Feb. 21st, 6:00PM, Public Hearing on bond & police special duty revolving account.
- **New London Winter Carnival— Feb 15-18—lots of activities!**
- **Dinner with Jack Frost— Fri. Feb 17th—ticket info: recreation@nl-nh.com or 526-6401**
- Conservation Commission—Wed, Feb. 15th @ 8:30am
- **President's Day—Monday, Feb. 20th — OFFICES CLOSED**

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at the Town Office, 2nd floor, 375 Main St. Please see the town website for a full list of meetings and locations:

www.nl-nh.com

Town of New London It's Town Meeting Season!

Town & School Elections

School Warrant Articles

Zoning Amendments

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Whipple Memorial Town Hall

Pre-Town Meeting Potluck

Wednesday, March 15, 2017 @ 5:30 PM

Multi-purpose room at the

Kearsarge Regional Elementary School

Town Meeting

Town Warrant Articles

Wednesday, March 15, 2017 @ 7:00 PM

Kearsarge Learning Campus/Outing Club

Gymnasium - 114 Cougar Court

Town Reports will be available for pick-up after 3/7/17 at the following locations:

New London Town Offices

Tracy Memorial Library

New London Transfer Station

Also available on line at www.nl-nh.com

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