



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Minutes of the June 17, 2015 Conservation Commission Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Laura Alexander (Vice-Chair), Mike Gelcius, Mark Vernon, Dan Allan, Terry Dancy, Jane McMurrich, Andy Deegan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Brown (Chairman), Ruth White

OTHERS: Lucy St. John (Planning & Zoning Administrator), Owen Krol (Trail and Mapping Intern)

Vice-Chair Alexander opened the meeting at 8:30am.

Minutes of May 20, 2015

IT WAS MOVED (Dan Allen) AND SECONDED (Mark Vernon) to approve the minutes of May 20, 2015, as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Permit Applications and Summaries – Lucy St. John, Planning & Zoning Administrator

Ms. St. John said the only application that had come in was a shoreland application for a property on Messer Pond. The Planning Board has been provided access to the application and can comment on it if they like at their next meeting on June 23rd.

Ms. St. John said that the Planning Board will start on the zoning amendment process earlier this year, as Town Meeting has changed from May to March. She asked the Conservation Commission members to let her know if they had any ideas or suggestions for changes, especially those having to do with streams and wetlands mapping.

Ms. St. John said the Planning Board would like to come up with one map of the Town showing all the overlay districts, streams and wetlands. She said everything they will be working on will be made available to all the different boards in town before anything has been decided. One issue she would like to hone in on is impervious surfaces. She welcomed comment on other zoning provisions the Planning Board should take into consideration.

Mr. Dancy recalled that they were going to send an article into the Intertown Record in regards to getting feedback from the public on streams and wetlands that may be of concern. He wondered if the article should be sent in; Ms. White had composed the article but had not sent it to be printed. Ms. St. John suggested someone from the Conservation Commission attend the next Planning Board meeting to give their input. Mr. Vernon agreed that this was a good idea. Ms. McMurrich said she would be willing to attend the next Planning Board meeting to relay the input from the Conservation Commission and report back with information she gathers from the meeting.

Ms. Alexander said some students from Colby-Sawyer College created an Inventory of Natural Resources that could be considered before the July meeting, when they could determine areas that need attention.

Ms. St. John said on June 25th she would be attending a local RPC meeting on the topic of code enforcement.

At this point, Ms. St. John left the meeting.

Mr. Allen said that in the absence of Ruth White, he would like to suggest naming a stream after her. The stream crosses the interstate and goes through her property. He believed it was currently without a name. Mr. Dancy said protection of streams needs to be addressed with the Planning Board.

Trails

Mr. Krol said he has been working with Mr. Allen on the Clark Pond Trail. He passed around a sample brochure that could be used for hikers who want to hike the trail, which points out areas of interest. He has also worked to inventory the list of species given to him by Mr. Allen, and has inventoried the signs on the Webb Forest Trail to indicate the condition of them so that new signs could be made by Mr. Vernon.

Mr. Krol said he walked Phillips Memorial Preserve to map it with GPS, but he has to walk it again due to a hardware issue he had.

Mr. Deegan said he was at Clark Pond that morning. He identified a dead Spruce near the Norman Trail. There is also a tree that broke off on the Dancy Trail that needs to be taken care of as it could be dangerous. Mr. Krol said he would take care of the trees.

Mr. Vernon said the Department of Corrections work days have all been cancelled. He has a lot of materials ready to go for June 23rd, which was the first day the workers were supposed to come and help, and he would appreciate some help getting some of the work done. Mr. Krol said he would be happy to help. Ms. Alexander said she wasn't sure why the work program had been cut, but it was possibly due to a budgeting issue. The Town just received word of the cancellation that week.

Mr. Gelcius said some trees have come down at Low Plain that need attention. He would take a trip down there and may need a hand. Mr. Krol said he would be happy to help. He noted that a large Spruce tree is down on the Webb Forest Trail and a couple at the Phillips Preserve.

Mr. Vernon said a lot of their signs could use a coat of urethane. Mr. Krol said he could help with this.

Mr. Allen said he needed another 8 or 9 labels for plant identification and would cost about \$12. He requires permission to do this. Ms. Alexander and the Commission said they were in favor of this expense.

Mr. Gelcius said the "NO BIKES" signs had come in for Low Plain. Mr. Allen thought they should put one up at the Clark Pond trail.

Mr. Vernon said the beavers behind the old Middle School are still active. He has some signs ready for the Lyon Brook Trail that he will put up soon. A work day will be held on the 23rd for the Kidder-Cleveland-Clough Trail. As "food for thought" he said the trail dead-ends at Spring Ledge Farm and he was interested in connecting it somewhere. There was talk that the college wanted to connect Cottage Lane to Pleasant Street, and this could possibly connect to the Kidder-Cleveland-Clough Trail. This could be discussed later on. Mr. Allen was interested to help with this.

Land Acquisitions and Easements

Ms. Alexander said at Big Hilltop there is a property adjacent to Clark Lookout on the market for \$150,000. It has not yet been subdivided. She had a map of the property for view on her laptop. Pam Perkins is the realtor and they could deal with her directly. Currently there has not been an appraisal on this parcel as it is a part of a larger lot of record. It is 39 acres in size. If the Town were to purchase the property, they could create their own road and eliminate the current problems with the access road to Clark Lookout.

Ms. Alexander asked the Conservation Commission if they should be looking into this property further. There was an overwhelming sentiment that they should.

IT WAS MOVED (Dan Allen) AND SECONDED (Terry Dancy) to authorize Bob Brown, as their agent, to contact Pam Perkins regarding this property.

Mr. Vernon asked if the funds existed to purchase this property. Ms. Alexander said there were sufficient funds in the CIP for land acquisition. It was also brought up that the Mary Haddad Fund was also available for projects such as this, and would not require a vote at Town Meeting.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Conservation Commission went into non-public session to discuss another parcel of land.

Upon return from non-public session, Mr. Vernon noted that there wasn't much happening with the Powerline Trail but said he would be having a meeting on July 9th with Bruce King, the President of New London Hospital to discuss the details.

**IT WAS MOVED (Dan Allen) AND SECONDED (Andy Deegan) to adjourn the meeting.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London