

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 14, 2016

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Jeff Goldknopf (Chair), Drew Kiefaber (Vice Chair), Andrea Sellers (Treasurer), Marianne Hannagan, Bruce Fecteau, Bob Gazda (Alternate), Patrick Reynolds (Alternate), and Julia Sinclair (Alternate).

Members Absent: Fred Pearson (excused), Ezra Temko (Planning Board Rep), and Amy Burns (Town Council Rep - Ex-Officio)

Called to Order: 7:02 PM

Agenda Items:

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

The Chair announced that this evening would have been **Fred Pearson's** last meeting on the Conservation Commission. Tonight is also **Bruce Fecteau's** last meeting and the Commission is very thankful to both Fred and Bruce for their many years of dedicated service and commitment to conservation in the town. Thank you Fred and Bruce! The Chair appointed **Patrick Reynolds** as a voting member for this meeting.

3. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

With speakers present in the audience, the Chair asked to move the agenda forward to Old/New Business. There was no objection.

8. **Old/New Business**

Newmarket Recreation Department Kayak Storage at Schanda Park: Aimee Gigandet, the Assistant Director of the Recreation Department, was out of town at the time of the March meeting and regretted any confusion at that presentation. She was primarily interested in knowing what the CC might approve on conservation land. This evening she presented the CC with a document to clarify the options for kayak shelter. There are currently 22 kayaks at the Rec Dept. shed. Her goal was to get some of them closer to the water both at Schanda Park and at Sliding Rock (Piscassic) by using two racks at Schanda Park and one rack at Sliding Rock. The racks are portable and could be in place around May 1 and removed for winter storage by Columbus Day each year. Their research found some very nice pre-fab white cedar racks with ground anchors from a company in Wisconsin. The company recommends a natural coating for the racks. She met with Suzanne Peterson, the Education and Outreach Specialist for the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) and she encouraged Aimee to submit two grant applications. LRAC will require the CC approval in writing to locate the racks as envisioned or some other approved area. Aimee's grant application is due April 20 and she will meet with LRAC for presentation of two grants- one for the proposed Kayak Event and one for the racks. Aimee also discussed future launching structures for kayaks which would make access for all citizens easier. The racks can hold 2, 4, 6, 8, or 10 kayaks. The Rec. Department owns very colorful 9 foot kayaks and some tandems. More information is available on the racks is available at:

<http://www.logkayackrack.com/kayak-canoe-rack-systems/six-slot-kayak-racks/>

Drew Kiefaber has two basic concerns: 1) are there any deed or easement restrictions on the properties regarding permanent or non-permanent structures and 2) are there any shoreland/river buffer areas involved. Both of these issues will require research before any approvals. **Andrea Sellers** is concerned about the racks becoming an attractive nuisance, but the risk is acceptable with Aimee as the kayaks will be checked periodically and right now are not being used to their potential. Several members want to go down to Schanda to look at placement now that the dimension of the racks is known. **Jeff Goldknopf** had a meeting recently with Jim Hilton, the Director of the Recreation Department, and Jeff personally hopes that we can promote access to the river for the community.

Action

Motion: Bruce Fecteau moved to allow and to promote the installation of up to two racks to hold six kayaks at Schanda Park and up to two racks to hold six kayaks at Sliding Rock contingent on the clarification by the Town Administrator of legal assessment of any deed restrictions or permits required.

Second: Marianne Hannigan

Amendment to the Motion: Jeff Goldknopf added a friendly amendment to the motion to indicate that the racks shall be non-permanent structures, shall be removed by Columbus Day each year, and shall be the sole responsibility of the Newmarket Recreation Department. The final placement of the racks shall be approved by the CC.

Second: Drew Kiefaber

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

The Kayak Event is now scheduled for Saturday, August 20 from 11:00-4:00. The Recreation Department also has plans for the summer concert series and the Halloween Haunt at Schanda Park. The Chair will email the permit requests to Aimee.

Drew Kiefaber will draft an email to the Town Administrator regarding shoreland/river buffers, easement restrictions, and permitting requirements. He will copy both Diane Hardy and Mike Hoffman and will keep the CC members informed of the progress.

4. Approval of Minutes

March 10, 2016:

Action

Motion: Drew Kiefaber moved that the minutes of March 10, 2016 be approved as drafted.

Second: Bruce Fecteau

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

5. Treasurer's Report

Andrea Sellers has not received a spreadsheet from the finance office and had nothing new to report.

Fred Pearson gave the Chair two checks for rain barrels for deposit. He passed them on to the Treasurer.

6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

The Chair is waiting for notification from the Town Council and the Planning Board regarding representative changes to the Commission.

2016 Conservation Commission Scholarship: **Bruce Fecteau** has emailed the Conservation Commission Scholarship application materials to **Andrea Sellers** for updating and distribution to the high school. She has already been in touch with Pauline LaBranche, the Guidance Administrative Assistant, and will make the date changes in the forms.

7. Chairman's Report

The Chair wanted to give another special thanks to both **Fred Pearson** and **Bruce Fecteau** for their many, many years of dedicated service to the Conservation Commission and the Town.

LCHIP Check: The Chair received a \$400.00 check from the New Hampshire Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) for the annual monitoring of the Piscassic-Loiselle property which is completed by the CC annually. They appreciate that we do this service for them.

Turtle Signage: The Chair notified Rick Malasky at the DPW and the signs went right up! Thanks DPW!

Chris Schoppmeyer Land: The Committee to purchase property in Chris's name is moving forward, but they have nothing to report yet.

Notification of the Annual Meeting of the Rockingham County Conservation District: The annual meeting will be held on April 27 at 6:00 pm. More information is available at: <http://www.rockinghamccd.org/rccd-2016-annual-meeting/>

The Spring Newsletter from the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire: http://seltnh.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SELT_News_Spring16_web-1.pdf

The 6th Annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival Information: The festival will take place on Earth Day in Portsmouth. More information is available at:

http://www.themusichall.org/calendar/event/wild_scenic_film_festival1

NHDES Drinking Water Newsletters:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/newsletters/en/documents/2016-mar-apr.pdf>

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/newsletters/en/documents/2016-may-jun.pdf>

Planning Board Meeting on 4/13/2016: The PB is reviewing the land use chapter of the Master Plan for the Town. Check the agenda for their next meeting to see if a public hearing has been set.

Flyer from UNH Cooperative Extension: There are wonderful guidelines available from the Stewardship Network: New England online at: <http://newengland.stewardshipnetwork.org/resources> CC members are encouraged to check the site for good information on various topics.

Cutting of Trees Near Wiggin Farm: Several members are concerned with the number of trees being cut by Eversource. The Chair would like to ask the TA if the Town has been asked for permission to cut along Wiggin Farm. The Chair will contact the Tree Warden to see he could influence the possibility planting of replacement trees that are slow growing and are not too tall.

8. Old/New Business

Rite Aid Pharmacy/Children's Miracle Network Schanda Park Usage Permit: Although Aimee Gigandet mentioned that Donna Chick no longer needed the permit for April 23 from 11:00- 1:00, the Chair has not heard directly from Rite Aid to withdraw the request.

Action

Motion: Jeff Goldknopf made a motion approve the use of Schanda Park by Rite Aid Pharmacy/Children's Miracle Network for an event on Saturday, April 23 from 11:00-1:00.

Second: Drew Kiefaber

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

2016 Newmarket Fishing Derby: The CC has received a request for financial support for the annual Newmarket Fishing Derby for Saturday, June 18, 2016. The Derby will be in honor of Chris Schoppmeyer this year and they hope it will be a great success.

Action

Motion: Bruce Fecteau made a motion to fund the 'fish buying' for the 2016 Newmarket Fishing Derby with a donation of \$1,500.

Second: Andrea Sellers

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

The Chair will give the check information to the Treasurer so that the financial office will prepare the check.

Piscassic-Loiselle & Schanda Park Kiosks: The Chair received a note from Kevin Martin that he was unable to find locust to use for the kiosks and had to go with pressure treated pine for the verticals. The plaque needs to get to Kevin's workshop. Members will be notified as the work progresses and volunteer help is needed to work on site construction.

Wiggin Farm-Tuttle Swamp Management Plan Addendum: The Chair found maps for Ellen Snyder and he met with her on some boundary issues. Further discussion will be scheduled for the next meeting.

Wiggin Farm Boundary Maintenance: **Drew Kiefaber** reported that he approached two surveyors and only one responded to the request. Scott Boudreau, Boudreau Land Surveying in Newmarket, responded. He is willing to mark the boundary for us and indicated that the work would take approximately 3-5 hours, cost approximately \$350.00 and be completed sometime after mid-May.

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** made a motion for the CC to hire Scott Boudreau to complete a boundary line survey (approximately 170 feet) between Wiggin Farm and the abutter at 270 Grant Road. The expense is not to exceed \$500.00.

Second: **Bruce Fecteau**

Discussion: **Drew Kiefaber** agreed to ask Mr. Boudreau for a formal contract outlining the specifics of the work. The CC will ask the DPW to repair the damage to the stone wall.

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

Liberty Mutual Volunteer Day: The Liberty Mutual Volunteer Day will be on Monday, May 9. **Andrea Sellers** will borrow the weed wrenches from the Great Bay Discovery Center. The work hours will be from 9:00-3:00. **Patrick Reynolds** will be there and others (**Jeff Goldknopf** and **Marianne Hannagan**) have agreed to be there as well. The project will be to pull invasive species in the woods of Piscassic-Loiselle. We hope that this experience will be positive and the CC could expand our projects for next year. Boots, gloves, and bug spray required!!

Dearborn Property: The estate has not closed yet, so there is no information at this time.

Rain Barrel and Composter Supply: The CC has one rain barrel left at **Fred Pearson's** house. The CC will discuss this further at the next meeting.

Field Trip Letter: **Drew Kiefaber** agreed to look for the field trip information letter for the Newmarket schools.

9. Adjournment

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: **Marianne Hannagan**

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary