

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
 May 12, 2016

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Jeff Goldknopf (Chair), Drew Kiefaber (Vice Chair), Andrea Sellers (Treasurer), Bob Gazda (Alternate), and Patrick Reynolds (Alternate)

Members Absent: Marianne Hannagan, Julia Sinclair (alternate), Ezra Temko (Planning Board Rep), and Phil Nazzaro (Town Council Rep - Ex-Officio) were absent.

Called to Order: 7:10 PM

Agenda Items:

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

The Chair appointed both **Bob Gazda** and **Patrick Reynolds** as voting members for the meeting this week.

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With a speaker present this evening, the Chair asked to move the agenda forward to Old/New Business. There was no objection.

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8. **Old/New Business**

***Ellen Snyder – Wiggin Farm-Tuttle Swamp Management Plan Draft Addendum:*** Ellen Snyder, Ibis Wildlife Consulting, attended the meeting to give the CC an update report on her progress in preparing the Wiggin Farm-Tuttle Swamp Management Plan Draft Addendum. The current plan was written in 2005 and should be updated every 10 years. She brought an official map to show the trails and the wetlands. She had no thoughts on suggesting changes to the trails – only that they should be mowed to keep them from narrowing. **Jeff Goldknopf** mentioned that the Town assured the CC that the trails will be mowed for us and we will ask that they mow some additional area around the kiosk to encourage people to walk over and read the materials. The bridge needs to be inspected every year. On each side of the bridge, the access is very steep and may need metal approaches to help on wet or icy days. The property has two benches in good condition. There are also ten interpretive signs (prepared by an Eagle Scout several years ago) that are out of date and not as relevant now. **Patrick Reynolds** would like to have some suggested educational activities to encourage future school field trips. Ellen has some ideas for wording and will include them in her report. She suggested that we contact the local snowmobile club about where they cross the property especially if the pond is not frozen. **Drew Kiefaber** mentioned that the mowing of the field is done as late into September as possible so that the milkweed remains for the migrating monarch butterflies. The CC should stake the area so that the mowing area is very clear. Ellen would suggest that the field be mowed a little smaller to allow the alder swale widen. There is an area approximately 3-4 acres from the stone wall down to the wetlands. The Fish and Game has a grant program which would provide funds to clear this area to promote 'set back succession'. Mechanical removal of invasive species –especially along the stone wall, could be accomplished. She will include the names of contacts who could do this work for the CC in her report. ***History of the Property:*** The Town acquired this property in 2003 from Mr. Falzone (3 lots/160 acres total) and the Town thought that the small 15 acre area in the upper left was included. The Town hired Doucet Survey to complete a survey before purchase but it was delayed by seasonal access issues. Ownership of that 15 acre lot is in question. If we wait 30 years and no one comes forward, the Town will hold the property. The Town might undertake a "quiet title". It would be good if the Town could sort this out as stewardship of the land must take place.

The State does the annual monitoring on this property, but they don't really go out that far to walk the line. Ellen also recommends that we place a sign on the stone wall on the bottom of the property to notice the boundary. It appears that an abutter has cleared a trail.

Her major points included:

- Interpretive signs
- Annual bridge inspection
- Grading the parking lot
- Mowing
- Clear 3-4 acres for an 'early succession' plan
- Boundary issues

Ellen's draft should be ready for the June meeting and she will return to make the presentation and answer questions.

### 3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

### 4. Approval of Minutes

April 14, 2016:

#### Action

**Motion:** Jeff Goldknopf moved that the minutes of April 14, 2016 be approved as amended.

**Second:** Drew Kiefaber

**Vote:** Approved 5-0-0

### 5. Treasurer's Report

**Andrea Sellers** mentioned that the \$1500 for the Fishing Derby was transferred. On April 22, several current use tax checks were deposited from three properties totaling \$7500. She will check on the properties to which these apply for the next meeting.

### 6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

The Chair has been notified that **Phil Nazzaro** will be the new Town Council Rep (Ex-Officio) and **Ezra Temko** will continue as the Planning Board Rep.

**Ezra Temko**, Planning Board Rep, asked the Chair to report on some of the important points from the last meeting (the Chair attended as an interested resident). 1) Lela Love on Bay Road received approval to separate one lot into two. She demolished the house on one lot and created a second lot with an easement. This was a basic reorganization of one lot into two. 2) There was a proposal for an open space sub-division on Dame Road where it connects to Bay Road. They were not completely prepared so the item was continued to the next meeting. The lot would have many challenges because of ledge and wetlands. 3) The final chapter of the land use section of the master plan is almost complete. There are some interesting points in the plan and he encourages members to read the chapter online at the Newmarket website:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2To9UTi9EDGTedGOEJwd0VXMxc/view?pref=2&pli=1>

## 7. Chairman's Report

**Loco Sports Donation:** The Chair received a wonderful thank you note and donation of \$250.00 for the use of Schanda Park for the Great Bay Half Marathon after party.

**2016 Newmarket Fishing Derby:** **Patrick Reynolds** reported that work has been completed on the end of the pond this year so that the water levels will be very good for the derby this year. The Fishing Derby is scheduled for Saturday, June 18.

**Chris Schoppmeyer Land Purchase Committee:** The Chair reported that the committee is still moving forward.

**Rec Connect:** There is a meeting planned for May 26, 2016 at 6:00 pm in the downtown Mill Space.

**The 2016 NH Lakes Congress:** The focus of the 2016 NH Lakes Congress, the 23rd annual all-day educational and networking event, is to provide participants with opportunities to gain knowledge and skills to educate, advocate, and organize to protect water resources, a deeper understanding of their personal connection to water, and inspiration to help others tune into the 'Blue Mind' mindset. The meeting will take place on June 2 and 3, 2016 in Meredith, NH.

## 8. Old/New Business (cont)

**Application for the Use of Schanda Park:** The Newmarket Community Church is seeking permission to use Schanda Park for a confirmation class BBQ from 4-7 pm on May 14, 2016.

### Action

**Motion:** **Drew Kiefaber** made a motion to permit the use of Schanda Park on May 14, 2016 from 4-7 pm by the Newmarket Community Church.

**Second:** **Andrea Sellers**

**Vote:** Approved 5-0-0

**Newmarket Recreation Department Kayak Storage at Schanda Park & Piscassic River Landing:** The Chair heard from Aimee Gigandet at the Rec Dept. that they did receive the grant for the racks as well as the grant for the Kayak Event. The Chair will ask Aimee to submit the permit request forms to the CC for approval for the events they have planned this summer. **Drew Kiefaber** mentioned that he did a "wing span" measurement in Schanda Park and he believes that the two proposed racks will fit into the space without a problem.

**Piscassic-Loiselle & Schanda Park Kiosks:** There was a work day last Sunday that **Drew Kiefaber**, **Bob Gazda**, and **Jeff Goldknopf** attended. Kevin Martin set in the posts with Rick Malasky. A big thank you to DPW! Everything looks really good so far. A little more work is required to complete the project on Sunday morning. Kevin, **Jeff Goldknopf**, and **Bob Gazda** will be there at 9:00 am if others would like to come to help. **Andrea Sellers** spoke with Dick Lord from LRAC and he would like to work on the Schanda Park Kiosk. DPW will help with finding any hidden electrical lines before the posts at Schanda are set.

**Liberty Mutual Volunteer Day:** The first "Serve with Liberty" was a great success. Many thanks to **Patrick Reynolds** (for organizing the proposal), **Andrea Sellers'** husband (who dropped off the tools needed), and **Jeff Goldknopf** who all attended. There were four very enthusiastic volunteers from Liberty Mutual! **Patrick Reynolds** said that we now have lots of lead time for next year to plan a bigger list of projects. The CC will email about getting a crew together to pick up the brush to take it the dump for burning.

**Wiggin Farm Boundary Maintenance:** **Drew Kiefaber** said that he will reach out to Scott Boudreau about getting the line surveyed as soon as possible.

**2016 Scholarship & Field Trip Funding:** The CC received two applications for the scholarship this year and CC members will discuss the applications at the close of the meeting. **Andrea Sellers** will get the date for the

Awards Ceremony from the school. The scholarship is generally presented by the Chair. **Drew Kiefaber** sent the field trip funding letter from 2012 for the members to review and discuss later.

**Election of Conservation Commission Officers for 2016-2017:**

**Treasurer:**

**Action**

**Motion:** **Drew Kiefaber** nominated **Andrea Sellers** to serve as Treasurer.

**Second:** **Jeff Goldknopf**

**Vote:** Approved 5-0-0

**Vice-Chair:**

**Action**

**Motion:** **Jeff Goldknopf** nominated **Drew Kiefaber** to serve as Vice-Chair.

**Second:** **Andrea Sellers**

**Vote:** Approved 5-0-0

**Chair:**

**Action**

**Motion:** **Drew Kiefaber** nominated **Jeff Goldknopf** to serve as Chair.

**Second:** **Bob Gazda**

**Vote:** Approved 5-0-0

**Andrea Sellers** mentioned that the fishing gate that is located down behind the mill will be open for approximately 2 weeks or so while Fish & Game counts the River Herring. She also mentioned that Peter Wellenberger of the Macallen Dam Study Committee would like to come to speak to the CC about the proposed wall construction/repair to protect the Durham Book Exchange if we would find this of interest. **Jeff Goldknopf** will email Toni Weinstein and Amy Burns to inquire if they are planning another roadside clean-up project for next spring.

**9. Adjournment**

**Action**

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

**Second:** **Bob Gazda**

**Vote:** Approved 5-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary