

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
 January 12, 2017

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Jeff Goldknopf (Chair), Drew Kiefaber (Vice Chair), Ann LaFortune, Patrick Reynolds, Bob Gazda (Alternate), and Julia Sinclair (Alternate)

Members Absent: Andrea Sellers (Treasurer), Marianne Hannagan, Phil Nazzaro (Town Council Rep - Ex-Officio), and Ezra Temko (Planning Board Rep) excused

Called to Order: 7:05 PM

Agenda Items:

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

The Chair appointed **Julia Sinclair** and **Bob Gazda** as voting members for this meeting.

3. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

December 8, 2016:

**Action**

**Motion:** Jeff Goldknopf moved that the minutes of December 8, 2016 be approved as drafted.

**Second:** Patrick Reynolds

**Vote:** Approved 5-0-1

5. **Treasurer's Report**

With the absence of the Treasurer, the Chair reviewed the financial report. The Chair reported that the payment to the SELT for the Hilton property was not on this ledger and he also mentioned that he had not reimbursed Richard Shelton as yet for postage. The year ending balance in the Schoppmeyer Account is \$64,451 in cash and \$1,000 in a gift card. There have been significant funds donated since the date of the report.

6. **Committee and Subcommittee Reports**

No committee reports this evening.

7. **Chairman's Report**

**SELT Newsletter:** [http://seltnh.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SELT\\_News\\_Winter16-17-web.pdf](http://seltnh.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SELT_News_Winter16-17-web.pdf)

**Letter of Deficiency from DES Regarding the Lela Love Property at 230 Bay Road:** The letter (dated December 22, 2016) is informational only and does not require comment from the CC. Ms. Love's property located at 230 Bay Road Tax Map R-1 Lot 36 has been cited for stone fill placed in the tidal zone for a boat ramp. The fill area totals approximately 1,030 sq. ft. The DES and Nature Conservancy reviewed the property on November 18, 2016 and included photos with their report. Ms. Love is required to retain a wetland scientist to prepare a restoration and action plan and submit the plan to the DES.

**Steward for Herron Point Sanctuary:** A resident of Newmarket contacted the Chair about the possibility of becoming a steward for Herron Point. The Chair wants the Commission to think about designating members to steward our conservation properties. The CC will continue this discussion.

**'Serve with Liberty' Work Day:** **Patrick Reynolds** would like the CC to begin preparing for the 'Serve with Liberty' work day. The schedule for projects available to employees opens in mid-April. **Jeff Goldknopf** would like to have another group work with him at Piscassic-Loiselle to continue the removal of barberry. Members are asked to think about ideas for the next meeting. **Patrick Reynolds** suggested that we work with the Town Council about other projects like road clean-ups, etc.

**Yearly Report for the Town Report:** A copy is attached at the conclusion of the minutes for your information.

## 8. Old/New Business

### **Old Business:**

**Town of Newmarket Wetlands Permit Application at Young Lane-Tax Map U3, Lot 47:** The Chair spoke with Phil MacDonald at Underwood Engineers after receiving an amended application (not expedited) for the CC's information. After the CC's comments on the first application, Mr. MacDonald decided to do a site visit to watch the tides in the outfall area over a three hour period. He realized that a 100 year storm would scour the mud flat. The amended application indicates the use of a T-shaped diffuser pipe to slow that water flow through the rocks and extend the stone further out into the water. Since the stone outfall is now likely to go below the high water mark, the Army Corp of Engineers may become involved in the final approval. The copy provided to the CC will likely not be the final application presented. The members had an opportunity to review and discuss the changes provided this evening.

#### **Action**

**Motion:** **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the CC prepare a letter to NHDES to support the amended wetlands permit application for Young Lane submitted by Underwood Engineers for the Town of Newmarket (property located at Tax Map U3, Lot 47).

**Second:** **Ann LaFortune**

**Vote:** Approved 6-0-0

**Drew Kiefaber** agreed to draft the letter and email to members for approval.

**Schanda Park Usage Permit Application:** Wendy Chase, in the Town Administrator's office, notified the Chair that an application would be coming to the CC for a permit to use Schanda Park for a wedding in the fall. The permit has not been submitted yet.

**Schoppmeyer Park Update:** The Chair reported that the Schoppmeyer Park Committee has been very active. This evening, **Drew Kiefaber** reported receiving the in-kind contract with Doucet Survey, Inc. to complete the easement survey for the Christian J. Schoppmeyer Park.

#### **Action**

**Motion:** **Drew Kiefaber** moved to accept the in-kind donation of the easement monitoring from Doucet Survey, Inc. for the Christian J. Schoppmeyer Park.

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

**Vote:** Approved 5-0-1

The Schoppmeyer Park Committee has met to discuss how best to utilize the park. Thoughts included putting in a dock and the possibility of building a 60' bridge (MJS Engineering in Newmarket is looking at the cost and maintenance requirements for the Park Committee). **Patrick Reynolds** mentioned that LRAC would like to have the Rec. Dept. put a kayak rack down near that water to increase opportunities to access the water. LRAC is willing to put up a kiosk at the new park with a map of the park detailing boating and fishing on the river. Power boats would not be allowed access at this park. LRAC is also making a sizeable donation of \$10,000 towards the purchase of the easement. The matching donation of \$50,000

has been received from Mr. Cheney. Thank you all!

**Action**

**Motion:** **Julia Sinclair** made a motion to recommend that the Town Council sign the purchase and sale agreement for the purchase of the easements for the creation of the Christian J. Schoppmeyer Park located at 10 N. Main Street, Tax Map U2, Lot 272.

**Second:** **Drew Kiefaber**

**Vote:** Approved 6-0-0

The Chair will speak with the Town Administrator about the resolution language and will prepare a letter to go forward to the Town Council. Doucet Survey will complete the survey shortly. Issues of the abutter's right of way on the north side has been noted on the survey and discussed by the Park Committee.

**Dearborn Property Donation:** Steve Walker, from Fish & Game, met **Jeff Goldknopf** to walk the property. There were two areas of property line concern: 1) the abutter on the cul-de-sac has cut trees on the Dearborn property and 2) the 50' driveway access off of Grant Road needs property lines surveyed and clearly marked. The Chair recommends that we seek a formal easement for access to the property on the driveway. The Chair will email a pdf of the property to the CC members as well as a pdf of the survey. Members have expressed an interest in doing another site walk.

**Piscassic-Loiselle Kiosk:** **Julia Sinclair** received a proposal from Ellen Snyder for the map for the kiosk based on the recommendations made at the last CC meeting. Ellen was provided with the size for the map based on 70% of the kiosk area. Her estimate is a totals of \$1800: \$500 for data collection and processing, \$500 for map preparation, and \$500 for writing interpretive text. The printing would be done by Infinite Imaging for \$300.00. Ellen would complete the project by April 1. Thank you Julia!

**Action**

**Motion:** **Drew Kiefaber** made a motion to hire Ellen Snyder, Ibis Wildlife Consulting, to execute the proposal providing the data collection, map preparation, and interpretive text for the Piscassic-Loiselle kiosk does not exceed \$1500. This is contingent on this value meeting the upper limit required by the Town for an RFQ.

**Second:** **Ann LaFortune**

**Friendly Amendment:** **Jeff Goldknopf** requests that Ibis Wildlife Consulting provide us with an electronic copy of all data used in this preparation.

**Second:** **Ann LaFortune**

**Vote:** Approved 6-0-0

**Easement Monitoring Progress & Schedule:**

- **Piscassic-Loiselle:** Submitted and received.
- **Hilton Easement:** Done by SELT.
- **Dodds Property on Grant Road:** The report was submitted by the SELT. Notes about the condition of the property indicate that they are slowly getting rid of the old farm equipment – once the scrape metal price goes up!
- **Wiggin Farm:** Nothing has been received by Steve Walker at OEP as yet.
- **Smith Sister: Report** has been written by **Drew Kiefaber**.
- **Silverman Schmeer:** **Andrea Sellers** has completed the report.
- **New Roots Farm:** **Drew Kiefaber** is still trying to reach Jeff Cantara regarding the monitoring and has not heard back. He will make another attempt to reach out.

**Herron Point Sanctuary Sign:** Mike Hoffman has forwarded, for Commission review and approval, the two versions for the new signs for the Herron Point Sanctuary prepared by Timberland Signs of Rye, NH.

**Action**

**Motion:** **Patrick Reynolds** moved that the Commission appropriate \$790.00 to purchase Version "B" from Timberland Signs.

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

**Vote:** Approved 6-0-0

**9. Adjournment**

**Action**

**Motion:** **Jeff Goldknopf** moved that the meeting be adjourned.

**Second:** **Drew Kiefaber**

**Vote:** Approved 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.  
The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

**Newmarket Conservation Commission**

In 2016 the members of the Conservation Commission were: Andrea Sellers (Treasurer), Jeffrey Goldknopf (Chairperson), Drew Kiefaber (Vice Chairperson), Marianne Hannagan, Patrick Reynolds, Ann LaFortune, Phil Nazzaro (Town Council representative), and Ezra Temko (Planning Board representative). Julia Sinclair and Robert Gazda served as alternates. Sue Frick has worked as our recording secretary. This year we saw Bruce Fecteau and Fred Pearson step down from the commission. Both were long time members and former chairpersons whose presence was certainly missed.

During the year we reviewed subdivision plans for wetland setbacks and the protection of our natural resources. We also reviewed Shoreland Permit, Alteration of Terrain, as well as Dredge and Fill applications and forwarded our recommendations to the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

We are responsible for annual monitoring of five conservation properties in town to ensure that the easements are not being violated and the properties are being used for the intended purposes. Monitoring reports are forwarded to partner organizations that helped with funding and management as well as kept on file locally.

With the Recreation Department and Boy Scout Troop 200, the Conservation Commission is a co-sponsor of the Fishing Derby. The Fishing Derby is for Newmarket children under the age of 14 and is a popular event every year.

A \$1000 scholarship was granted to a Newmarket graduating senior pursuing further education in the Environmental Sciences. We also made \$500 available to Newmarket K-12 educators to help fund environmental science related field trips or educational opportunities.

This year saw the passing of Christian J. Schoppmeyer who was a well-respected member of the community and former commission member. The commission is working with a committee of citizens to establish a conservation park in Mr. Schoppmeyer's memory. The Schoppmeyer Park committee is being spearheaded by community members Richie Shelton, Valerie Shelton, Dennis Abbott, Ellen Snyder as well as Commissioners Jeffrey Goldknopf and Marianne Hannigan. The park will be largely funded by direct financial donations and in kind donations of services and materials.

On June 25, 2015, the community saw the passing of Charles E. Dearborn. Mr. Dearborn owned a 38 acre parcel subject to a New Hampshire Fish and Game Conservation Easement. Mr. Dearborn's heirs donated the tract of forestland to the Town of Newmarket this year. The Conservation Commission will work with the Fish and Game to oversee the use and management of the property. The property is adjacent to the back of the Wiggin Farm property and several other conservation properties as well as containing a portion of the Tuttle Swamp system.

The Commission worked with Ellen Snyder of Ibis Wildlife Management to complete a 10 Year update of the Wiggin Farm Conservation Management Plan. We feel that we developed some changes that will help us better care for the land in the future. We hope to work this year to begin to implement some of these changes at one of our most utilized areas.

The Commission worked with local boat builder Kevin Martin to replace two kiosks that were lost to age and weather. The first of which is located at the Piscassic-Loiselle conservation property for which the commission is working to create a new display. The second kiosk was funded by the Lamprey River Advisories Committee and is located at Schanda Park. In both instances commission members, LRAC members, and Newmarket DPW helped in the efforts.

**Addendum Page 2**

Schanda Park continued to be a well utilized part of our downtown waterfront. The park was once again the site of several popular Recreation Department activities, Chick's Weir, and saw the occasional permitted event. The Commission also worked with the Recreation Department to allow for the placement of kayak racks at the park to further utilize the area for recreational opportunities.

An invasive plant species removal work session was held at the Piscassic-Loiselle conservation property along with a group of volunteers from Liberty Mutual. We pulled numerous large clumps of Japanese barberry and burning bush which had established deep in the woods. Our goal is to minimize the spread of invasive plants within the wooded portion of this property. We hope to have a third event in this continuing effort at this property in the coming year.

The Commission is continuing to maintain established trails on conserved properties and pursue ways to make the public aware of outdoor recreation opportunities in town. We encourage residents to get outside and use/enjoy the conserved properties in Newmarket.

Respectively submitted,

Jeffrey Goldknopf, Chairperson

