

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
March 9, 2017

7:00 PM Council Chambers

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

Members Absent: Julia Sinclair (Alternate) and Phil Nazzaro (Town Council Rep - Ex-Officio)

Called to Order: 7:05 PM

Agenda Items:

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

Julia Sinclair and **Phil Nazzaro** were excused. There are six members present for voting this evening.

3. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

January 12, 2017:

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the minutes of January 12, 2017 be approved as drafted.

Second: **Patrick Reynolds**

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Andrea Sellers, Treasurer, discussed both the January and February financial reports. The SELT has been paid for the annual Hilton Easement Monitoring. The Schoppmeyer Park Funds now total \$129,601. This amount includes two major donations: the second \$50,000 promised from Mr. Cheney and \$10,000 from LRAC. A check request was made by the Chair from CC funds for \$5,000 for the purchase and sale agreement of the Schoppmeyer Park. Some postage was purchased in January for the CC and Mr. Shelton was reimbursed for some postage as well. The CC received Land Use Change monies from several properties.

6. **Committee and Subcommittee Reports**

No committee reports this evening.

7. **Chairman's Report**

"Beyond the Beaver Dam": The Chair received a book from the NHDES Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM). A copy may be found at:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/wmp/documents/arm-fund-web.pdf>

Information about ARM may be found at:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/wmp/documents/arm-fund-grant-instruct.pdf>

Invitation for the 'Saving Special Places' Forum: UNH Extension along with other agencies and groups will be presenting the "Saving Special Places" forum at Prospect Mountain High School in Alton, NH on April 8, 2017. The keynote speaker will be Terry Tempest Williams.

230 Bay Road Restoration Plan: The Chair received a copy of the letter sent to Lela Love from NHDES outlining the details for the land restoration required on her property at 230 Bay Road. The work must be completed by July 1, 2017 and all work must be done with hand tools only. There were 21 items required to be completed in the letter. Details of the initial Letter of Deficiency were outlined in the CC minutes of 1/12/2017.

Tree Removal Request at Wiggin Farm from Eversource: The tree noted in the request is located at the corner of Doe Farm Road and Grant Road. The Chair went to view the ash tree. It is 15-20 ft. tall, 16" in diameter, rotten and hollow. It appears to be a hazard.

Action

Motion: Jeff Goldknopf moved that the CC respond to Eversource and request that they cut the cut just above the hollow portion to preserve possible habitat for wildlife.

Second: Drew Kiefaber

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

"Preparing New Hampshire for Projected Storm Surge, Sea-Level Rise and Extreme Precipitation": The final report of the New Hampshire Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission was received and is available for download at: <http://www.nhcrhc.org>. The Chair will ask if the Planning Board received a copy.

Invasive Species Removal: The Chair received a post card advertising a company in Athol, MA called Vegetative Control Services, Inc. More information may be found at: <http://www.vegetationcontrol.com/>

Boulder Heights Subdivision on Dame Road Update: The Chair has been informed that the markers on the individual lots and open space tags have been installed.

8. Old/New Business

New Business:

Schanda Park Usage Permit Application –Great Bay Half Marathon: LOCO Sports has request the use of Schanda Park again this year for the Great Bay Half Marathon on Sunday, April 9, 2017. Utilization of the Park will be all day.

Action

Motion: Drew Kiefaber moves that the CC approve the permit application by LOCO Sports to use Schanda Park on April 9, 2017 for the Great Bay Half Marathon.

Second: Jeff Goldknopf

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

Old Business:

Schoppmeyer Park Update: The Chair reported that several issues have been accomplished since the last meeting: 1) The Chair and Richard Shelton attended the Town Council meeting in February to speak on behalf of Resolution #2016/2017-24 – Resolution Relating to the Purchase of Certain Easements for Access to and Use of Land Owned by the Newmarket Community Church to allow the Town Administrator to enter into the Purchase & Sale agreement. The Resolution passed unanimously; 2) The Chair made the \$5,000 check request; 3) Ann LaFortune represented the CC at the signing. Thank you Ann! ; 4) The Town Attorney will now complete the title work and draw up the deeds based on the plans. Doucet Survey

has already completed some work on the site. The next meeting of the Schoppmeyer Park Committee is planned for Wednesday, March 15 at 5:30 pm and all members of the CC are welcome to attend and help in the planning.

Dearborn Property: **Drew Kiefaber** visited the property recently. He reported that the 50' driveway access off of Grant Road is the only access to the conservation land. There is no access from Pendergast Road, so the public should not park on Pendergast Road to enter the property. He investigated all of the flags and grade stakes along the driveway. He believes that we should formalize our access with the new owners, get the property surveyed and get the plans on the records involving the Town Attorney. **Drew Kiefaber** has agreed to draft a letter to the owner with basic access information and open a line of communication. He will circulate the letter to the members for comment.

Piscassic-Loiselle Kiosk: **Julia Sinclair** has done some wonderful work on this project. Thank you Julia! The Chair reported that the Town has a \$1,500 cap on spending without going out for bids. Since this proposed project does not exceed \$10,000, it does not need an RFP. The Chair recommends that we get several estimates for the map preparation for all trails in Town. The Chair will ask **Julia Sinclair** to call for estimates. Other members of the CC agreed to help her get the estimates, if necessary. **Patrick Reynolds** believes that we should go forward as quickly as possible to complete the Piscassic-Loiselle map.

"Serve with Liberty": Serve with Liberty Day is scheduled for the first two weeks in May. The Chair plans to post a project for invasive species removal at Piscassic-Loiselle (as he did last year) for 8-15 people (approximately 5 hours of work). They made very good progress last year and he hopes to continue this year. **Andrea Sellers** has agreed to borrow the weed wrenches (both medium & large) from the Discovery Center. **Patrick Reynolds** and **Ann LaFortune** asked about the possibility of planting at Schanda Park. Brackish water, foot traffic, duck populations and the shoreland protection requirements makes Schanda Park a difficult site to landscape in any way. **Patrick Reynolds** will contact Toni Weinstein, Vice-Chair of the TC, to put together a possible CC/TC joint project. Projects should be posted as soon as the website allows in the early part of April and scheduled for a Monday or Friday.

Easement Monitoring Progress Update:

- **New Roots (Nostrum) Farm:** **Drew Kiefaber** has completed the monitoring off Doe Farm Road. The property looked good and it was a lovely walk.

More New Business:

Contact by a Group with a Request: The Chair was contacted by a group requesting a discussion. They asked for a special sub-committee to be formed consisting of two CC members to meet with them before presenting information in a Non-Public Session at the next meeting in April. Requirements would be to meet with them, look at the proposed project, possible site walk, keep minutes and report back prior to the next meeting. **Marianne Hannigan**, **Drew Kiefaber**, **Ann LaFortune**, and **Patrick Reynolds** (alternate) will meet with this group (schedule permitting).

Town Purchase of Tucker Farm: **Patrick Reynolds** reported that the Town has purchased land from the Tucker family (the property is already being referred to as the Tucker Well). The property backs onto some conservation land. Details were discussed at the Town Council meeting in early February.

Ann LaFortune discussed the sale, by the Stratham Conservation Commission, of compost bins and rain barrels. A copy of the flyer is attached.

Jeff Goldknopf mentioned that an anonymous person had cleared a tree from a blocked trail at Piscassic-Loiselle. Thank you anonymous person! He also mentioned that another larger tree has fallen by the bridge at Piscassic-Loiselle and may require some work to clear the tangled mess of branches.

Patrick Reynolds noted that approximately 25 yards off Neal Mill Road there is a fallen large bull pine tree. It would require a chain saw to clear.

Bob Gazda announced that his term is up and he will not seek re-appointment. He expressed his sincere enjoyment during his years of working on the Conservation Commission – walking on all of the conservation lands and monitoring properties. The members thanked him enthusiastically for his many years of service to the Town and Conservation Commission! Thank you so much Bob!

9. Adjournment

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Second: **Ann LaFortune**

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 13, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

Stratham Conservation Commission

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Order by March 24, 2017

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