

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 June 8, 2017

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Drew Kiefaber (Chair), Patrick Reynolds (Vice Chair), Jeff Goldknopf, Marianne Hannagan, Ann LaFortune, and Casey Finch (Town Council Rep-Ex-Officio)

Members Absent: Andrea Sellers (Treasurer) and Julia Sinclair (alternate) were absent. Planning Board Rep to be appointed at a later date.

Called to Order: 7:01 PM

Agenda Items:

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

3. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

The Chair asked to alter the agenda for guests to make presentations. There was no objection.

8. **Old/New Business**

Josh Roberts Presentation of Eagle Scout Project in Newmarket: The Chair welcomed Josh Roberts who wished a present his proposal for his Eagle Scout service project in Newmarket at the Aryaloka Buddhist Center. (<http://www.aryaloka.org/>) He wishes to construct an elevated walkway over seasonal wetlands. He presented a map of the trails at the Center and pointed to the trail in question. He presented two options: one using re-purposed 1980's railroad ties (available at no cost), and the other to use cement/concrete blocks for the deck support (which would require more fundraising for materials). His proposals were well presented and the commission members had several questions and some concerns. The CC cannot grant permission for his project because it goes beyond their purview. The Commission thanked Josh for his excellent presentation and suggested that he contact the Zoning Board as well the NHDES Wetlands Bureau in case permitting is required. He should investigate if there are any State or Town restrictions on the re-purposing of railroad ties. The walkway may lie within the Shoreland Protection Setbacks from the Piscassic River. The Chair suggested that he consider the possibility of re-routing the trail to a completely dry area to keep the walkway for a very long time.

Amanda Stone from UNH Cooperative Extension- New Hampshire Setting SAIL: Amanda Stone visits all of the coastal towns in NH on a rotating basis to provide Conservation Commissions with resources to address the protection of natural resources in a changing climate. **SAIL** stands for Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission **S**cience, **A**ssessment, **I**mplementation, and **L**egislation Recommendations. She led a very informative discussion and used a detailed PowerPoint presentation covering the topics listed in addendum 1 and 2 (following these minutes). She plans to send a summary of the discussions to the CC. **Jeff Goldknopf** will speak with Diane Hardy about having a joint meeting with the Planning Board on these topics as well as the possibility of scheduling a special 'buffer' presentation to both the CC and Planning Board. The Commission thanked Amanda for her very helpful and informational presentation.

The meeting returned to the agenda.

4. Approval of MinutesMay 11, 2017:**Action****Motion:** Drew Kiefaber moved that the minutes of May 11, 2017 be approved as drafted.**Second:** Patrick Reynolds**Vote:** Approved 4-0-1**5. Treasurer's Report**

No report from the Treasurer. **Jeff Goldknopf** did announce that he arranged the transferred of money to cover the fishing derby allocation this year. Don't forget the Derby!

6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Town Council: Casey Finch reported on two recent meetings of the Council. 1) Water and Sewer Asset Management Plan for the next 100 years of the system. While the Town is replacing sewer and water pipes, they will be looking at other lines in the general area to attempt to be proactive and efficient.

Jeff Goldknopf mentioned that sealed manhole covers are used in other communities in areas which regularly get coastal flooding to prevent surface water penetration. 2) Municipal Resources Inc. (MRI) update reports were presented to the DPW. 3) There were several first readings of resolutions.

Planning Board: No representative present.

Other Subcommittees: No reports.

7. Chairman's Report

Letters Received: A letter was sent out to members of the CC, TC and Town employees from the Department of Health and Human Services about a program to test wells. Town residents may participate in this testing for free. They will be specifically looking for the levels of arsenic and uranium.

SELT Brochure on the Annual Conservation Celebration: Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELT) will recognize and celebrate communities and landowners who have been conservation partners in the past year, while enjoying a Farm-to-Table meal and the beautiful natural surroundings of Alnôba in Kensington, NH on June 14.

8. Old/New Business (cont.)

Boulder Brook Subdivision - Dame Road Site Visit: Jeff Goldknopf, Julia Sinclair, and Mike Hoffman, Code Enforcement Officer, completed a site visit to Boulder Brook to look at the two trees that were removed.

Jeff Goldknopf took pictures to help the members see the damage. One tree was extremely rotten and was likely taken as a 'hazard tree'. The other tree had a much larger stump and was clearly outside the no cut zone. There were very big ruts from a skidder and they also drove over a buffer line post. A staff person from Jones & Beach Engineers came by and mentioned that the tree was leaning toward the future house and could be viewed as a hazard. Jones & Beach were aware of the issues and they also replaced the post. The developer for this project had been granted a reduction in the 100 ft buffer. The members had a good discussion about remediation, penalties, and possible actions. They agreed to 1) recommend careful manual smoothing of the ruts with shovels and rakes, 2) request an inspection/site walk with the new HOA (once it is created), and (possibly) 3) make a recommendation of some tree planting at the conclusion of the project if there is an area that may benefit.

Action

Motion: **Jeff Goldknopf** moved that, in response to the buffer infraction at the Boulder Brook Subdivision, the Conservation Commission requests the following remediation: 1) to carefully smooth the skidder ruts with hand tools, and 2) to facilitate a meeting/site walk with the CC members and the members of the HOA in the near future.

Second: **Ann LaFortune**

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

Jeff Goldknopf volunteered to draft a letter to Mike Hoffman with the suggested actions. He will also ask about the third idea (future tree plantings).

Schanda Park Maintenance: A site walk with Phil Underwood, from Underwood Engineers, Mike Hoffman, and CC members will be scheduled as soon as possible for an early evening (6:00 pm) on a MWF. The CC will receive an email confirmation and agenda once scheduled.

Dearborn Property: **Jeff Goldknopf** and **Drew Kiefaber** met with the property owner, Alan Mitchell, on May 18. They spoke about the right-of-way. Mr. Mitchell plans to pave the driveway as soon as possible prior to the sale of the property. Mr. Mitchell asked **Drew Kiefaber** to meet with the potential buyer on June 1. At that meeting, they all agreed to the conditions of public access. The CC could put up some small aluminum signs indicating the conservation property. Steve Walker, NHF&G, wants the markers installed. Once the CC is ready to change the deed, the CC will involve Steve Walker to make sure our language meets the State's standards. It will be important to respect the abutter's rights and not park on the driveway

Schoppmeyer Park Deed Signing: **Jeff Goldknopf** reported that the deed signing was moved to Donahue Tucker & Ciandella PLLC, 225 Water Street in Exeter at 11:00 am on Friday, June 12. A few minor changes in wording about the kiosk size were modified before finalization of the deed so that we could have the larger r

Herron Point: **Jeff Goldknopf** has not been able to work out a time to meet with Dale Jones as yet. He is going to try to get this to happen as soon as possible.

Proposed Zoning Subdivision: If anyone has any comments on the previously distributed proposal, they should get them to the Planning Department as soon as possible.

GRANITview Request for Information: **Jeff Goldknopf** recently spoke with Diane Hardy about the request from GRANITview. **Julia Sinclair** previously mentioned that Ellen Snyder is too busy right now to speak with her about getting help with the project and so Diane's request will have to be postponed.

Serve With Liberty: A big thank you to **Patrick Reynolds** for writing a paragraph about the success of the 'Serve with Liberty Day' this year! It was forwarded to the TA for posting in the Town Newsletter.

Conservation Easement Monitoring Workshop: **Patrick Reynolds** attended the Conservation Easement Monitoring Workshop, Saturday, June 3, 2017, 9:00 am-2:00 pm at the Durham Town Hall. The workshop offered best practices for performing annual monitoring of conservation easements. Emma Tutein, Natural Resources & Land Conservation Field Specialist, UNH Cooperative Extension and Ellen Snyder, Durham Land Stewardship Coordinator, led the workshop. It was made evident at the meeting that towns should consider setting up a position for a land stewardship coordinator to help conservation commissions manage the lands that require annual monitoring – especially if they have many conservation properties.

9. **Adjournment**

Action

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

Second: **Patrick Reynolds**

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM.
The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 13, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

What Conservation Commissions Can Do to Protect Natural Resources in a Changing Climate

The growing risk of coastal flooding from storm surge, sea-level rise, and extreme precipitation requires municipal action to protect local resources from increased impacts and ensure vibrant coastal communities in the future. Communities can take actions to protect key natural resources, become more resilient to coastal flooding, and preserve healthy habitats and ecosystems.



Photo credit: Amy Hansen

HOW WILL CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT NATURAL RESOURCES?



Warmer temperatures will contribute to the spread of invasive species, pests, and diseases that threaten forest health, timber productivity, agriculture, wildlife, and human health.



Increasing precipitation, more frequent storms and sea-level rise will increase flooding and erosion, causing potential damage to habitats and ecologically significant areas as well as increasing sedimentation in water bodies.



Changing precipitation patterns may increase drought, affecting drinking water, wildlife, agriculture, forestry, wetlands, surface waters, and recreational opportunities.

TOP FIVE ACTIONS CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS CAN IMPLEMENT

- 1. Encourage landowners to preserve the beneficial functions of natural features,** such as wetlands, stream and wetland buffers, and upland areas that provide flood storage



Photo above: UNHCE; center: Emily Lord

- 2. Control invasive species** on town-owned properties and encourage landowners to do the same



- 3. Communicate and build public awareness about climate change** via activities such as local workshops and other events, climate-focused signage, demonstration projects, or high-water mark projects

- 4. Incorporate climate change into municipal documents,** e.g., Natural Resource Inventory; land conservation plan; open space, forest, and farmland management and restoration plans; Master Plan chapters; Hazard Mitigation Plan; and Capital Improvement Plan

- 5. Develop and add climate vulnerability and adaptation benefits to the criteria** used for prioritizing land conservation projects and conservation easements

WHAT ELSE CAN CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS DO?

MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION

- Conduct restoration projects to improve habitat and ecosystem health (e.g., living shorelines)
- Monitor municipal properties to identify problems and track changes over time (e.g., increase in erosion issues due to flooding, damage from storm events, expansion of invasive species)
- Implement best practices for land management (e.g., remove invasive species where feasible)
- Identify opportunities to modify culverts and remove other barriers to stream flow, especially in areas that may allow reconnection of tidal influence to facilitate marsh migration



Photo credit: Emily Lord

LAND CONSERVATION

- Assess existing and potential future conservation lands for climate resilience and their ability to protect water quality and provide storage for flood waters and stormwater runoff
- Pursue funding for conservation and stewardship projects, especially in high-risk areas
- Protect land that allows coastal habitats and populations to adapt to changing conditions
- Partner with local and regional land conservation organizations

LAND USE PLANNING AND REGULATION

- Promote municipal regulations that reduce vulnerability and protect ecosystems (e.g., cluster development, wetland/riparian buffers, coastal flood hazard overlay district, elevation of new structures in the floodplain)
- Encourage your municipality to consider implementing transfer of development rights and other incentives to acquire or conserve property in high-risk or repetitive loss areas
- Explore options to minimize shoreline hardening and promote natural shorelines
- Develop water-efficient landscaping regulations that restrict water uses during droughts

COMMUNICATING AND EDUCATING

- Bring the NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup's outreach programs – such as *Preparing for Climate Change*, *Climate in the Classroom*, or other topic-based events – to your community
- Engage students and community groups in monitoring and restoration projects
- Identify and foster community conservation champions and tell their stories
- Encourage private property owners and businesses to incorporate best available climate science and vulnerability assessments into decision-making and planning
- Provide information to property owners and residents about shoreline and landscaping best management practices, flood protection safety, and leak-detection programs, and promote water use restrictions during drought
- Consider implementing FEMA's High-Water Mark Initiative to raise awareness about flooding
- Encourage homeowners with private wells to test for salinity if close to the coast
- Encourage other municipal officials to include climate science and vulnerability assessment recommendations into Capital Improvement Programs, budgets, and work plans

Addendum
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RESOURCES AND HELP

INFORMATION, MAPS, AND OTHER RESOURCES

Management and Restoration

- [Picking Our Battles](#)
- [Good Forestry in the Granite State](#)
- [NH Bugs](#)
- [Stewardship Network New England resources page](#)
- [Taking Action for Wildlife](#)

Land Conservation

- [NH Coastal Viewer](#) – Explore these layers: Conservation and Public Lands; Land Conservation Focus Areas (2006) and Water Resources Update (2016); Wildlife Action Plan; Sea-Level Rise Predictions; Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM); National Wetlands Inventory
- [Land Conservation Plan for NH's Coastal Watersheds \(2006\) and Land Conservation Priorities for the Protection of Coastal Water Resources \(Technical Report, 2016\)](#)

Land Use Planning and Regulation

- [Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques](#) guide
- [Natural and Structural Measures for Shoreline Stabilization](#)
- [Managing Shore Zones for Ecological Benefits](#)
- [Model regulations for water-efficient landscaping for subdivision and site plan applications](#)
- [Model water use restriction ordinance for water systems](#)

Communicating and Educating

- [NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup](#) outreach programs, resources, and social media
- [Preparing for Climate Change and Climate in the Classroom](#)
- [NH Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission reports](#)
- [C-RiSe and Tides to Storms vulnerability assessments: Strafford Regional Planning Commission municipalities / Rockingham Planning Commission municipalities](#)
- [Climate Change in Southern NH: Past, Present, and Future \(2014\)](#)
- [Climate Change in the Piscataqua/Great Bay Region: Past, Present, and Future \(2011\)](#)
- [Shoreland Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management](#)
- [Protecting Water Resources and Managing Stormwater: A Bird's Eye View for NH Communities](#)
- [FEMA's High-Water Mark Initiative](#)

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Local

- [Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership](#)

State

- [NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program](#)
- [Aquatic Resource Mitigation \(ARM\) fund](#), NH Dept. of Environmental Services (note: not available in 2017)
- [NH Coastal Program](#) (as funds are available)
- [Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership](#) (as funds are available)
- [NH Conservation and Heritage License Plate Program](#)

Federal

- [USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service](#)
- [USDA Forest Legacy Program](#)
- [US Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
- [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#)
- [FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program](#)
- [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#)

Other

- [Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Adaptation Fund](#)
- [Open Space Institute Resilient Landscapes grants](#)
- [NH Charitable Foundation](#)

ORGANIZATIONS

- [UNH Cooperative Extension](#)
- [NH Sea Grant](#)
- [The Stewardship Network, New England](#)
- [NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup](#)
- [Rockingham Planning Commission](#)
- [Strafford Regional Planning Commission](#)
- [The Nature Conservancy, NH Chapter](#)
- [Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership](#)
- [Southeast Land Trust](#)
- [Rockingham County Conservation District](#)



New Hampshire Setting SAIL

Acting on the Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission Science, Assessment, Implementation, and Legislation Recommendations

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