

Conservation Commission Approved Minutes December 13, 2012

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

December 13, 2012

7:00PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Drew Kiefaber (Chairman), Jeff Goldknopf, George Hilton, Fred Pearson , Stephanie Coster (Alternate), Jessica Veysey (Alternate), Janice Rosa (Planning Board Rep), Dan Wright (Town Council Rep)

Members Absent: Bruce Fecteau (Vice Chair), excused

Called to Order: 7:01 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Drew Kiefaber nominated Jessica Veysey as a voting member in the absence of Bruce Fecteau.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

October 11, 2012: There were no recommended edits.
Action

Motion: Janice Rosa made a motion to approve the draft minutes.

Second: Drew Kiefaber

Vote: All in favor.

November 8, 2012: Stephanie Coster requested an edit to page 3, line 10.
Action

Motion: Janice Rosa made a motion to approve the minutes with recommended edits.

Second: Jessica Veysey

Vote: All in favor; Dan Wright abstained due to absence at the meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Jeff Goldknopf distributed the financial report and reviewed the activity for the month. The check that Fred Pearson submitted for the rain barrels was submitted to the town for deposit but since it was beyond 90 days, he said that it may not clear the bank. The town will deposit it anyway and Jeff Goldknopf will notify Fred Pearson if there is a problem with the check.

6. Committee and Sub-Committee Reports

- Planning Board Report – Janice Rosa stated that there was no new business before the Planning Board. Jessica Veysey asked for an update on the new zoning ordinances. Janice Rosa said that they will only be focusing on the area from the library to the car wash and that another public hearing has been scheduled for January. Dan Wright asked if the Economic Development Council will be reviewing the changes before the Planning Board refers it to the Town Council. Janice Rosa said that it will not but that there are several members of the Economic Development Council on the Planning Board.

- Town Council Report – Dan Wright reported that the Town Council accepted the EPA's permit for the new sewage treatment plant. By working with the EPA, the town has gotten some extra time to get to the 3mg/l requirement for nitrogen levels in the bay. The new plant will be built to 8 mg/l and the town will have 15 years to get the nitrogen levels down to 3mg/l. Once the plant is built, the EPA will review the plan in 5 years to determine if 3mg/l is necessary. The proposal will be submitted as a warrant article in March to all registered voters. He acknowledged that it may be a challenge to convince the voters to approve it but the town will face heavy fines from the EPA if it fails to meet the new standards. Stephanie Coster suggested that the Conservation Commission may have a role to play in promoting the benefits of the project to the voters.

- Dam Removal Subcommittee – Nothing to report.

- Sub-Committee Reports

§ Policy and Process – Nothing to report.

§ Land Protection – Nothing to report.

§ Trail Maintenance – Nothing to report.

§ Education and Outreach – Nothing to report.

7. Chairman's Report –

13 Water Street – DES Letter, LRAC Letter

Drew Kiefaber reported that the application submitted by AEC on behalf of the property owners at 13 Water Street was incomplete and therefore does not qualify for expedited minimum impact process. The notice listed a variety of edits for a revised application and AEC has 60 days to respond to that. Drew Kiefaber shared a copy of a letter written by the

Lamprey River Advisory Committee to Dori Wiggin listing four concerns that they had about the project as an advisory to DES. This was scanned and emailed to commission members for their comment and review. These letters will be placed in the 13 Water Street file.

Article for Town Report

The Conservation Commission received a letter from the town requesting a one page report from the Conservation Commission to be included with the town's annual report. All updates and revisions have been made and Drew Kiefaber will be sending it to Kathy Castle.

DES Forestry letter

The Conservation Commission was cc'd by DES in their letter to the Shearwater Investment Corp related to forestry planned at their lot (R356) located between New Road and the railroad tracks behind the Great Bay Athletic Club and cemetery. Jessica Veysey noted she did not see any prime wetlands on the map that was distributed.

Letter to Donald Tucker from Town Planner

A copy of this letter and surveys were sent to the Conservation Commission. The letter confirms that his property was subdivided for the purposes to transfer it to Southeast Land Trust to be added to the Piscassic Greenway.

8. Old/New Business

Easement Monitoring – Piscassic River/Loiselle

This has been completed.

Easement Monitoring – Audubon

The site walk was done by Jeff Goldknopf and Drew Kiefaber and there were no issues observed. There were no tree stands found, which had been noted last year. Japanese Knotweed was found in the sandpit area. Drew Kiefaber will draft the report shortly.

Easement Monitoring – Wiggin Farm

The site walk is complete. Drew Kiefaber walked the site with Tracy Bovair of the Dept of Energy and Efficiency, who are under contract with Fish & Game to monitor the easements. They believe they identified the corner of the property, marked by a metal stake in the ground. There are some encroachment issues on Mr. Russell's property and Drew Kiefaber will draft a letter to the owner to notify them of the issues. There also appeared to be leaves and brush piles that were thrown over the stone wall onto the property. Mr. Russell has been unresponsive to previous letters but Drew Kiefaber will draft a new letter notifying him of the recent encroachment issues. They noted some recent beaver activity. Jessica Veysey asked about placing additional markers at the corner and Drew Kiefaber will make that offer in his letter to see if Mr. Russell would find it helpful.

Hilton Easement

The commission has received an updated monitoring report from the South East Land Trust of NH. The report showed

no issues although there was one mention of erosion on some of the trails on the back areas. Jeff Goldknopf asked if the trails needed any maintenance to correct the erosion and George Hilton explained that it was an old road that isn't used for anything but snowmobile traffic at this point. He explained that the erosion happened years ago and that it should heal itself. An invoice from South East Land Trust for the easement monitoring was presented totaling \$181.11 (\$175 for monitoring and report; \$6.11 for travel).
Action

Motion: Janice Rosa made a motion to approve payment

Second: Fred Pearson

Vote: All in favor.

Action Item List

- Think about creating a trail on the Hayden property in conjunction with Fish and Game (Trail Maintenance Subcommittee) – nothing to report
- Send a kiosk plan to Brett Bergeron (Drew) – he is having difficulty finding any plan and doesn't think we have one; he has communicated that to Brett; he recommended using one of the existing kiosks to build his kiosk and send us the plans
- Continue to investigate addition of Follet's Brook to prime wetlands/review amended application in Concord (Policy & Process Subcommittee) – nothing to report
- Create a Prime Wetlands Map (Jeff) – he hopes to have something ready for the town website within the next month
- Write a thank you letter to Don for his service on the Commission (Drew) - complete
- Finish connector trail at Piscassic/Loiselle – nothing to report; moved to spring
- Pay dues for Conservation Commission Association of NH (Drew) - complete
- Send letter about 13 Water street to Planning Board (Jessica) - complete
- Deliver Reimbursement check to Fred regarding rain barrels and compost bins - complete
- Notify Wiggin Farm abutters of upcoming easement monitoring (Drew) - complete
- Notify abutter about site walk on Audubon Smith Sisters property (Drew) - complete
- Initiate a discussion about soil import to gravel pits with Planning Board/Town – Stephanie Coster asked if this required more discussion among the Conservation Commission before bringing it to the Planning Board. Jeff Goldknopf stated that he had not had time to do any of the research he had hoped to do on the issue but feels that it should be something addressed at the statewide level and testing should be done at the source. Janice Rosa stated that she would not be able to support the initiative with the Planning Board because it could be too cumbersome to have all of the landowners over the aquifer comply with stringent restrictions. Jessica Veysey stated that she felt there are merits to educating the property owners of the contamination issues of all water sources.

- Encourage subcommittees to meet – Stephanie Coster suggested that the Education/Outreach subcommittee might want to address some of these issues.
- Discuss the Schanda Park flag lighting with Rick Molaski – Drew Kiefaber reported that he met with Rick Melaski and that the DPW has replaced the bulb so the flag is now illuminated; the town does not have any plans to change the lighting source or bulb. We will keep an eye on the lighting to see how it goes.
- Draft a letter about ATV prohibition on Wiggin Farm – remove from list; this is being addressed by other means
- Sent off a letter; will draft a revised letter to include notes from the more recent site visit
- Amend the Wiggin Farm management plan to change the mowing schedule – nothing to report
- Remove snowmobile bridges and schedule a meeting with the Snowrollers – nothing to report

Fred Pearson reminded everyone that we composters, rain barrels and turners for anyone ; composters \$40, rain barrels \$60; the turners \$20 all sold at cost, makes a great gift. Call 659-3296 to purchase any of those items.

Drew Kiefaber thanked the Newmarket Little Elves for our cards and ornaments.

9. Adjournment Action

Motion: Janice Rosa made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Fred Pearson

Vote: All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:08PM.
The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 1/10/13 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky LaPense