

Conservation Commission Approved Minutes June 13, 2013

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 13, 2013

7:00PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Bruce Fecteau (Vice Chair), Jeff Goldknopf, Fred Pearson, George Hilton, Stephanie Coster (Alternate), Jessica Veysey Powell (Alternate), Janice Rosa (Planning Board Rep), Dale Pike (Town Council Rep)

Members Absent: Drew Kiefaber (Chairman), excused

Called to Order: 7:04 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

May 9, 2013: There were no edits.
Action

Motion: Jeff Goldknopf made a motion to approve the minutes with changes.

Second: Janice Rosa

Vote: All in favor.

5. Treasurer's Report

The deposits from LCHIP & Loco Sports are reflected in this monthly report. There was no further discussion.

6. Committee and Sub-Committee Reports

§ Town Council Report – Dale Pike reported that the McCallum Dam Removal Study will be on the agenda for the upcoming workshop. Stephanie Coster explained that the discussion would be limited to the town's acceptance of the contractor hired to conduct the study, not on the question of whether or not the dam should be removed.

§ Planning Board Report – Janice Rosa reported that the lot line adjustment for the Heron Point encroachment issue was approved. She also provided an update on the three projects currently being developed by Chinburg, including the conceptual plan for the development of 52 residential lots at the golf course. They have put the presentation on hold for another week. If they cannot find a partner to operate the golf course, Chinburg may propose an open space plan for the golf course. She does not have the conceptual plans so could provide any details. There have been other contractors who have previously submitted proposals for the golf course. Bruce Fecteau mentioned that the wetlands surrounding the golf course will be something for the Conservation Commission to keep abreast of. Janice Rosa reported that some of the zoning change proposals will be going before the Town Council on June 19th.

§ Dam Removal Subcommittee – Reported above in Town Council report.

- Sub-Committee Reports

§ Policy and Process – Nothing to report.

§ Land Protection – Jessica Veysey Powell that the town has signed the contract with SELT which should be completed in December.

§ Trail Maintenance – Nothing to report.

§ Education and Outreach – Nothing to report.

7. Chairman's Report

Heron Point – encroachment resolution status

See Planning Board report, no further discussion.

Linked Together tree request – delayed to the Fall

Bruce Fecteau said it was unclear as to why it has been delayed but speculated that it might be better timing for tree planting. Bob Gazda recommended that they try to match the other tree that is still in place with just one tree since the space in that area is limited. Janice Rosa explained that in order to get their grant approved that they consult with experts for the size, location and type of tree to replace. Jessica Veysey-Powell said she thought the delay may be because they are still working on the grant.

8. Old/New Business

Fishing Derby – Saturday June 15th

The Fishing Derby is being held the weekend of June 15th and the weather forecast looks promising.

Wetlands Permit issued for 13 Water Street

Bruce Fecteau stated he had nothing to report on this item.

Other

Stephanie Coster raised the topic of gardening that goes along the parking lot area behind the mill near Water Street and the question of fertilizers being used in these gardens that are on the river. She asked if there was an opportunity for public education on the issue. Jeff Goldknopf thought it might be a good idea for all town residents with lawn or garden areas on the river which doesn't single out any particular residents in town. Bob Gazda asked if there were regional organizations who are already working on this initiative that may have materials that could be shared. Jessica Veysey-Powell mentioned that she has seen nitrogen pamphlets posted in the Town Hall and suggested replaying talks on Channel 13 of past guest speakers who have given presentations on nitrogen and invasive species removal. Bruce Fecteau asked that she follow up with the town to get a copy of that pamphlet. Bob Gazda mentioned an area near the car wash appears to be growing bamboo near the wetlands. It is on private property but some education for the residents may be helpful.

Fred Pearson offered to speak The Nature Conservancy about any materials or flyers that could be sent to residents. Jessica Veysey-Powell recommended that the Education Subcommittee take up this topic.

Jeff Goldknopf reported that he has identified an area near his home where knotweed is growing close to road and seems to be expanding and speculated on ways that it has spread over the past two or three years. He said that it is in a location that has the potential to become widespread. He recommended that many residents may not realize the proper way to remove the plant so an educational mailer would be helpful. Discussion ensued around the best way to permanently remove knotweed and how to inform residents who may have it on their property. Jeff Goldknopf will continue to research this issue and provide recommendations at the next Conservation Commission meeting. Fred Pearson suggested hosting a workshop with samples of invasive species to help educate the public on identifying and removing invasive species from their property.

Bruce Fecteau reported on the signage of the water removal issue and his inventory of the signs. The red lettering has faded to the point that it is no longer readable and got a quote to replace them but at over \$60 each, which may be cost prohibitive. He also noted that the ordinance number was misprinted but would check to see if touching up the faded verbiage was an option, as opposed to replacing the signs entirely. He's also identified three other areas where new signs could be posted in addition to the eleven signs that are already in place. He looked into alternative areas where water can be drawn and spoke with two individuals with DPW who thought there is a metered hydrant at the water treatment plant or at the town garage. George Hilton suggested that there were dozens of other locations along the river, outside of Newmarket where people who do not want pay for water can draw from the Lamprey River. Bruce Fecteau suggested sending a letter to surrounding towns to inform them of the Newmarket Conservation Commission's efforts. Bruce Fecteau will discuss the replacement or repair of the signs with Drew Kiefaber to discuss budgeting. George Hilton suggested keeping all of the lettering in black to avoid the need to replace them in the future. Bruce Fecteau reviewed the locations of the eleven signs currently in place and three proposed new areas for posted signage. George Hilton mentioned that if it was already a town ordinance, the police should be enforcing it and the public should be aware and report any unlawful water drawing to police.

Fred Pearson reported that the town of Durham has been very helpful in selling the rain barrels and composters. They displayed one of the rain barrels and composters in their Town Office and included it in their weekly newsletter. As a result, since the last meeting, 9 composters, 13 rain barrels and 8 turners have been sold totaling \$1,373 which he has given to Jeff Goldknopf for deposit. There are still plenty in stock and he would like to find a location in the Newmarket town offices for display but has been unable to find a spot that would not create a fire hazard. There are a couple on display at the Newmarket Library. George Hilton suggested the stairwell foyer of the Town Hall and there was some discussion about getting flyers distributed and having it reposted in the newsletter. Jeff Goldknopf suggested displaying them at the town dump but they would need to be protected. Fred Pearson agreed to look into that possibility. Bruce Fecteau suggested adding \$5 to the cost for non-Newmarket residents but decided it was better to keep the price at the current costs to promote their usage.

Jeff Goldknopf reported that a neighbor approached him about turtles crossing on Ash Swamp Road. He has observed several turtles struck by traffic and drivers pulling over and removing the turtles back to the water. The resident suggested a "turtle crossing" sign to remind drivers to slow down and watch for turtles. Discussion ensued about the seasonality of the turtle crossing, over-signage, and the best location for the signs. Jessica Veysey-Powell will research

the cost of the signs and report back at the next meeting.

Action Item List

§ Contact public works about potential source for water withdrawals (Drew)- An email has been sent requesting more information, Bruce Fecteau also contacted a few people as reported above

§ Replace signs saying no water withdrawal; add suggestion about where to go

§ Write letter to landscaping company and ask them to stop withdrawals (Bruce) - done

§ Water withdrawal sign inventory (Bruce) - done

§ Schanda Park signage about not feeding ducks (Fred) – the sign is in place; no further action

§ Connect with Snow Rollers and invite them to invasive species management at Follet's Brook (Drew) – done and one member came to help at the Follet's Brook invasive species removal workday. The commission would like to thank him for his help.

§ Compose a letter of thanks to Ellen Synder for organizing the nitrogen panel (Jeff) - done

§ Mark easement boundaries at New Roots Farm – nothing to report

§ Create an education outreach plan about nitrogen removal (ask school what grades/classes may be appropriate) – nothing to report

§ Review amended application in Concord to see if Follet's Brook is a prime wetland – nothing to report

§ Develop a process for identifying when land has changed from current use for tax purposes – nothing to report

§ Finish connector trail at Piscassic/Loiselle – nothing to report

§ Amend Wiggin Farm management plan to move mowing to after Sept. 15 (Jeff) – nothing to report

§ Remove defective snowmobile bridge from Wiggin Farm – nothing to report

9. Adjournment

ACTION

Motion: Bob Gazda made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Fred Pearson

Vote: All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 7/11/13 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky LaPense