

# Conservation Commission APPROVED Minutes May 9, 2013

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 9, 2013

7:00PM Council Chambers

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

Members Absent: George Hilton, excused

Called to Order: 7:05 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Drew Kiefaber nominated Stephanie Coster as a voting member in the absence of George Hilton.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

April 11, 2013: There were two recommended edits.  
Action

Motion: Bruce Fecteau made a motion to approve the minutes with changes.

Second: Fred Pearson

Vote: All in favor. Jeff Goldknopf, Dale Pike and Janice Rosa abstained due to absence.

5. Treasurer's Report

The monthly report was distributed and reviewed with no discussion.

## 6. Committee and Sub-Committee Reports

- Town Council Report – Nothing to report.
- Planning Board Report – Janice Rosa reported that Chinburg Mills will be coming back on Tuesday night.
- Dam Removal Subcommittee – Stephanie Coster reported that the subcommittee has selected a company from the submitted RFPs and the recommendation is going to the Town Council. The study will include a cost analysis of the most feasible options for fixing the high hazard level at the Macallen Dam. The most feasible option would include raising the abutment, lowering the crest elevation and increasing the length which would be approximately 3.1 m. There is funding to help with dam removal but not a lot of funding to repair dams. The study will start in July and continue for one year until mid-2014 and there will be public hearings, as well as a drawdown of the water this fall so the town can see what the area will look like if the modifications go through. Jessica Veysey Powell asked if the feasibility study will assess partial dam removal and Stephanie Coster said they were assessing only complete removal at this time. Jeff Goldknopf asked about the proposed change in elevation and Stephanie Coster said the most feasible option is to reduce it to 19'. She added that the feasibility study would not be assessing ecological impacts but it would include impacts on residents.

### - Sub-Committee Reports

§ Policy and Process – Nothing to report.

§ Land Protection – Jessica Veysey Powell reported that they have received a draft contract back from SELT and it is with the town for their review.

§ Trail Maintenance – Drew Kiefaber reported that Brett Bergeron is making progress on his Eagle Scout trail project and that he has installed a kiosk at the property.

§ Education and Outreach – Nothing to report.

## 7. Chairman's Report

### Heron Point – potential encroachment

Jeff Goldknopf recused himself. The draft plan from Doucette Survey was distributed and reviewed showing the proposed land swap. Drew Kiefaber reported that he went out to the property with some of the trustees and owners of the park. During that visit, they identified some minor issues that he feels should have been addressed when the property lines were originally established and approved by the town. He recommends correcting these issues while this plan is being implemented. Drew Kiefaber said there are some portions that drain off the property and toward the Lamprey River and he feels it should be relatively easy to correct. The drainage system was installed when the park went in and maintenance was done in 2010. It seems logical to continue the maintenance but it is on the town-owned property. Stephanie Coster said the ideal arrangement would be to allow for an easement on the property to maintain the drainage. Fred Pearson said there are also some potholes there at times that DPW has fixed in the past. Drew Kiefaber will be present at the May Planning Board meeting and will present the letter recommending the lot line adjustment, as well as fixes for the other issues discussed.

### Current use land change notification

Drew Kiefaber spoke with Becky Benvenuti and confirmed that the town has a process in place and will add the Conservation Commission to her notification list. He will follow up with her to clarify the process for properties coming out

of current use to make sure it is being properly tracked. The biggest difficulty will be for properties that have been in current use for a very long time and poor record keeping in the past.

#### Loco Sports – Schanda Park usage for Great Bay Half Marathon

Drew Kiefaber shared a thank you letter to the Conservation Commission for the use of Schanda Park for the Great Bay Half Marathon. They included a check in the amount of \$250 as a donation.

#### LCHIP – Stewardship monitoring

Drew Kiefaber shared a thank you letter from LCHIP for conducting the annual easement stewardship monitoring at the Piscassic/Loiselle property and included a check for \$400 to help cover the cost of monitoring.

### 8. Old/New Business

#### Fishing Derby funding request

Drew Kiefaber reported that a sponsorship request for the 24th Annual Newmarket Fishing Derby was received. The Conservation Commission has been a major sponsor in the past, along with the Recreation Department and Boy Scouts. This year's event will be held on Father's Day weekend and is free for all Newmarket residents. Fred Pearson stated that he feels the event is typically a real success and would wholeheartedly support continuing sponsorship in the same amount as last year, which was \$1,500.

#### ACTION

Motion: Fred Pearson made a motion to allocate \$1,500 for the stocking of fish for the Newmarket Annual Fishing Derby.

Second: Bruce Fecteau

Vote: All in favor.

#### Field Trip funding request

Drew Kiefaber received a request from Greg Thayer on behalf of the 7th grade class for \$250 to help fund a class field trip to Fort Foster in Kittery ME.

#### ACTION

Motion: Janice Rosa made a motion to allocate \$250 to fund the field trip request for the 7th grade class to Fort Foster in Kittery, ME.

Second: Fred Pearson

Jessica Veysey Powell asked if there were any other requests pending and Drew Kiefaber reported that no others have been submitted at this time.

Vote: All in favor.

#### Linked Together tree request

Drew Kiefaber received a request after the agenda was posted to table this until the next Conservation Commission meeting. Linked Together is a student service organization that is looking to replant a tree that was damaged during snow removal this year. They are looking to the Conservation Commission for recommendations for a replacement and potentially assistance with funding. Bob Gazda asked if the donation could be in the form of a tree and Drew Kiefaber said it could.

#### CC Scholarship for resident senior

There was one application for the scholarship which was reviewed by Bruce Fecteau and Jessica Veysey Powell. They agreed that the student is worthy of the scholarship and will follow up with a formal acknowledgement.

#### Invasive Species management - Follett's Brook April 20, May 4th

Drew Kiefaber reported that the last two work mornings have been very productive but there is still a little more work to do. He was able to get permission to hold onto the weed wrenches until June. The next work morning will be May 19th from 9-noon at Follett's Brook. Drew Kiefaber will send it to the town to get it in the newsletter. Stephanie Coster suggested mentioning it to the Snowrollers since they use that area for snowmobiling.

#### Other

While at Follett's Brook, a neighbor reported that he observed a hydro-seeding company withdrawing water from the brook and shared photos with the commission members present. While there, they noticed that the posted signage prohibiting water removal from that site had been vandalized to alter the message. Discussion ensued around replacement of the signage and whether or not to include instructions for an acceptable alternative location to draw water from. Bruce Fecteau will replace that sign and also inspect the other locations where those signs were posted in the past to inspect their condition and document their location. Bruce Fecteau also recommended sending a letter to the hydro-seeding company informing them of the restriction and ask them to stop their water removal.

Fred Pearson reported that there seems to be a chronic problem with the public feeding ducks at Schanda Park. He reminded the public that it is not healthy for the ducks and that their presence damages the plantings and lawn area in the park. He reported that the sign saying not to feed the ducks has been removed and he suggested getting a new sign.

#### ACTION

Motion: Bruce Fecteau to expend up to \$100 for two new signs at the Schanda Park.

Second: Fred Pearson

Vote: All in favor.

#### Action Item List

- Draft letter to Planning Board/Town Council to recommend lot line adjustment at Heron Point (Drew) – in process; please

send edits to Drew Kiefaber ASAP

- Letter of thanks to Ellen Synder for organizing Nitrogen panel (Jeff) – draft completed and Jeff Goldknopf will circulate on Friday
- Create education outreach plans about nitrogen removal (ask school what grades/classes may be appropriate for this) – nothing to report
- Mark easement boundaries at New Roots Farm – nothing to report
- Continue invasive species removal - ongoing
- Review amended application in Concord to see if Follett's Brook is a Prime Wetland – PDFs have been sent to the town
- Develop a process for identifying when land has changed from current use for tax purposes – in process, see above
- Finish connector trail at Piscassic/Loiselle – in process
- Amend Wiggin Farm management plan to move mowing to after Sept. 15 – nothing to report
- Remove defective snowmobile bridge from Wiggin Farm – nothing to report

Bruce Fecteau asked about sending a letter to the hydro-seeding company but Drew Kiefaber would like to postpone that until we have an alternative site lined up. Bruce Fecteau recommended not waiting since this is the height of the season for hydro-seeding.

ACTION

Motion: Bruce Fecteau made a motion for the Conservation Commission to put together a letter and send out to this nursery as soon as possible and explain that the sign has been vandalized and that this water supply is not for that kind of use and to please stop the use of the water for that purpose.

Second: Janice Rosa

Vote: All in favor.

Bruce Fecteau will draft the letter and forward copies to the commission members for their review.

Fred Pearson reported that he has sold three rain barrels and one composter.

9. Adjournment

ACTION

Motion: Janice Rosa made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Bob Gazda

Vote: All in favor.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:28PM.  
The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 6/13/13 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky LaPense