

Conservation Commission Approved Minutes April 11, 2013

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 11, 2013

7:00PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Drew Kiefaber (Chairman), Bruce Fecteau (Vice Chair), George Hilton, Stephanie Coster (Alternate), Jessica Veysey (Alternate)

Members Absent: Jeff Goldknopf, Fred Pearson, Janice Rosa (Planning Board Rep), Dale Pike (Town Council Rep) excused

Called to Order: 7:07 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Drew Kiefaber nominated Bob Gazda and Jessica Veysey as voting members in the absence of Jeff Goldknopf and Fred Pearson.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

March 14, 2013: There were no recommended edits.
Action

Motion: Jessica Veysey made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted.

Second: Drew Kiefaber

Vote: All in favor.

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 – Nothing to report.
- Dam Removal Subcommittee – Nothing to report.
- Sub-Committee Reports

§ Policy and Process – Nothing to report.

§ Land Protection – Jessica Veysey reported that she sent an email to the South East Land Trust requesting that they draft a contract for services.

§ Trail Maintenance – Nothing to report.

§ Education and Outreach – Bruce Fecteau reported that the scholarship applications have been delivered. George Hilton and Jessica Veysey will join Bruce Fecteau in reviewing the scholarship applications once they are submitted.

7. Chairman's Report

Heron Point potential encroachment – The current proposal is for a lot line adjustment of an equal sized land swap so that the existing home no longer encroaches on the Heron Point property. At the same time, the parking area will no longer encroach on the home association property. This solution requires approval from the NH Attorney General's Office. Both parties are waiting for a response from the Attorney General's Office. Bruce Fecteau asked if the town will incur any fees for the land swap but that was unclear at the moment. The homeowner, Karl Wajda, addressed the Conservation Commission and asked for any assistance to expedite a response from the Attorney General's Office. Drew Kiefaber explained that the lot line adjustment would also require approval from the Town Council and that they are aware of the issue.

Action

Motion: Bruce Fecteau made a motion that the Conservation Commission endorses the land swap lot line adjustment at the Heron Point Conservation Area as to clean up the deed and draft a letter to the Town Council.

Second: Bob Gazda

Vote: All in favor.

Drew Kiefaber will draft the letter to the Town Council and forward a copy to the homeowner once complete.

Building at 8 Bay Road – Drew Kiefaber reported on his comments to the ZBA at their meeting on 04/08/13 about this project. He advised them that the Conservation Commission had no comment on the original wetland permit application when it was issued in 2008. He also stated that there was not an obvious environmental impact from the reconstruction and that the enlarged sluiceway that goes underneath the building may improve water flow into and out of that area. He expressed concern about the potential for contamination should one of the buildings be used as a garage and that the current construction plans would result in an increase of impervious area at the site because of the expanded roof.

covering. The ZBA granted the variances requested but did not grant the special exception related to joining the two buildings with a single roof cover between. As a result, the project will need to be changed back to separate the two buildings in order to keep it consistent with the original plan that was submitted when the building permit was granted. Jessica Veysey asked if there was any response from DES and Drew Kiefaber said no and that it has no bearing on the ZBA.

DES Permits granted for Oyster Reef Restoration – The wetlands permits for this project have been granted and the project will continue as planned in the early summer.

Chicks Weir reinstallation – A letter from Jerry Collins was received requesting permission to begin the annual reinstallation of the Chicks Weir at Schanda Park.

Action

Motion: Bruce Fecteau made a motion to give permission to Jerry Collins to use the Schanda waterfront park for the reinstallation of his weirs as long as he follows the preconditions.

Second: George Hilton

Vote: All in favor.

There was a brief discussion about the timing of the reinstallation, which is scheduled for sometime in late April or early May before the herring run. Drew Kiefaber will sign off on the usage request and send to Mr. Collins along with the conditions.

8. Old/New Business

Election of Officers – Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer
Election of Treasurer

Nomination: Bruce Fecteau nominated Jeff Goldknopf to continue on as Treasurer.

Second: Drew Kiefaber

Vote: All in favor.

Election of Chair

Nomination: Bruce Fecteau nominated Drew Kiefaber to continue on as Chair.

Second: George Hilton

Vote: All in favor (Drew Kiefaber abstained)

Election of Vice Chair

Nomination: Drew Kiefaber nominated Bruce Fecteau to continue on as Vice Chair.

Second: Jessica Veysey

Vote: All in favor (Bruce Fecteau abstained)

Drew Kiefaber thanked Dan Wright for his representation of the Town Council over the past year and welcomed Dale Pike.

Invasive Species management – The Wiggin Farm work day on April 6th was productive with about 7-8 people assisting. Drew Kiefaber has gotten permission from the Discovery Center to hold on to the weed wrenches and pick ax until the next work day. The next work day for invasive species management is scheduled for 04/20/13 at Follet's Brook from 9AM-noon. Additional shovels or picks would be useful for anyone who can participate. Sturdy boots and work gloves are recommended.

Action Item List

- Talk to SELT to set up landowner approach contract – in process; pending draft contract from SELT
- Keep apprised of situation with 8 Bay Road, respond to ZBA and DES – in process; see Chairman's Report
- Find out potential for land swap at Heron Point – in process; see Chairman's Report
- Letter of thanks to Ellen Synder for organizing Great Bay Forum (Jeff) – nothing to report
- Invasive Species workday--get weed wrenches, invite Boy Scouts, add to town newsletter (Drew); invite Snow Rollers to remove bridge while we are there (Bruce) – in process; see Old/New Business
- Set up a prime wetlands educational presentation – nothing to report
- Advertise composters and rainbarrels on Channel 13 – Fred and Pauline Pearson are making progress there
- Research ideas about university students teaching natural resource classes (Jeff) – nothing to report
- Get feedback from school about possibility to create nitrogen-related education fieldtrips and in what classes this might be appropriate (Drew) – nothing to report
- Create education outreach plans about nitrogen removal from the Great Bay/sponsor Nitrogen workshop
- Mark easement boundaries at New Roots Farm – nothing to report
- Think about creating a trail on the Hayden property in conjunction with Fish and Game – nothing to report
- Continue invasive species removal – in process

- Review amended application in Concord to see if Follet's Brook is a Prime wetland (Policy & Process subcommittee) – nothing to report
- Develop a process for identifying when land has changed from current use for tax purposes (Policy & Process subcommittee) – nothing to report
- Finish connector trail at Piscassic/Loiselle – Drew Kiefaber is hoping to visit the site shortly to see what's next – nothing to report
- Amend Wiggin Farm management plan to move mowing to after Sept 15 – nothing to report

9. Adjournment Action

Motion: Bruce Fecteau made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Drew Kiefaber

Vote: All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 5/9/13 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky LaPense