

Conservation Commission DRAFT Minutes July 11, 2013

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DRAFT Minutes

July 11, 2013

7:00PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Drew Kiefaber (Chairman), Bruce Fecteau (Vice Chair), Fred Pearson, George Hilton, Stephanie Coster (Alternate), Jessica Veysey Powell (Alternate), Janice Rosa (Planning Board Rep)

Members Absent: Jeff Goldknopf, Dale Pike (Town Council Rep), excused

Called to Order: 7:05 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

June 13, 2013: There were no edits.
Action

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

Second: Bruce Fecteau

Vote: All in favor (Drew Kiefaber abstained due to absence at the meeting).

5. Treasurer's Report

The monthly financial report was distributed and reviewed. There was no discussion. Drew Kiefaber received some information from Jeff Goldknopf regarding changes to some of the town account numbers. He had no further details but will ask Jeff Goldknopf to speak to these changes at the next meeting.

6. Committee and Sub-Committee Reports

§ Town Council Report – Nothing to report.

§ Planning Board Report – Janice Rosa reported that the Planning Board approved the Chinburg Spring Street proposal. They are still awaiting the Town Council's decision to approve the proposed zoning changes which is anticipated for next month. She commented that it was good to have the community input on these proposals because the developer and the Planning Board took that input into consideration.

§ Dam Removal Subcommittee – Stephanie Coster reported that The Town Council reviewed the proposed costs and there was extensive discussion about the possibility and impacts of complete removal of the dam. The owners of a boat company had done some preliminary analysis regarding the outflow that can cross over Route 108 into the Long Marsh area which connects to the Oyster River system. They said there were higher flow rates in the past but the culverts have been filled up over time but that increasing the flow capacity there could alleviate this flooding. That area of road is on a DOT project list in the next few years but engineers suspect these improvements may not be sufficient to bring the area into compliance. These options should continue to be investigated, along with potential impacts to Durham.

- 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

Heron Point – encroachment resolution status

The Town Council held a second reading of the ordinance and voted to accept the lot line adjustments and the access easements that were proposed to resolve the encroachment of the mobile home and parking lot access. The Town Planner, Diane Hardy, received a letter from the Attorney General's office stating they were fine with the lot line adjustment and easement approach, bringing this issue very close to a full resolution.

Drew Kiefaber reminded the Conservation Commission members that free sails available to members on the Gundalow Piscataqua as mentioned in an email. There are still a number of sails left, feel free to sign up.

Drew Kiefaber reported that there will be an upcoming seminar on August 8th regarding invasive aquatic plants at the Exeter Public Library. It is free and open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

A copy of Great Bay Matters was received and made available to commission members to read.

8. Old/New Business

ZBA Meeting July 15th, 48 Smith-Garrison Road, shed within setback

Drew Kiefaber reported that the Conservation Commission received notification of this meeting regarding a variance request to construct a 14'x15' shed that is within 10' of the property line. No action is necessary, this was simply a notice. Jessica Veysey Powell mentioned she thought they said they would look into whether or not it was within the Lamprey River setback. Drew Kiefaber will not be able to attend that meeting.

Old Home Day Schanda Park usage Request

The request is for August 10th to use Schanda Park for the Newmarket Old Home Day and Oyster Festival from 10AM-6PM. There will be live music and a few vendors there. This same request was approved last year with no issues. Jessica Veysey Powell asked if the colonial group with animals would be present and Drew Kiefaber said they are not. ACTION

Motion: Janice Rosa made a motion to approve Old to use the Schanda Park

Second: Fred Pearson 7:22

Vote: All in favor.

Stephanie Coster asked if the Conservation Commission was interested in having a presence at the Old Home Day since the Heritage Festival was canceled for this year. Fred Pearson mentioned he didn't notice much interest from attendees in the past but would not oppose it. Stephanie Coster offered to host the Wiggin Farm tour again. Drew Kiefaber will follow up with Debbie Garretson to notify her of the tour but that they declined the offer to attend the festival formally. Bruce Fecteau said he did not think the pontoon boat would be available due to the timing of the festival.

Fred Pearson reported robust sales of composters, rain barrels and turners and will forward the payments to Jeff Goldknopf for immediate deposit so that the checks do not go stale. There are seven of each item left in inventory and still available for sale at cost.

Fred Pearson shared copies of an invasive plant informational pamphlet which will be kept on file for future reference.

Bruce Fecteau reported on the cost estimates to repair the existing water removal signs, at approximately \$13-\$15 each, entirely in black ink. He will get a few more quotes to replace the signs entirely. Once he has a firm cost estimate the commission will decide on the location of any additional signs.

Janice Rosa asked Bruce Fecteau if he would need to work with Rick Malasky to have the turtle crossing signs installed since she believes they are going to be paving the shoulders of Ash Swamp Road soon. Bruce Fecteau said they would be placed far enough from the edge of the road so as to not interfere with the paving. Jessica Veysey Powell reported on pricing for the turtle crossing signage. An aluminum sign would cost approximately \$30. If they wanted them to be customized, there would be a second sign to go along with generic turtle crossing sign and it would double the cost of the sign. If the sign were to be entirely customized, the cost would be approximately \$80. There are some smaller signs that would be less expensive but they would only last 3-4 years. She suggested that another sign on Bay Road might also be a good spot. For the two locations, there would need to be four signs for each direction. Drew Kiefaber suggested purchasing six signs in the event that other locations are identified. ACTION

Motion: Bruce Fecteau made a motion to expend \$180 for the purchase of 6 turtle crossing signs.

Second: Drew Kiefaber

Vote: All in favor.

Jessica Veysey Powell will place the order and request that it be invoiced to the town at the request of the Conservation Commission.

Action Item List

§ Check on water removal signage costs from Infinite Imagine (Bruce) – See above report.

§ Investigate options for a Nitrogen mailer (Jessica) - Jessica Veysey Powell presented several samples that she found: a simple brochure/fact sheet; another brochure that provides information about buffers and provides buffer workshops to towns; organic lawn care from a town in Massachusetts available on their website, as well as pamphlets. This town also had an integrated pest-management campaign which asked residents to take a pledge to reduce their usage of pesticides. Along these same lines, she found information from the town of Newcastle, NH doing a resident pledge for slow release fertilizers or no fertilizers at all. She will share these examples via email for Commission members to review. She would like to see the brochures made available to the public as well as having the information posted on the town website. Janice Rosa mentioned this may information to share with the Planning Board. Fred Pearson asked if she found any information regarding agricultural applications, which she did not look into. She will send the samples along to the commission members to begin working on a campaign.

§ Ask Chris to re-air invasives lecture and nitrogen talk (Stephanie) – Stephanie Coster reported that they have found the invasives lecture and will re-air and she will notify the commission of the date when it gets scheduled. He was hesitant to re-air the nitrogen talk because it was before the town voted on the ordinance and some of the information may be out of date. He said that all of the recorded programs are posted on YouTube and the links can be posted on the town website. Chris also expressed a desire to create a compilation video of some of the Newmarket Conservation areas as a promotional piece for open spaces in town. Drew Kiefaber assigned this project to the Trails subcommittee.

§ Investigate bamboo on Rt. 108; letter to landowners, ask TNC about bamboo removal (Fred) – Fred Pearson reported that he made a couple of stops but was unable to connect with anyone at home. He spoke with TNC who said they are aware of the plants but were not sure if it was invasive. He will try to find out more about the plant.

§ Knotweed removal on Ash Swamp road; potentially create an invasives mailer (Jeff) – nothing to report.

§ Create composter information/display/signs (Fred) – Fred Pearson reported that there is a new display in the foyer in the Town Hall; when the composters were in the Town Clerk's office they sold very well but had to be removed because they presented a fire hazard. He will go to Durham tomorrow to see if the ones displayed there can be extended. There have been no sales resulting from the display at the Newmarket Library.

§ Look into costs for turtle crossing signs on Ash Swamp (Jessica) – See above report.

§ Create a maintenance list for future ConsComs, things to do - Nothing to report.

§ Inventory Schanda Park for damage/repair (Fred) – Fred Pearson reported that the current signage is posted and clearly states not to feed the ducks. He noted that he has not seen many ducks there recently and the grass seems to be growing in nicely. He has noted no damage or other issues. George Hilton noted that the plantings may need some work and Fred Pearson offered to look into the cost to repair the plantings. Drew Kiefaber mentioned that it is a lot of work and

upkeep and is hesitant to take him up on the offer. Jessica Veysey Powell mentioned researching plantings that are more drought-hardy and resistant to waterfowl.

Older Items:

§ Mark easement boundaries at New Roots Farm

§ Create an education outreach plan about nitrogen removal (ask school what grades/classes may be appropriate)

§ Review amended application in Concord to see if Follet's Brook is a prime wetland

§ Develop a process for identifying when land has changed from current use for tax purposes

§ Finish connector trail at Piscassic/Loiselle

§ Amend Wiggin Farm management plan to move mowing to after Sept. 15 (Jeff)

§ Remove defective snowmobile bridge from Wiggin Farm

9. Adjournment
ACTION

Motion: Janice Rosa made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Drew Kiefaber

Vote: All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.
The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 8/8/13 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky LaPense