

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

August 11, 2016

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Jeff Goldknopf (Chair), Andrea Sellers (Treasurer), Marianne Hannagan, Patrick Reynolds, and Bob Gazda (Alternate),

Members Absent: Drew Kiefaber (Vice Chair), Julia Sinclair (Alternate), Ezra Temko (Planning Board Rep), and Phil Nazzaro (Town Council Rep - Ex-Officio) excused

Called to Order: 7:05 PM

Agenda Items:

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

The Chair appointed **Bob Gazda** as a voting member for this meeting.

3. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

With speakers present in the audience, the Chair asked to move the agenda forward to items under Old/New Business. There was no objection.

8. **Old/New Business**

Old Business:

Schoppmeyer Park Committee – Richard Shelton: The Chair recognized Mr. Richard Shelton, former Member, Chair, and Vice-Chair of the Conservation Commission (serving under the Chairmanship of Chris Schoppmeyer). An individual who wished to remain anonymous donated \$50,000 to secure a parcel of land to place in conservation and named after Chris Schoppmeyer. A condition of the gift requires that the town raise an additional \$50,000 and, once accomplished, the anonymous donor would contribute an additional \$50,000. \$150,000 would be available for the purchase of the land. The committee has been working diligently to select a parcel and are now looking at several right now. Mrs. Terri Schoppmeyer and her son Travis rose to present the Chair with a check for \$50,000. They both expressed their sincere thanks on behalf of his entire family for this great honor and all the hard work put forward by this committee and they are all looking forward to the project coming to fruition. The anonymous donor was revealed as Mr. Walter Cheney through his Moody's Point Company. The Town Council still needs to approve this fund. The Chair has sent a letter to the TC to encourage them to approve this fund. Once approved, a fund raising letter will be mailed to the public. However, donations toward the park fund may be made by check payable to the Newmarket Conservation Commission, Schoppmeyer Park, Town Hall, Finance Dept., 186 Main St., Newmarket NH 03857. The Town Finance Department has set up the account for the funds. The members of the CC thanked the Schoppmeyer Park Committee members for all of their continuing hard work in getting this project completed. <http://www.fosters.com/news/20160814/park-to-honor-schoppmeyers-memory>

Wiggin Farm Management Plan Update – Ellen Snyder of Wildlife: Ellen Snyder presented the completed plan update to the members this evening. She attended the meeting on May 12, 2016 to discuss the update

and the previous discussion from that meeting is included on page 5 of these minutes. The submitted plan includes a text and six maps (using GIS so that they may be updated easily). The appendixes includes boundary surveys, the conservation easement deed, LCHIP executory interest, a letter from a lawyer on the original boundary issue, a letter from Ron Klemarszyk (senior forester at FORECO LLC), a historical letter from the Knowles family, and a letter from the National Heritage Bureau on endangered species (expected shortly). She presented the CC with copies of the plan and discussed her suggestions:

- 10 news signs and text/topics for the current information posts
- Mowing of trails which is happening now at regular intervals (thanks to DPW!)
- Recommending that we secure a NH F&G grant to perform the 3.5 acres of habitat restoration
- Recommends no additional trails because of the wetlands
- The old homestead foundation needs frequent mowing to keep the area open

Jim Oehler, State Lands Habitat Biologist from Fish & Game, has reviewed and approved the new update to the management plan. The Chair mentioned that the Town Administrator and the Town Attorney are currently reviewing a new letter of agreement with the abutter. **Drew Kiefaber** drafted the letter for the CC (the Chair read the draft to the CC). It is expected that the final agreement will be signed by September or October just prior to the annual assessment of the property by the State. The boundary line has been surveyed and DPW has set 4 x 4 posts along the line. The Chair has been sent signage from Fish & Game to affix to the posts. The Conservation Commission thanked Ellen for all of her hard work on this project! It is the Chair's plan to scan this Management Plan and make it available on the Town website.

Dame/Bay Roads Open Space Subdivision – Discussion of Subdivision Application and Wetlands Impact:

The plans for this application (a 28 acre subdivision with 21 acres in deed restricted open space) was just received by email by the Chair this afternoon and he forwarded the email to the CC members. Most members had not had an opportunity to review them. Several paper copies were made available for the presentation. This is a plan for eleven- approximately ½ acre homes. The Chair attended the first PB meeting on this project and attended the site walk. Brendan Quigley, Wetland Scientist/GIS Specialist from Gove Environmental Services, was attending the meeting this evening to present the project, address two issues, and request comments from the CC on: 1) a Dredge and Fill Application that has been recently filed with NHDES that involves a small impact at the entrance of the project and 2) a Special Use Permit and Waiver Request regarding buffer encroachments. The plans for this subdivision were recently accepted by the Planning Board. The Dredge and Fill Application is currently being reviewed by the NH F&G because of turtle concerns. The developer proposes the use of sloped granite curbing which is more turtle friendly. The catch basin would not have a sump. The application was not expedited, so it must be reviewed by the CC. However, the CC has not received a copy of the application yet and the Chair will check on this. The CC has 30 days to comment on the application and/or ask for an extension. The Special Use Permit and Waiver Request regard the buffer encroachments involves five lots. The septic systems, driveways, and the house locations are approximate at this time. They will be using the Town "Buffer Book" as a guide. They are seeking CC comments on the waiver request for the five lots from the 100' buffer to a 50' buffer. The next meeting of the PB will be on Sept.13 and a TRC will be established before that meeting and open to CC members to join. **Andrea Sellers** agreed to draft a letter to the TRC and email it to members for comments. **Piscassic-Loiselle Park Kiosk:** **Andrea Sellers** has not had a chance to update the maps as yet. The CC discussed hiring Ellen Snyder, Ibis Wildlife, to prepare a Lamprey River Watershed map for display in the new kiosk.

Wiggin Farm Boundary Maintenance: This matter was discussed previously in this meeting under the "Wiggin Farm Management Plan Update". The CC will gladly reimburse DPW for the cost of the posts.

New Business:

Patrick Reynolds received a letter from Angel Smith, Board President, and Amy Goldberg, Board

Member and Event Coordinator, from the Newmarket Mill Space who were seeking sponsorship from the Conservation Commission for *The Caterpillar Lab* to be held on September 10 from noon to 5. *The Caterpillar Lab* is a non-profit organization operating from Keene, NH and the Mill Space Board is asking the CC to become a Signature Sponsor of \$2,000. The members discussed this request.

Action

Motion: **Andrea Sellers** moved that the Conservation Commission appropriate \$400 to the Newmarket Mill Space to sponsor *The Caterpillar Lab* on September 10.

Second: **Marianne Hannagan**

Discussion

Friendly Amendment: **Jeff Goldknopf** moved to increase the appropriation to \$1000.

Second: **Patrick Reynolds**

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

Patrick Reynolds will contact the Mill Space Board.

More information on the lab and their programs may be found at: <http://www.thecaterpillarlab.org/>

The meeting returned to the agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

July 14, 2016:

The Chair reviewed the draft minutes and made a few non-substantive changes.

Action

Motion: **Jeff Goldknopf** moved that the minutes of July 14, 2016 be approved as amended.

Second: **Andrea Sellers**

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

5. Treasurer's Report

Andrea Sellers has not received the July report yet, so she plans to report on July at the next meeting. She will submit the bill from Ellen Snyder for payment. **Jeff Goldknopf** has 1) submitted the letter for the Schoppmeyer fund to be established to the Finance Director, 2) submitted the check request for the rain barrel for the SOAK event at Briallia Circle (\$75.00) and 3) submitted the bill from Boudreau Land Surveying for \$300 for the survey of the Wiggin Farm Boundary.

6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Planning Board: **Ezra Temko** sent an email report on August 10 to members regarding the development proposed for Ash Swamp Road/Grant Road: "Regarding the 125 Grant Road (DDC Realty Trust/David P. Valcovic, Trustee) project to subdivide 8.01 acre lot into three lots, the Planning Board approved the project with a number of conditions. Mark West reviewed wetland boundaries and concurred with the developer's identification regarding wetland boundaries... However, Mark as the town's consultant as well as the developer's consultant identified sensitive non-wetland area in the northwest area of the property and suggested it remain in its natural state and unbuilt. The developer agreed with this and changed the plan accordingly." He also reported: "The subdivision and special use permits for 36 Dame Road (Jarib M. Sanderson Trustee of Robin Realty Newmarket Trust/Tuck Realty Corporation) has been accepted by the Planning Board as complete and a Technical Review Committee has been (re-)formed to review the proposal. This is a proposal in an R1 zone for an 11 unit residential open space design development. The

developer will be coming to our Conservation Commission meeting this week to discuss the project. There are two proposed wetland waivers..."

7. Chairman's Report

Heron Point Signage: Mike Hoffman is still searching for a person to make the sign directing people from Bay Road to the Heron Point entrance. The sign maker he had in mind is no longer available.

Kayak Racks at Shanda Park: The Chair recently met Aimee Gigandet from the Recreation Department down at Schanda Park. He found that there is plenty of room for a 3rd rack. **Patrick Reynolds** would like to see signage on the racks and/or in the kiosk, so that the kayaks may be fully utilized (by renting) from the Recreation Department.

Action

Motion: **Jeff Goldknopf** moved that the Newmarket Recreation Department be permitted to place a third kayak rack, identical or similar to the other two racks, at Schanda Park with the same restrictions on capacity and conditions approved at the CC meeting on April 14, 2016.

Second: **Patrick Reynolds**

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

Jeff Goldknopf will email Aimee with the details of this approval and mentioning the rental signage.

Dearborn Property: The CC is waiting for the review by the Town Attorney.

Notice of Approval from NHDES: Notice of Approval from NHDES was received for two non-site specific permits for oyster shell placements which amended a previous permit request for 1) Choice Oysters and 2) Granite State Shellfish.

NH Timber Harvesting Law Seminar: The NH Timberland Owners Association is holding a seminar on NH Timber Harvesting Law to be held on August 23, 2016 in Bristol, NH. More information may be found at: http://www.nhtoa.org/index.php?option=com_civicrm&task=civicrm/event/info&reset=1&id=72

9. Adjournment

Action

Motion: **Jeff Goldknopf** moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Second: **Bob Gazda**

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

Excerpt from Approved Minutes of May 12, 2016:

Ellen Snyder – Wiggin Farm-Tuttle Swamp Management Plan Draft Addendum: Ellen Snyder, Ibis Wildlife Consulting, attended the meeting to give the CC an update report on her progress in preparing the Wiggin Farm-Tuttle Swamp Management Plan Draft Addendum. The current plan was written in 2005 and should be updated every 10 years. She brought an official map to show the trails and the wetlands. She had no thoughts on suggesting changes to the trails – only that they should be mowed to keep them from narrowing. **Jeff Goldknopf** mentioned that the Town assured the CC that the trails will be mowed for us and we will ask that they mow some additional area around the kiosk to encourage people to walk over and read the materials. The bridge needs to be inspected every year. On each side of the bridge, the access is very steep and may need metal approaches to help on wet or icy days. The property has two benches in good condition. There are also ten interpretive signs (prepared by an Eagle Scout several years ago) that are out of date and not as relevant now. **Patrick Reynolds** would like to have some suggested educational activities to encourage future school field trips. Ellen has some ideas for wording and will include them in her report. She suggested that we contact the local snowmobile club about where they cross the property especially if the pond is not frozen. **Drew Kiefaber** mentioned that the mowing of the field is done as late into September as possible so that the milkweed remains for the migrating monarch butterflies. The CC should stake the area so that the mowing area is very clear. Ellen would suggest that the field be mowed a little smaller to allow the alder swale widen. There is an area approximately 3-4 acres from the stone wall down to the wetlands. The Fish and Game has a grant program which would provide funds to clear this area to promote ‘set back succession’. Mechanical removal of invasive species –especially along the stone wall, could be accomplished. She will include the names of contacts who could do this work for the CC in her report. History of the Property: The Town acquired this property in 2003 from Mr. Falzone (3 lots/160 acres total) and the Town thought that the small 15 acre area in the upper left was included. The Town hired Doucet Survey to complete a survey before purchase but it was delayed by seasonal access issues. Ownership of that 15 acre lot is in question. If we wait 30 years and no one comes forward, the Town will hold the property. The Town might undertake a “quiet title”. It would be good if the Town could sort this out as stewardship of the land must take place.

The State does the annual monitoring on this property, but they don’t really go out that far to walk the line. Ellen also recommends that we place a sign on the stone wall on the bottom of the property to notice the boundary. It appears that an abutter has cleared a trail.

Her major points included:

- Interpretive signs
- Annual bridge inspection
- Grading the parking lot
- Mowing
- Clear 3-4 acres for an ‘early succession’ plan
- Boundary issues