

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 February 11, 2016

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Jeff Goldknopf (Chair), Drew Kiefaber (Vice Chair), Andrea Sellers (Treasurer), Fred Pearson, Julia Sinclair (alternate), Ezra Temko (Planning Board Rep), and Amy Burns (Town Council Rep - Ex-Officio).

Members Absent: Bruce Fecteau, Bob Gazda (alternate), Marianne Hannagan, and Patrick Reynolds (alternate) were excused.

Called to Order: 7:01 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

The Chair appointed **Julia Sinclair** as a voting member for this meeting.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

January 14, 2016:

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the minutes of January 14, 2016 be approved as drafted.

Second: **Jeff Goldknopf**

Vote: Approved 5-0-1

5. Treasurer's Report

Andrea Sellers, Treasurer, reviewed December and January ledgers with the members. The land use credit has been posted and the dues for the NHACC were paid. **Fred Pearson** sold one more rain barrel for \$62.00 and turned the check over for deposit. There are only two rain barrels left in our inventory for sale.

6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Town Council: **Amy Burns** reported that the Town Deliberative Session on January 30 went very quickly and was completed in 11 minutes with no questions. The School Deliberative Session that followed was also not too much longer, but also went well. Everyone is encouraged to watch the DCAT video if they were not able to attend.

Planning Board: **Ezra Temko** had nothing to report for this meeting.

7. Chairman's Report

Dearborn Property Donation: The Chair was notified that the Dearborn estate will close toward the end of

March. Once closed, the property will be discussed again for transfer to the Town.

Surface Water Withdrawal: The Chair was approached by a contractor from Newmarket who does a great deal of work in town. He had questions about surface water withdrawal for his projects. The contractor was aware of the ordinance and fines noted on the posted signs, but wanted to know what he could do if he had projects that require watering for dust control. The Chair spoke with Sean Greig, Water and Wastewater Superintendent for Newmarket. Mr. Greig confirmed that, during a Stage 1 water alert, water is sold from a hydrant at the DPW. During a Stage 2 alert, water *may* be sold under certain circumstances. However, during Stage 3 and 4 alerts, water is *never* sold. It was suggested that the price of trucking water into town for projects should be incorporated in any contractors bid. The CC will discuss this issue at another meeting, but, in general, the CC believes that it is their responsibility to protect the water resources in Newmarket.

8. Old/New Business

Wiggin Farm-Tuttle Swamp Management Plan Addendum: The Chair signed the proposal from Ibis Wildlife Consulting. Ellen Snyder thanked the CC and will be back in touch soon.

Wiggin Farm Boundary Maintenance: **Drew Kiefaber** has reached out to two surveyors and discussed the project. He will get quotes for the project from them and also try to reach the DPW about the appropriate time to move the boulders. We will discuss the timing for the project at the next meeting.

Piscassic-Loiselle & Schanda Park Kiosks: The Chair reached out to Kevin Martin to discuss making the new kiosks. His hourly rate is \$60.00/ hour. Constructed and installed a kiosk would cost about \$2,500/each. The CC members could volunteer to help in various ways to reduce this cost. **Julia Sinclair** mentioned the Liberty Mutual volunteer program as a possibility. The CC will keep Liberty Mutual in mind for possible trail maintenance work. The Chair will continue his conversation with Kevin Martin and suggest that we start with one replacement first and see how it goes. The Chair will email specifics to him about the possibility of concrete footers and attaching the posts to the footers. The CC will continue the discussion and see where we might be able to reduce costs. If the cost were to exceed \$2,500, the CC would need to put this project out to bid. The Chair will send the specifics provided by Kevin Martin to all members to review.

Piscassic-Loiselle Management: The Chair visited the property two weeks ago on the recommendation of a colleague. The snow was nearly gone and it was clear that a new trail had been created by an unknown person(s). The new trail was 'leaf-blown' and had been used quite a bit. It was found to be muddy with bare soil exposed. The Chair was assured by his colleague that no more leaf blowing will continue on the property. The purpose for this clearing was for trail jogging and exposing possible hazards that might trip a runner. As **Drew Kiefaber** pointed out, a trail must never go straight up and down which could become a stream bed. The CC originally planned the loop trail to prevent erosion and create sustainability with minimum maintenance. Repetitive use is discouraged to avoid destroying any one trail. Eric Sawtelle continues to hay the field for us and occasionally applies a natural fertilizer. The 50' buffer to the Piscassic River is maintained during this process.

Dodds Property Management: The Chair recommends a site walk of this property in late April and several members agreed to attend. According to the recent monitoring report, the landowner has a vehicle parked on the property (age and condition unknown). The CC might consider facilitating the removal of this vehicle. **Drew Kiefaber** will contact the SELT to discuss our responsibilities as a managing partner and report back to the CC.

Newmarket Recreation Department Kayak Event: **Amy Burns** attended the organizational meeting. She reported that the 2-K Kayak Event is planned for Saturday, June 25. Seven Rivers Paddling from Newmarket will be helping to organize this event. During the meeting, it was suggested that they consider holding a children's event first and follow it with an adult event. Seven Rivers Paddling will be planning the route and the family event will include both canoes and kayaks. **Amy Burns** will let the CC know about the next

meeting. Monies raised from this event will go toward the storage facilities that are being proposed for kayak rentals in town by the Recreation Department.

9. Adjournment

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved to adjourn the meeting.
Second: **Andrea Sellers**
Vote: Approved 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.
The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary