

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

January 14, 2016

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Jeff Goldknopf (Chair), Drew Kiefaber (Vice Chair), Bruce Fecteau, Bob Gazda (alternate), Marianne Hannagan, Patrick Reynolds (alternate), and Julia Sinclair (alternate).

Members Absent: Amy Burns (Town Council Rep - Ex-Officio), Ezra Temko (Planning Board Rep), Andrea Sellers (Treasurer) and Fred Pearson. All excused.

Called to Order: 7:05 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

On behalf of the Conservation Commission, the Chair welcomed our newest member, **Julia Sinclair**. The Chair appointed **Bob Gazda** and **Patrick Reynolds** as voting members 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 an item under Old/New Business. There was no objection.

8. Old/New Business

Lubberland Creek Culvert Replacement Update – Pete Steckler, TNC: Pete Steckler was unable to attend this evening, but Joanne Glode, Southern NH Stewardship Ecologist from the Nature Conservancy, and Lyndsay Butler (Lead Project Engineer at Wright-Pierce Engineering) attended to make the presentation. Ms. Glode wanted to thank all those in town, especially Rick Malasky, who helped with this project along with numerous project volunteers. All totaled, 97.5 volunteer hours were recorded. They were able to collect vegetative and fish data over the summer and examine culvert events with sea level rise and salinity. Sampling plots were set out in June and data was collected in July. For the fish monitoring, they used seine nets and minnow traps at 13 sampling sites over the summer. They discovered a large population of fish, but were very excited to find Redfin Pickerel upstream as this is a species of concern in the State. Wright-Pierce deployed data loggers to monitor salinity levels downstream for two weeks. The marsh is considered healthy: 75% vegetative, 10% bare, and 12% dead. The plan includes re-monitoring in 3-5 years. There are some invasive concerns which will require a plan in the future. Ms. Butler presented a summary of the engineering study. They determined the channel geography extending 200 ft. upstream and 300 ft. downstream of the road. At the recent project partners meeting, they agreed on a preliminary design for a 16 ft. span for the culvert based on the 100 year sea level rise projection. They would be required to stabilize the banks with boulders. The culvert would require four sides for stabilization with 15-18 inches of native stream material placed within the culvert and a guard rail would be placed along the road. They are in the process of coordinating the regulatory schedule with the NH DES and the Army Corps of Engineers. The final construction design documents will begin once the regulatory component is complete. The culvert will have a 75 year life span. The culvert portion of the project will require two weeks to complete. The road work

may require six weeks (with the roadway being raised) and the road would need to be closed to traffic for approximately two to three weeks. The CC had questions and concerns that were all answered by Ms. Glode and Ms. Butler. **Drew Kiefaber** mentioned that this project is an excellent example for this town as well as other communities with culvert projects in the future. The Chair thanked Ms. Glode and Ms. Butler for the update and the CC looks forward to further progress reports.

The meeting returned to the agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

December 10, 2015:

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the minutes of December 10, 2015 be approved as drafted.

Second: **Jeff Goldknopf**

Vote: Approved 5-0-1

December 10, 2015- Non-Public Session Notes:

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the Non-Public Notes of December 10, 2015 be approved as drafted.

Second: **Bob Gazda**

Vote: Approved 5-0-1

5. Treasurer's Report

With the absence of the Treasurer, the report from the financial office was distributed to all members. There were no questions.

6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

No reports for this meeting.

7. Chairman's Report

Moody Point Company Map R2, Lots 5-1-1- & 5-1-2: The CC received notice from NH DES that the Army Corps of Engineers found no wetlands on this property, so the previous 'cease and desist order' was lifted (please reference the Approved Minutes from October 8, 2015).

2015 Newmarket Town Report: The Chair sent a draft of his summary report to members for comments and suggestions. Several comments were received and the final report will be submitted on Friday, January 15.

NHDOT Meeting on Route 108 Widening and Bike Path: The meeting is taking place in the auditorium downstairs simultaneously with the CC meeting this evening.

Quarterly Newsletter 'Great Bay Matters' Received from the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve: <http://greatbay.org/documents/gbmwinter2016fullissue.pdf>

Newsletter from the Southeast Land Trust of NH Received: http://seltnh.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/FINAL_SELT_News_Winter2015-16_web.pdf

NHDES Drinking Water Newsletter Received:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/newsletters/en/documents/2016-jan-feb.pdf>

Letter From the Town of Stoddard NH Received: The Conservation Commission from Stoddard has requested that the Newmarket CC review a letter that they planned to submit to NH Fish & Game opposing the proposed bobcat hunting season. **Julia Sinclair** is planning to attend the hearing on February 1 at 6:00 pm in

the Representatives Hall of the State House in Concord. Please visit the Fish & Game page online for more information at: <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/bobcat-season-proposal.html>

8. Old/New Business (cont)

Charles Dearborn Property Donation: At the meeting in December, the Conservation Commission recommended to the Town Council that they accept the donation of the property formerly owned by Charles Dearborn. The property may be found on Tax Map R6, Lot 26-7, consists of approximately 38 acres, and is located off of Grant Road. The property is subject to an easement from the NH Fish & Game who monitors the property annually. The TA has asked that the CC put aside \$500 to provide funds for the title search. If the Town Council does accept the gift of this property, the costs to survey the property will be borne by the Conservation Commission.

Action

Motion: **Bruce Fecteau** moved that the Conservation Commission approve the use of funds not to exceed \$500.00 to be used to purchase title insurance for the transfer of the Dearborn property to the Town.

Second: **Bob Gazda**

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

Wiggin Farm-Tuttle Swamp Management Plan Addendum: Ellen Snyder, Certified Wildlife Biologist, from Ibis Wildlife Consulting in Newmarket, has submitted a proposal to the CC for the Wiggin Farm – Natural Resource Plan Update. Please refer to the December 10, 2015 minutes for more information. She submitted a budget of \$2,100 and her plan includes everything that the CC requested.

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the CC engage Ibis Wildlife Consulting to perform an update of the Wiggin Farm-Tuttle Swamp Management Plan and that this project not exceed \$2,100.

Seconded: **Jeff Goldknopf**

Discussion: **Drew Kiefaber** and **Jeff Goldknopf** noted that the CC has been trying to get this project going for a long time...it's time!

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

The Chair will sign the agreement and return it to Ellen Snyder.

Wiggin Farm Boundary Maintenance: **Drew Kiefaber** will contact the surveyors to request bids to survey the boundary line.

Piscassic-Loiselle & Schanda Park Kiosks: The kiosks were substantially damaged. Rick Malasky was able to salvage the sign for the Schanda Park kiosk. Dick Lord, from the Lamprey River Advisory Committee, would like to help us and has provided the Chair a name of a local person who could make new kiosks. **Jeff Goldknopf** will call to get an estimate for two kiosks. The kiosks should be completed in March or April.

Bruce Fecteau suggested that the CC inspect and evaluate the condition of all of our kiosks.

Easement Monitoring Reports: All annual monitoring reports are complete. New Roots Farm was recently completed and **Drew Kiefaber** will mail the report before the end of January.

Dodd's Property: This property is located at the corner of Neal Mill Road and Grant Road. The SELT holds the easement and they have some concerns after their recent monitoring.

Updated Map of All Conservation Properties: **Patrick Reynolds** suggests that the CC consider updating the map of our conservation properties in Newmarket. A new map with more detail and information for parking, appropriate uses, etc. could then be posted to the website. There are several sources of information already available. **Jeff Goldknopf** and **Patrick Reynolds** agreed to work together on this project.

Ellen Snyder may be available to guide them in this process with the maps and information available at the Diamond Library at UNH.

Volunteer Projects: **Patrick Reynolds** works at Liberty Mutual. Every year Liberty Mutual organizes volunteers for local projects in the spring. He recommends that the CC propose an invasive plant removal project (or something like this). Liberty Mutual requests proposals by early April/late March. They usually don't assign fewer than five volunteers to a project. No power tools are allowed. If approved, the work would be completed during May.

Fishing Derby: **Patrick Reynolds** lives adjacent to the pond used for the annual Fishing Derby every June. Last year the pond had very little water as the dam below the pond was leaking water. The Fire Department lent some water pumps to the organizers to help move water up into the small pools to make it possible to fish. **Patrick Reynolds** would like to reach out to the Recreation Department Director to see if there might be anything that the CC could do to help them continue this annual event. A solution could be a challenge as the pond is located on private property and the CC may not use any funds on private property. The Recreation Department is welcome to attend any meeting if they feel that the CC could be of assistance.

9. Adjournment

Action

Motion: **Bruce Fecteau** moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: **Drew Kiefaber**

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary