

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 April 13, 2017

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Jeff Goldknopf (Chair), Drew Kiefaber (Vice Chair), Andrea Sellers (Treasurer), Ann LaFortune, Marianne Hannagan, Patrick Reynolds, Julia Sinclair (Alternate), and Casey Finch (Town Council Rep-Ex-Officio)

Members Absent: Planning Board Rep to be appointed

Called to Order: 7:02 PM

Agenda Items:

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

All present except the Planning Board Representative (to be appointed). Welcome to Casey Finch!

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**

Heron Point Wildlife Sanctuary: Mr. Dale Jones introduced himself to the commission. He recently moved to the Heron Point community in Newmarket and walks regularly in the Park. He wished to volunteer his efforts to work on any projects deemed necessary by the commission. The Chair received his email and contact information. Mr. Jones previously lived in Newbury, NH where the town recently purchased 98 acres. He helped develop a trail system. The CC thanked him and will be in touch with him very soon.

Newmarket Annual Fishing Derby 2017: Mr. Rich Heidt came before the Commission to discuss the 28th Annual Newmarket Fishing Derby 2017. The derby is scheduled for Saturday, June 17 from 7:00-10:30 am. The fish will be stocked on Thursday (400-500 fish). The location is looking very good this year because of proactive repairs on the dam. More information may be found at:

<http://www.newmarketrec.org/newmarket-annual-fishing-derby/>

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the Conservation Commission donate \$1,500 towards the purchase fish for the 2017 Fishing Derby.

Second: **Patrick Reynolds**

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

The members thanked Mr. Heidt for his dedicated work to make the derby an annual success!

The meeting returned to the agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

March 9, 2017:

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the minutes of March 9, 2017 be approved as drafted.

Second: **Ann LaFortune**

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

5. Treasurer's Report

Andrea Sellers, Treasurer, had nothing new to report this evening.

6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Town Council: **Casey Finch** had nothing new to report.

Planning Board: We do not have a Planning Board rep as yet.

Piscassic River-Loiselle Conservation Area Update: **Drew Kiefaber** and **Jeff Goldknopf** reported that they removed a fallen tree from a trail at Piscassic Loiselle.

7. Chairman's Report

Heron Point Sign: The new sign for Heron Point Sanctuary is ready and DPW is doing the installation. Thank you Mike Hoffman and DPW!

UNH Cooperative Extension: **Drew Kiefaber** has been contacted by the UNH Cooperative Extension to attend a meeting to discuss conservation in a changing climate and possible strategies for communities near the seacoast. Most likely they will attend the June meeting.

Coastal Viewer Training: **Drew Kiefaber** is currently scheduled to go to the training session on Wednesday, May 17. **Marianne Hannagan** may go as well. Other members expressed interest in signing up for the session. More information on Coastal Viewer is available at:

<http://www.granit.unh.edu/nhcoastalviewer/>

Turtle Crossing Signs: The Chair will contact DPW about putting the signs up as soon as possible. One post on Ash Swamp Road was removed in a car accident this winter and will need to be replaced.

LCHIP Check Received: A check has been received in the amount of \$400.00 for submitting monitoring reports in a timely manner and caring for properties that they help fund from LCHIP (Land and Community Heritage Investment Program) from the State of NH.

Underwood Engineers Request: Underwood Engineers sent a letter seeking a 60 day extension for the wetlands permit for the New Road project. NH F&G had some concerns.

NHDES Newsletter:

<http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/newsletters/en/documents/2017-may-jun.pdf>

8. Old/New Business (cont)

Schoppmeyer Park: The Chair reported on the Sub-Committee for the Schoppmeyer Park. They elected officers to make everything more formal. They have delivered a draft plan for the easements to the Town Attorney to prepare the easement deed. The CC will review the first draft at the next meeting. There was some discussion about a permanent bridge across the cove and it was dismissed as too expensive. They did decide to investigate a floating dock with a kayak launch in the middle. **Ann LaFortune** asked about taking the dock in and out each year as well as issues of storage. A storage unit may be required. They had a discussion about benches in the shoreland protection area and getting the appropriate approvals. The Sub-Committee would like input on signage for the road. **Drew Kiefaber** thought we could use the Heron

Point sign as a model. Dick Lord (LRAC) is helping with the sign design which will tie the Lamprey River to with Chris Schoppmeyer. The CC could ask Kevin Martin to design the kiosk. The Committee is considering a nice sitting area at the entrance which would create work to maintain.

Dearborn Property Update: **Drew Kiefaber** updated the CC on the status of the letter to the owner of the abutter property and the access requirements to the conservation land. The property is currently owned by the builder/developer. **Drew Kiefaber** has drafted a letter, distributed to the CC, made a few corrections, but has not sent the letter yet. He will do so shortly. The CC many consider sending the letter to all the abutters later once the property is surveyed.

Piscassic-Loiselle Kiosk: **Julia Sinclair** has done some wonderful work on this project. Thank you again Julia! Attached is a summary of the contacts made in getting estimates for creating the Piscassic-Loiselle Kiosk Maps. Among those contacted, Ellen Snyder has all the qualifications that we need. The Chair will speak with the Town Administrator and **Julia Sinclair** will contact Ellen to confirm the offer. The estimate by Ellen Snyder was approved in the Minutes of January 12, 2017:

“Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** made a motion to hire Ellen Snyder, Ibis Wildlife Consulting, to execute the proposal providing the data collection, map preparation, and interpretive text for the Piscassic-Loiselle kiosk does not exceed \$1500. This is contingent on this value meeting the upper limit required by the Town for an RFQ.

Second: **Ann LaFortune**

Friendly Amendment: **Jeff Goldknopf** requests that Ibis Wildlife Consulting provide us with an electronic copy of all data used in this preparation.

Second: **Ann LaFortune**

Vote: Approved 6-0-0 “

“Serve with Liberty” Day: **Patrick Reynolds** entered the project for this year and ‘made it happen’. The date is set for Friday, May 5 at 8:30 am at the parking lot at Piscassic-Loiselle. There are nine people signed up including **Patrick Reynolds** and **Julia Sinclair**. **Patrick Reynolds** plans to go out ahead of time to tag some plants with **Jeff Goldknopf**. The group would like to hear an overview about what the impact of this project is to the conservation land. **Patrick Reynolds** will take care of the food logistics this year and **Andrea Sellers** will borrow the 5-6 weed wrenches.

Schanda Park Maintenance: Mike Hoffman, Code Enforcement Officer, has contacted the Chair about the sea walls at Schanda Park. He would like to arrange a site walk with the CC members (at low tide) to evaluate the problems. This type of project would surely require permitting with NHDES. The Chair will send an email around to get some available times from members. The boat ramp should be evaluated at the same time.

Annual Conservation Commission Scholarship: The Conservation Commission Scholarship of \$1,000 is awarded to a graduating high school senior who is a resident of Newmarket and plans to major in an environmental/conservation related major in college. **Andrea Sellers** has set the deadline for Wednesday, May 10. The applications will be evaluated at the next meeting. The presentation will be made at the awards night before graduation by **Drew Kiefaber**.

Funding for Field Trips: The CC will send a reminder to the schools about available funds for environmentally related field trips. **Patrick Reynolds** was contacted by the working group at the Mill Space and they would like to partner with the CC in the future. They would like to post photos of our conservation areas in Newmarket.

Unlawful Camp Fire Sites: **Marianne Hannagan** has spotted camp fire activity off of Piscassic in the woods near the boat launch. She suggests that we post a sign on the kiosk prohibiting camp fires. She will look online for sample signs.

 Non-Public Session:

A motion to go into non-public session to discuss confidential matters related to real estate, pursuant for RSA 91-A:3, II(c) , was made by **Jeff Goldknopf**, seconded by **Drew Kiefaber**, and approved without discussion 6-0-0.

A motion to end the non-public session at 9:15 pm was made by **Drew Kiefaber**, seconded by **Ann LaFortune**, and approved without discussion 6-0-0. For this vote, **Julia Sinclair** was appointed to vote as an alternate for **Marianne Hannagan** who was called away at 8:27 pm.

A motion to seal the notes of the non-public session was made by **Drew Kiefaber**, seconded by **Jeff Goldknopf**, and approved without discussion 6-0-0.

9. Adjournment

Action

Motion: **Jeff Goldknopf** moved that the meeting be adjourned.
Second: **Drew Kiefaber**
Vote: Approved 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 PM.
 The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2017.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

Addendum – April 13, 2017

Summary of Contacts for Piscassic- Loiselles Kiosk Map Creation (details below contacts)

1/11/17 - Ellen Snyder (Ibis Wildlife Consulting) - proposal includes everything identified below for \$1,500 (separate vendor/invoice for large printing of aerial map \$300)

3/23/17 - Paul Mirto (Mirto Art Studio)

Proposal includes the development of the 8.5 x 11 maps portion of the needed work below. This portion would be \$400. Paul recommends working with Boy Scouts to possibly assist with gathering the needed data. This cost would not include the development of large aerial map or the interpretive text which we would have to provide ourselves.

3/29/17 JoAnne Trahan (used by LRAC) - unable to assist at this time

4/2/17 Kimberly Smith - (referred by JoAnne Trahan) Kimberly was interested in at least a portion(s) but did not respond with a proposal by the 4/12/17 deadline that I provided.

Details of needs:

• **Design of large map** (approximately 45" x 35") showing the Piscassic River-Loiselles Conservation Area and nearby conservation areas including the NH Audubon's Follett's Brook Sanctuaries. The Map will be produced in ArcGIS and exported as a pdf for printing. Features of the map will include the following:

- o Aerial photo as background
- o Conservation area property boundaries
- o Parking and kiosks
- o Trails
- o Key features such as gates, bridges, wetlands, other unique features
- o Interpretive text
 - **Interpretive text** that describes the conservation features, allowed uses, and guidelines; drafted in consultation with the Conservation Commission. The Interpretive text will be incorporated into the map production.
 - **A smaller map** (approximately 8 1/2 x 11 inches) with non-aerial background as handout at kiosk and download from town website; includes same features and interpretive text
 - **Gathering and processing of data:** some field work is needed to collect GPS data for import to the map. This includes property boundary, key features, trails

Julia Sinclair
April 14, 2017