

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 May 11, 2017

7:00 PM Council Chambers

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

Members Absent: Marianne Hannagan will take the oath before the next meeting of the Commission. Planning Board Rep to be appointed at a later date.

Called to Order: 7:09 PM

Agenda Items:

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

With the absence of **Marianne Hannagan**, **Julia Sinclair** was appointed as a voting member for the meeting.

3. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

4. **Approval of Minutes from the Meeting and Notes from the Non-Public Session**

April 13, 2017:

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that both the Minutes of March 9, 2017 and the Notes from the Non-Public Session of March 9, 2017 be approved as drafted.

Second: **Patrick Reynolds**

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Andrea Sellers, Treasurer, reviewed the financial statement with the members. The YTD balance is approximately \$243,000. The Chair is currently working on the Fishing Derby check request. The Schoppmeyer Park account is currently \$129,651.

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. The Chair stopped by the Planning Department. Planning wants input from the CC on zoning changes for the Proposed Assisted Living Overlay District. The Chair distributed copies for the members. The Chair had some concerns and will contact Diane Hardy presently about the time line for our comments. He will email all members with further information. The Chair announced that the PB will be asking a group from UNH to attend a meeting on a study completed (by a Ph.D. Student) on the Salt Water Intrusion into Private and Public Wells in Newmarket.

Drew Kiefaber reviewed the featured presentation (flyer is attached), "Findings from the Groundwater Modeling Report", which will be held on Tuesday, June 13 at 7:00 pm in the Town Council Chambers. The

initial report culminated in a final report titled “Sea-Level Rise Impacts on Drinking Water: a Groundwater Modeling Study in Newmarket, NH”. The aquifers of greatest concern are areas closest to the bay.

7. Chairman’s Report

Learning Opportunities: The Chair has sent them to the members.

Information Request from UNH GIS GRANIT Data Tracking on All Conservation Lands: Diane Hardy and the Chair completed several forms which were provided, but they were unable to complete the greater number. It will require a fair amount of work to provide this information. GRANIT is looking to update their database. *“GRANITview is a web-based mapping tool, initially released in April of 2014, offering New Hampshire's communities, agencies and organizations, and the general public access to a comprehensive collection of geospatial data archived in GRANIT. It includes data display, navigation, query, sketching, measuring, and printing tools. Our goal is to ensure that the data and related tools will be utilized to inform and expand decision-making at the local, regional, and statewide levels.”*

<http://www.granit.unh.edu/data/online/mapservices/mapservicesoverview.html#granitviewii> . After discussion among members, the Chair will email Ellen Snyder for information or suggestions on how the Commission and Planning Department might proceed with this request for information.

Heron Point: The Chair has not had an opportunity to meet with Dale Jones at Herron Point about future volunteer efforts, but he promises to do so very soon. **Patrick Reynolds** brought up the issue of resident complaints from the mobile home park about late night inappropriate use of the parking lot and noise (driving in and out i.e. lights/cars). The CC urges the residents to contact the police department as often as needed to report their concerns.

NH Lakes Congress: The NH Lakes 24th annual education, training, and networking event, will feature guest presenter Ron Guilmette, avid kayaker and author of *The Islands of Winnepesaukee*, on the evening of Thursday, June 1, and keynote presenter Dr. Wallace ‘J.’ Nichols, author of New York Times Bestseller *Blue Mind*, on Friday, June 2. More information is available at: <https://nhlakes.org/events/lakes-congress/>

Great Bay Matters Spring/Summer 2017: The Chair received a copy of the Spring/Summer 2017 edition. However, it is not available as yet online. <https://www.greatbay.org/index.htm>

8. Old/New Business

Boulder Creek Subdivision - Dame Road: Mike Hoffman, Town Code Enforcement Officer, has brought to the attention of the Chair that there has been an encroachment into the buffer at the Subdivision and two trees were removed (one 10” hardwood and the other 20” white pine). The CC members expressed great disappointment as the developer was granted a reduced buffer and something like this should not have occurred. The developer is offering to do some tree plantings as a remedy. The CC members discussed fines and better methods of flagging the buffer. The Code Enforcement Officer is asking for input from the CC. The CC will plan a site walk with Mike Hoffman as soon as possible to assess the damage and consider options. The Chair will get back to Mike Hoffman to set a date and time.

Serve with Liberty: **Patrick Reynolds** reported that the day was a great success! **Julia Sinclair**, **Jeff Goldknopf**, and **Drew Kiefaber** were also so helpful. **Jeff Goldknopf** and **Drew Kiefaber** prepared a great educational talk that was well received by the enthusiastic work crew – thank you all! **Patrick Reynolds** plans to send a big thank you email to the crew. They removed all the marked burning bush and barberry plus so much more. They visited the vernal pool and discovered a wood duck with her nest of eggs near the boulder. The multi-flora rose (8-10’) was removed from the water! Many thanks to the DPW for the shovels. The Chair will ask the Town Administrator to put a special thank you to Liberty Mutual in the town newsletter. The Commission is looking forward to next year and perhaps we can get two groups working (maybe at Wiggin Farm and Piscassic-Loiselle again).

Schoppmeyer Park: Jeff Goldknopf reported on the recent meeting of the Schoppmeyer Park committee.

1) They are considering a floating dock system with a T-shape in the middle (rollers for kayak launch not included in price yet). This system will cost approximately \$16,000. It will cost \$500-600 per year for maintenance/storage twice per year. They would like to put it closer to the river. **Patrick Reynolds** brought up the permitting request required for the dock. The next meeting will be in two weeks. **Jeff Goldknopf** will bring up the permitting status at that time. 2) Elizabeth Dudley, Elizabeth Dudley Landscape Architecture from Newmarket, has volunteered to prepare the site design including the entrance and sitting area next to the parking area. <http://www.elizabethdudleyla.com/>. 3) The DOT has begun excavation for drainage on their easement on the property. 4) The parking lot fence will not be split rail as discussed previously, but will now be granite posts intermittently spaced along the northern boundary. They will cost \$250/ea. plus installation fees. 5) Dick Lord, from LRAC, has been working on the sign design (map and stories) for the kiosk. 6) The Town Administrator has verified that the Schoppmeyer Committee does not need to vote on expenditures from their account because they are spending donated funds. 7) The draft deed has been circulated and members are ready to discuss.

Schoppmeyer Park Draft Deed: The Chair had several comments on the draft deed language. 1) The signage size requirement was listed at 24 sq.ft. (6 x 4') which is smaller than our other kiosks. 2) The CC will be required to develop a written management plan and there are several items listed in the draft deed that would need to be included in the plan. This plan may be written by a professional. 3) An item of concern is that we would be required to mow the property two times per year. The CC would like to make a recommendation that the mowing be done once, late in the year, after the bird season. 4) The CC will be required to maintain the entrance from Rt. 108. 5) The Recreation Department has requested that a porta potty be placed near the parking area on special camp weeks. Temporary screening shall be provided. The Chair will make suggestions for changes in the language of the draft deed. He requests that members review the deed further and submit any comments to him as soon as possible.

Schanda Park Maintenance: The Commission has completed the site walk with Mike Hoffman, Code Enforcement Officer, at Schanda Park. The sea wall is failing in many places. The next step is to remedy the situation. Mike suggested contacting Waterfront Engineers, LLC in Stratham to get a starting point – i.e. input on how to proceed. The Chair will also contact Phil MacDonald at Underwood Engineers, <http://underwoodengineers.com/>, and the Town Administrator for discussions as to how best to proceed with a priority given to safety issues.

Action

Motion: Jeff Goldknopf moved that the Town Administrator proceed with purchasing an easement for the creation of Schoppmeyer Park from the Newmarket Community Church using the deed before us as amended. Should the deed be further amended such that it effects the Conservation Commission interests, a special meeting of the Conservation Commission shall be convened for a re-vote on these changes.

Second: Andrea Sellers

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

Piscassic-Loiselle Kiosk: Julia Sinclair reports that Ellen Snyder is pleased with our kiosk mapping contract and will have a draft ready for the July 13 meeting.

Dearborn Property: Drew Kiefaber will be sending the letter discussed at the last meeting shortly.

Election of Conservation Commission Officers for 2017-2018:

Chair:

Action

Motion: Jeff Goldknopf nominated **Drew Kiefaber** to serve as Chair.

Second: Patrick Reynolds

Vote: Approved 5-0-1

Vice-Chair:

Action

Motion: Drew Kiefaber nominated **Patrick Reynolds** to serve as Vice-Chair.

Second: Ann LaFortune

Vote: Approved 5-0-1

Treasurer:

Action

Motion: Julia Sinclair nominated **Andrea Sellers** to serve as Treasurer.

Second: Ann LaFortune

Vote: Approved 5-0-1

Conservation Commission Annual Scholarship 2017: Andrea Sellers reported that, unfortunately, no applications have been submitted for the scholarship this year. She will check again on Monday with the High School staff to see if there are any new applications.

9. Adjournment

Action

Motion: Drew Kiefaber moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Second: Andrea Sellers

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM.
The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 8, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

Addendum

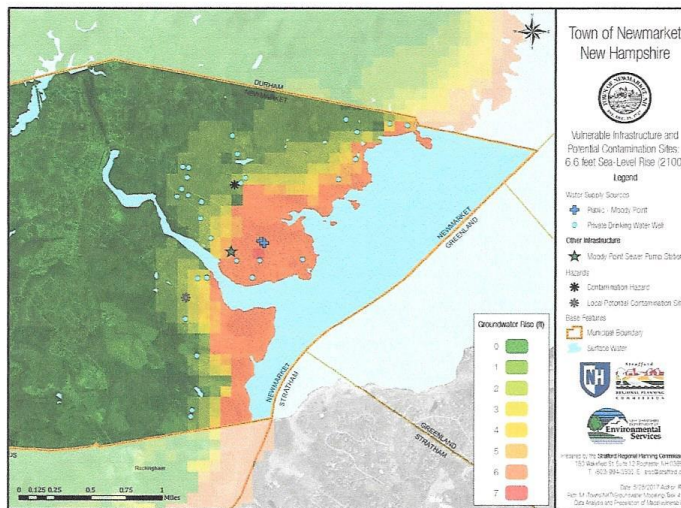


Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. Town Council Chambers Presentation at 7:15 P.M.

FEATURED PRESENTATION

Findings from the Groundwater Modeling Report

You're invited to attend the next Newmarket Planning Board meeting for a special presentation by the Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) on the results from a recently completed groundwater modeling study.



In 2016, SRPC partnered with staff from the University of New Hampshire to implement a groundwater modeling study to identify existing and potential future locations where public water systems may be vulnerable to sea-level rise impacts.

This project culminated in a final report titled, "Sea-Level Rise Impacts on Drinking Water: A Groundwater Modeling Study in Newmarket, NH" and the results will be presented to the Planning Board by Principal Regional Planner, Kyle Pimental and GIS Planner, Rachael Mack of the Strafford Regional Planning Commission. The presentation will provide a brief overview of the project, the computer model and sea-level rise projections that were used, specific outcomes, and recommended adaptation strategies for the town to consider.

This project was funded through the NHDES Local Source Water Protection Grant Program.

For more information on the meeting contact Diane Hardy at dhardy@newmarketnh.gov.

