

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 July 13, 2017

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Drew Kiefaber (Chair), Patrick Reynolds (Vice Chair), Jeff Goldknopf, Julia Sinclair (alternate), Rose-Anne Kwaks (Planning Board Rep), and Casey Finch (Town Council Rep-Ex-Officio)

Welcome back to **Rose-Anne Kwaks** as the new Planning Board Representative! She served previously as a Member of the Conservation Commission and as the Planning Board Representative to the CC.

Members Absent: Andrea Sellers (Treasurer), Marianne Hannagan, Ann LaFortune were absent. The Chair appointed **Julia Sinclair** as a voting member for this evening.

Called to Order: 7:06 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

June 8, 2017:

Action

Motion: Drew Kiefaber moved that the minutes of June 8, 2017 be approved as drafted.

Second: Patrick Reynolds

Vote: Approved 4-0-1

June 19, 2017 (site visit at Schanda Park with a quorum):

Action

Motion: Drew Kiefaber moved that the minutes of June 19, 2017 submitted by Jeff Goldknopf as written appending of the notes written by Rose-Anne Kwaks attached.

Second: Jeff Goldknopf

Vote: Approved 4-0-1

5. Treasurer's Report

The Chair reviewed the financial report from the business office. A property recently came out of current use in the U2 zone, so back taxes were paid to the Town (50%) and the CC received 50%. Current Fund Balance YTD: \$265,864.37. There were a few questions that the CC had with the fund report, so the Chair will email the business office to make inquiries.

6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Town Council: Casey Finch reported on a recent meeting of the Council on June 21. Topics discussed included paving in town, signage, updating the sewer plan from the 1970's (draft version is approximately 60 pgs.), and surveying the Dam for possible stabilization.

Planning Board: **Rose-Anne Kwaks** reported that Kyle Pimental, Principal Regional Planner at the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, attended the last meeting to discuss the storm water ordinances that need updating along with updates on the MS4 requirements

(<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/stormwater/documents/epa-final-2017-ms4-pres.pdf>). New Hampshire Setting SAIL (Science, Assessment, Implementation, and Legislation

Recommendations) program includes all the seacoast communities.

Schoppmeyer Park Committee: **Jeff Goldknopf** reported on the June 20 meeting of the Schoppmeyer Park Committee. The property sale has been closed, survey finalized and recorded, and the parking area has been built. The stone posts have been ordered along with a kidney-shaped bench for the proposed entrance garden area (to be designed by Elizabeth Dudley (<http://www.elizabethdudleyla.com/>)). Dick Lord, LRAC, is working on the kiosk signage and Kevin Martin will likely build and install the kiosk. An 8x8" granite post for the sign by the entry on Rt. 108 has been ordered and progress is being made on the sign to hang from a metal bracket. The committee is still looking into the docking system and requirements from DES. At some point a management plan will be required.

7. Chairman's Report

Communication: The Chair received an email from an intern with LCHIP, Andrew Healy, who is planning a site walk at Piscassic River Loiselle on July 19 at 1:00 pm. He has asked that someone from the CC attend. The Chair will forward the email to members to try to find a volunteer to go with the intern.

8. Old/New Business

Recreation Department Schanda Park Usage Request: The Recreation Department would like to reserve the park for July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 for the "Arts in the Park" concerts from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm (or until dark). These concerts are open to the public and free.

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moves that the Recreation Department be allowed to use Schanda Park on July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 for the "Arts in the Park" concerts from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Second: **Jeff Goldknopf**

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moves that the Recreation Department be allowed to use Schanda Park August 18 (for set up) and 19th for the "Lamprey River Splash and Dash". The programs are open to all.

Second: **Julia Sinclair**

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

More information on the "Splash and Dash" maybe found at: <http://www.newmarketrec.org/lamprey-river-splash-dash/>

Schanda Park Maintenance: The minutes of the site walk outline the safety concerns regarding the conditions of the retaining walls and areas around the park. A sturdy snow fence and signage needs to be placed to protect the public from dangerous areas. The CC should ask Rick Malasky to walk down there with Mike Hoffman to determine at risk areas. **Casey Finch** mentioned that Moonlight Brook is undermining the trees on the edge of the Brook – it is washing out. **Patrick Reynolds** also mentioned the erosion along the boat launch area. The CC does not believe that a management plan exists for this property. **Rose-Anne Kwaks** had a list of suggestions: 1) ask Fish and Game to attend a meeting to discuss the boat launch, 2) ask

LRAC to a meeting, 3) contact Judy Ryan from the condo association what her riprap cost, 4) find out how the park is designated to determine if there is additional funding available, and 5) find out who is responsible for the private side of Moonlight Creek. **Rose-Anne Kwaks** has agreed to pursue these issues for the CC. Thank you **Rose-Anne!** **Jeff Goldknopf** will look at the files at Doucet Survey for footprint pictures, and possible drone pictures printed to scale. The current Schanda Park fund is \$764.31. The Chair pointed to 1) an immediate need to contact DPW for fencing and signage and that 2) there are shorter and longer term needs concerning the conditions discovered and the future state of the park. The CC will reach out to all stake holders to propose a means to correct the park deterioration.

Dearborn Property - Survey: **Drew Kiefaber** has had discussions with Steve Walker, OEPD, and the abutter to have the Dearborn Property surveyed. The portions of the property abutting residential properties must be surveyed in order to grant the abutter a formal easement on the deed. The Chair has agreed to write a proposal for the surveying required at the Dearborn Property and send it out to at least three companies for bids.

Piscassic-Loiselle Kiosk: **Julia Sinclair** said that Ellen Snyder expects to have a draft of the maps for the Piscassic-Loiselle kiosk ready for the next meeting.

More Turtle Signage Needed: Recently **Jeff Goldknopf's** wife rescued a wounded Blanding's turtle on Ash Swamp Road near the golf course. The crew from The Center for Wildlife in Cape Neddick, ME (<http://www.centerforwildlife.org/>) were not able to save her, but they did harvest 14 eggs. NH F&G has agreed to re-settle the young turtles in the same area when they are ready. Jeff asked DPW to put a few more signs up and they did it the next day! Thank you to Rick at the DPW and the Goldknopfs! Any sighting of endangered species should be reported to the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau.

Other: Thanks to DPW for mowing the Wiggin Farm and also a big thanks to Tom Loiselle for mowing the path at Piscassic Loiselle. **Patrick Reynolds** reminded the CC that the Mill has offered space to display pictures of our conservation properties to help promote conservation efforts in Newmarket. **Jeff Goldknopf** was contacted by DPW about an incident at Herron Point as someone had taken a vehicle down the path. He asked DPW to drop boulders there to prevent recurrence.

9. Adjournment

Action

Motion: **Patrick Reynolds** moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Second: **Drew Kiefaber**

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8.27 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 10, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary