

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 September 14, 2017

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Drew Kiefaber (Chair), Patrick Reynolds (Vice Chair), Jeff Goldknopf, Marianne Hannagan, Ann LaFortune, and Julia Sinclair (alternate).

Members Absent: Andrea Sellers (Treasurer), Rose-Anne Kwaks (Planning Board Rep), and Casey Finch (Town Council Rep-Ex-Officio) all excused.

Called to Order: 7:02 PM

The Chair apologized for not sending the agenda out in advance and for any confusion that this may have caused members or the public.

The Chair also wanted to note the passing of a dear friend and former member, Fred Pearson, on August 19. He was a long time member of the community and served the Town of Newmarket in many capacities. One position that he loved most was serving on the Conservation Commission. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. The Chair asked for a moment of silence

<http://www.kentandpelczarfh.com/obituary/frederick-pearson-iii-phd>

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

The Chair appointed **Julia Sinclair** to serve as a voting member this evening.

3. Public Comments

Geoff Cunningham, 264 Grant Road, asked to speak. His property abuts the Wiggin Farm. He and his family enjoy the use of the farm often. He is a avid photographer. Two days ago he noticed that the Town had begun to mow the field. The field is currently filled with endangered Monarch butterflies. He contacted the Town and they told him to contact DPW. DPW continued the mowing this morning and after calling the Town again, he was told that the mowing would cease, but he would need to contact the CC and 'go on the record'. He provided the CC with literature on the correct time (no sooner than Oct. 1) to mow fields for Monarchs. He showed the CC pictures that he had taken. **Jeff Goldknopf** discussed the date of September 15 which was set in the management plan of 2010. The Chair will email the DPW tonight to delay the mowing until later. If it cannot be delayed for some reason, the Chair will ask that DPW avoid the milk weed areas. We thanked him very much for coming to the meeting and for his dedication to conservation lands.

The Chair asked to revise the agenda for guests to make presentations. There was no objection.

8. Old/New Business

Schoppmeyer Park: Richie Shelton, Chair of the Schoppmeyer Park Committee, has come before the CC to gain approval for the proposed entrance garden. There are three proposals for the garden and the SPC seeks advice as the CC will be the long-term steward. The garden committee members, Ellen Snyder, Terri Schoppmeyer, and Elizabeth Dudley, were present this evening. The goal for the garden has not changed. They wish to have a central pollinator garden and design two paths—one being a 'universal design' to accommodate access. Nuances to the final design will take place once a contractor is chosen. The Chair of

SPC will be calling a meeting for next week. The Chair summarized the discussion to highlight the CC desires for the garden to include: 1) native species, 2) perennials, 3) universal access, and 4) ease of long-term stewardship. Russell Pope, Artist-Blacksmith and owner of Elements of Steel in Newmarket, is creating the sign bracket for the granite post on Rt. 108, but the park sign will not be hung until the formal opening of the Park. The Chair thanked them all for attending the meeting this evening and for their time and continued efforts in creating this beautiful memorial park.

Piscassic River/Loiselle Conservation Area Kiosk: Ellen Snyder, Ibis Wildlife Consulting, sent the maps to members seeking comments. The Property Map and the Text should be sent together to Infinite Imaging (45 x 35"), but the Locus Map should be a separate smaller sign primarily because there may be future changes. She has reached out to Phil Brown, Director of Land Management at NH Audubon, to add Smith Sisters to the Piscassic River/Loiselle maps and to ask if the Locus Map could be posted at the Smith Sisters Audubon property, but has not heard back yet. **Jeff Goldknopf** asked to put distance points of the trail and on the legend. She was asked to add 'no fires'. **Jeff Goldknopf** has a Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) sign and a pet waste sign to post ('Dog waste pollutes our rivers. Please scoop poop') to post on the kiosk. The waste removal sign should go up as soon as possible. Ellen will contact Mike Hoffman to get the Town logo that she needs. **Jeff Goldknopf** will send Ellen several beautiful pictures taken on the property to use. Ellen will email everyone the revisions from tonight and then she will take it to Infinite Imaging and get the proof for review. Thank you Ellen!

Wiggin Farm Mowing: Ellen Snyder suggested that the CC members should go out to the site in late August with DPW staff to discuss the proper date for the fall management (i.e. mowing) each year – based on conditions. Identifying and mapping the milkweed patches for the mowing crew would be helpful.

The meeting returned to the agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

July 13, 2017:

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the minutes of July 13, 2017 be approved as drafted.

Second: **Ann LaFortune**

Vote: Approved 5-0-1

August 10, 2017:

Action

Motion: **Jeff Goldknopf** moved that the minutes of August 10, 2017 be approved as drafted.

Second: **Julia Sinclair**

Vote: Approved 5-0-1

5. Treasurer's Report

Although not present at the meeting this evening, **Andrea Sellers**, Treasurer, sent the financial report to CC members by email. There were not comments or concerns.

6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

No reports by the Planning Board Rep or the Town Council Rep.

Schoppmeyer Park Committee: **Jeff Goldknopf** reported that the new sign is done and is beautiful!

Storm Water Steering Committee: **Patrick Reynolds** said that a second meeting is scheduled for next week.

Thank you Patrick!

7. Chairman's Report

Coastal Viewer GIS Training: Drew Kiefaber, Patrick Reynolds and Diane Hardy, Town Planner, all attended the training. Presenters were from UNH, DES, and the Nature Conservancy. The New Hampshire Coastal Viewer is an online mapping tool that for the first time brings together new and existing hazards data in NH's coastal watershed. Examples of this data include field-tested salt marsh data, floodplains, storm surge and sea-level rise information, infrastructure, and culvert data. Anyone with an internet connection can access the Viewer to make customized maps for planning and educational purposes. **Patrick Reynolds** provided the web address: <http://www.nhcoastalviewer.org/> Free user ID is available to all.

8. Old/New Business

Schanda Park Maintenance: Safety fencing has been installed by DPW. **Julia Sinclair** will reach out to Mike Hoffman about his conversation with Underwood Engineers about repairs. She will copy **Rose-Anne Kwaks** on the email because she agreed at the last meeting to get in touch with Fish & Game about repairs to the boat ramp.

Dearborn Property - Survey: **Drew Kiefaber** is still updating the materials to send to at least three surveyors for bids. He will incorporate all the suggestions made at past meetings.

Access from Neal Mill Road: **Patrick Reynolds** reported changes to the parking at the end of Neal Mill Road. The new owners of the property ask that users of the Neal Mill Road trails please park on the roadway and not in the parking area adjacent to the pottery studio.

Heron Point Sanctuary: The Chair would like to reach out to the HOA Board of the Herron Point Estates Cooperative to open a line of communication. He would like to find a way to address their concerns, seek solutions, and maintain public access to the Sanctuary. The members agreed.

9. Adjournment

Action

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

Second: **Marianne Hannagan**

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary