

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 March 15, 2018

7:00 PM Council Chambers

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

Members Absent: Andrea Sellers (Treasurer), Cris Blackstone (Alternate), Julia Sinclair (Alternate), and Rose-Anne Kwaks (Planning Board Rep)

Called to Order: 7:05 PM

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

3. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

February 8, 2018:

Action

Motion: Jeff Goldknopf moved that the Minutes of February 8, 2018 be approved as drafted.

Second: Drew Kiefaber

Vote: Approved 3-0-2

Action

Motion: Drew Kiefaber moved that the Non-Public Notes of February 8, 2018 be approved as drafted.

Second: Patrick Reynolds

Vote: Approved 3-0-2

5. **Treasurer's Report**

The Chair passed copies of the budget around to members for discussion. The Chair was in touch with Janice Murray at the Jr/Sr HS and he will submit the check request approved at the previous meeting for the field trip to the NE Aquarium in Boston. Jeff Goldknopf reported that LCHIP (NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program) has sent the CC the check for \$400 for monitoring. The money will be deposited directly into the conservation fund. There were funds deposited on February 12, 2018 for three properties (362, 366, & 370 Grant Road) for current use @ \$5,750 each (total of \$17,250). The Chair will contact the Finance Office to see that the dues for the NH Association of Conservation Commissions be entered correctly under the appropriate fund (\$363.00 – approved by the CC in October 12, 2017). There were no other comments.

6. **Committee and Subcommittee Reports**

Town Council: Casey Finch reported that the TC has contracted with the Energy Efficient Investment Inc. to complete an energy audit for the Town. The report and recommendations will be completed and presented in early April to the TC. Work completed so far includes the replacement of heaters in the Community

Center and the Fire Department. Also, the Fourth Annual Roadside Clean-up is scheduled for April 29, 2018 from 1:00-4:00 pm. All those interested in volunteering should gather at 12:45 pm at the Newmarket Elementary School parking lot.

Planning Board: No report this meeting.

Energy and Environment Advisory Committee: Jeff Goldknopf reported that Elijah Garrison from ReVision Energy gave a two hour presentation at the meeting last Tuesday. There are many towns in the area who have solar arrays. At the next meeting there will be discussion with the Facilities Director, Greg Marles, about the energy audit for the Town. The Committee is looking to have the “NHSaves Button Up Program” make a presentation (<https://www.nhsaves.com/residential/nhsaves-button-up-workshop-series-announced/>) . Some of the Committee items under discussion, like the mission statement, will be posted on the Town website. With Jeff Goldknopf stepping down this month, a new representative will be needed for this committee. They meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

Schoppmeyer Park: Jeff Goldknopf reported that the dock permitting process has begun and permitting is being prepared by Marc Jacobs, Doucet Survey Inc. Patrick Reynolds mentioned that, although the process to volunteer is not open just yet, several people have asked him about the possibility of working at Schoppmeyer Park on the “Serve with Liberty” work day. Jeff Goldknopf will ask the Chair of the Schoppmeyer Park Committee, Richie Shelton, if there may be need at this time.

Serve with Liberty Day: Patrick Reynolds has agreed to contact Phil Auger at the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) to borrow the tools required for our projects. Marianne Hannagan, Jeff Goldknopf, Drew Kiefaber, and Patrick Reynolds have all agreed to help on the May 4.

Storm Water Planning Meeting: Patrick Reynolds reported that Kyle Pimental, Principal Regional Planner for the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, came to the Planning Board meeting to discuss Storm Water Planning. The meeting was very long. Please refer to the draft minutes of the PB from February 13, 2018. <https://www.newmarketnh.gov/planning-board/minutes/draft-minutes-17>

7. Chairman’s Report

Schanda Park Request – Recreation Department “Arts in the Park”: The Recreation Department has requested use of Schanda Park again this year for the ‘Arts in the Park’ concert program on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:00 pm on July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, August 7, 14, 21, and 28.

Action

Motion: Anne LaFortune made a motion for the CC to approve the request for the use of Schanda Park on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:00 pm on July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, August 7, 14, 21, and 28.

Second: Jeff Goldknopf

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

Annual Splash and Dash 3K Kayak Race: As this event is based on the tides, the Rec Dept. is still trying to pin down the best date. Right now they would like to reserve all day for this event on either July 28, August 11, or 25. These are the only dates when the tides work for the race this summer. Once able to pin down the best day, Aimee Gigandet will email the CC to release the other dates. She expects to have the date pinned down in the next month.

Action

Motion: Drew Kiefaber moved that the CC approve the request for the use of Schanda Park for the “Annual Splash and Dash 3K Kayak Race” for either July 28, August 11, or 25. Two of these dates will be released as soon as we are notified.

Second: Marianne Hannagan

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

The Chair will communicate the decisions to Aimee Gigandet.

Potential Park Near the Fish Ladder (Tax Map U-2, Lot 364): The Chair spoke with the Town Planner, Diane Hardy, about the proposed renovations to the Macallen Dam and, in particular, the flood gates. There is likely to be work done on the flood gates and also some work on the northern side near the Durham Book Exchange building. The small piece of property just upstream of the Book Exchange may have some work done and it may also become a publicly accessible space. There may be some grant money available for this work and she has been tasked by the TC to investigate these funds. The TC has had a presentation by the Macallen Dam Committee showing three different mock-ups of possible plans. They hope to begin work in the Fall during the scheduled water draw down. At this time, the source of funding is unknown.

Turtle Surveying/Monitoring: The Chair received a letter requesting approval for the NH F&G to conduct Blanding's and Spotted Turtle Surveys on several of our Town owned properties:

"The NH Fish & Game Department is seeking permission to access the **Tuttle Swamp** (168-103), **Fisk Tract** (169-116), **Rt. 152 Parcel** (169-051), **Hilton CE** (169-201), and **Schanda Farm Open Space** (169-054) in Newmarket for the purpose of monitoring Blanding's and Spotted turtle populations in NH. This monitoring effort will occur from April to September 2018 as part of a regional project involving NH, ME, MA, NY, and PA (Blanding's) and from ME to FL (Spotted). **We are in the process of monitoring known priority populations and seeking landowner permission.** What is the purpose of the monitoring? We will be surveying areas where we know that Blanding's and Spotted turtles occur based on previous surveying efforts. Monitoring results will be used to detect changes in populations over time and inform conservation management strategies. What species will be captured? Our target will be to capture Blanding's and Spotted turtles known to occur on the site. Other types of turtles may be captured in traps during sampling as well. All species will be released unharmed. What will monitoring involve? Monitoring will involve the use of live capture turtle traps. These traps look like large minnow traps and are placed at the edges of wetlands. We will trap a given site for 3, 12-day events. Traps will be placed at wetland edges and will not interfere with recreation, forestry, or other activities on properties. A portion of the trap will be visible above water to allow turtles to breathe. All traps will be labeled with a NHF&G tag with contact information. Turtles will be removed from traps and released after biological data are collected including sex, weight, and shell measurements. In addition, some turtles will be tracked using radio-telemetry to observe movements across the landscape and identify nesting areas."

Action

Motion: Jeff Goldknopf made a motion for the CC to grant permission to NH F&G to conduct the requested Blanding's and Spotted Turtle Survey in Newmarket on Town owned properties.

Second: Anne LaFortune

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

Letter from NHDES to the Commission and the Town: The Chair received a letter from NHDES regarding the approval of the wetland permit application for the property along New Road (Tax Map/Lot #U3-47). The application must now be approved by the Governor and the Executive Council because the nature of this project. This project was discussed previously by the CC at the December 14, 2017 meeting.

Received a Copy of a Letter from Stefanie Giallongo -NHDES Office in Portsmouth: The letter was written to Colin White, Board Member from the Crossings at Sleepy Hollow Cooperative. The Board has withdrawn the wetlands permit application. This application was discussed at the February 8, 2018 meeting of the CC with Chris Albert from Jones & Beach Engineers Inc.

Received a Copy of a Letter from LRAC Regarding the Wetlands Permit for a Dock at 14 Birch Lane: LRAC had many of the same comments that the CC discussed at the February 8, 2018 meeting. They also have specific concerns about the elevated walkway.

Invoice Received from Infinite Imaging: The Chair received the invoice from Infinite Imaging for the sign work order for \$291.55. He will pass this invoice on to the Treasurer for check request processing.

Rockingham County Conservation District: The Chair received a copy of a flyer from the Rockingham County Conservation District outlining Natural Resource Services for Municipalities. They also sent a copy of the Annual Report for 2017. More information may be found at: <http://www.rockinghamccd.org/>.

8. Old/New Business

Piscassic River/Loiselle Property Kiosk: The Commission unwrapped the BEAUTIFUL signs for the Piscassic/Loiselle Kiosk. **Thank you for all of your hard work, JULIA SINCLAIR!** Jeff Goldknopf brought the broken pieces of the 2003 sign that was destroyed by a Fielding's oil truck this winter. The CC has taken pictures of the damage. Jeff Goldknopf also brought in four brand new turtle crossing signs (the Blanding's signs) that he had stored. Drew Kiefaber will take the kiosk signs home and then email for help to install the signs on the kiosk.

Schanda Park Repair-Maintenance: This item is postponed until Phil MacDonald is available.

Dearborn Property-Survey: This item is postponed until the weather clears and Scott Boudreau is available.

Heron Point Sanctuary – Ongoing: The Chair met with Steve Fournier and he is interested in investigating an automated gate. The Chair will contact the NHACC to see if other commissions have had any previous experience with automated gates. Steve will post something on a NH Town Administrator website/blog.

Silverman Schneer Easement Violation: A letter has been received in response to our letter to the property owner at 41 Neal Mill Road. The property owner will attend the April 12 meeting to discuss this matter with the Commission.

Elections of Officers for 2018 – Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer: This item is postponed until the April 12, meeting when more members will be present.

Note-Members Leaving: Many thanks to Jeff Goldknopf for his tireless dedication to the Conservation Commission as a Member, Vice Chair, and Chair over the past nine years! We would also like to thank Julia Sinclair, who is stepping away from the Commission, as a truly devoted and enthusiastic Alternate. The Commission also cannot fail to mention the true commitment of Drew Kiefaber for his many years of membership on the Commission as a Member, Vice Chair, and Chair. He has agreed to remain as an Alternate for two years and the Commission is truly grateful!

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 Drew Kiefaber, seconded by Anne LaFortune, and approved 5-0-0 at 8:44 pm.

A motion to end the non-public session at 9:11 pm was made by Drew Kiefaber, seconded by Marianne Hannagan, and approved 5-0-0.

A motion to seal the notes of the non-public session was made by **Drew Kiefaber**, seconded by **Anne LaFortune**, and approved 5-0-0.

9. Adjournment

Action

Motion: **Patrick Reynolds** moved that the meeting be adjourned.
Second: **Marianne Hannagan**
Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.
The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2018.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary