

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 October 11, 2018

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Patrick Reynolds (Chair), Marianne Hannagan (Vice Chair), Ann LaFortune (Treasurer), Cris Blackstone, Drew Kiefaber (Alternate), Sarah Finch (Planning Board Rep) and Casey Finch (Town Council Rep - Ex-Officio)

Members Absent: Sam Kenney and Andrea Sellers

Called to Order: 7:00 PM

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

The Chair appointed **Drew Kiefaber** as a voting member this evening.

3. Public Comments

In order to accommodate several visitors this evening, the Chair moved item #5 from Old/New Business.

Moody Point Permit: Zachary Taylor from Riverside & Pickering Marine came before the CC this evening to represent the Moody Point Community Association (MPCA). They have been working for nearly two years with Riverside & Pickering, the NHDES (Dave Price), the NH Natural Heritage Bureau (Amy Lamb, Department of Natural & Cultural Resources), and NH Fish & Game to prepare a shoreline stabilization plan for the property along the Great Bay and the Lamprey River. They filed their permit with NHDES today. They plan to stabilize three areas: 1) a small pocket to the northern side of the screen house, 2) a pocket to the south of the screen house, and 3) one smaller section along the southwestern side of the point. NH Fish & Game and NH Natural Heritage will plant some trees to replace trees which need to be removed as described in the application. They plan a 'living shoreline design' which is created by anchoring core logs (coconut fiber inside jute netting) along the shoreline with specific native plantings in between to give them an opportunity to take hold and thrive. They made this plan to specifically protect the large marsh elder groupings along the Lamprey. The marsh elder naturally grows in the mid to high salt marsh-estuarine area, back dunes, and on muddy sea shores. They plan to pin larger stones to the hard ledge. Trish Simon, 510 Cushing Road, offered to show any members the area and to answer any questions or concerns. The Chair thanked her for the offer. **Drew Kiefaber** asked about the area under the dock and was told that the dock has an existing structure (a bulkhead) which protects erosion beneath. **Drew Kiefaber** believes that this is a reasonable project, understands the concerns of future erosion and keeping sedimentation under control, and also that this project seems like a very good idea.

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the Conservation Commission write a letter to NHDES recommending approval of the application for the Moody Point Community Association.

Second: **Ann LaFortune**

Vote: 6-0-0

The Chair will write the letter and send a copy to the Riverside & Pickering office. We thank all the MPCA members for attending this evening.

4. Approval of Minutes

September 13, 2018

Action

Motion: Patrick Reynolds moved that the minutes of September 13, 2018

Second: Cris Blackstone

Vote: Approved 4-0-2 (Ann LaFortune and Marianne Hannagan abstained)

5. Treasurer's Report

Ann LaFortune reviewed the July, August, and September financial report. The current fund balance has gone up a little to \$310,108. The \$1,000 scholarship to UNH was initially taken from the wrong account, but has been corrected. We have not seen the expenditure for the Herron Point sign as yet and the Chair will check on the progress on that purchase with Mike Hoffman.

6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Town Council: **Casey Finch** reported that the TC has spun off two new subcommittees: 1) Energy & Environment Subcommittee (EES) hopes to plan a future composting pilot program and 2) Water Rights Subcommittee (WRS) will establish a Rights Based Ordinance (RBO) to protect water rights in town. The WRS will meet next on October 24. He asked the TC about establishing a Schanda /Schoppmeyer Park Subcommittee, but it was decided that the CC should do this. The TA suggested that the CC turn over the maintenance of both parks to the town. This will be discussed further in this meeting.

Planning Board: **Sarah Finch** had nothing new to report.

Schanda Park Subcommittee Formation: **Patrick Reynolds** went down to the Park at low tide and took a close look at the degradation of the wall. He suggest that the CC divide up the corrective plan into three components: 1) stabilization i.e. the engineering component, 2) meeting Shoreline Protection Act requirements, and 3) the political aspect of turning the Park over to the Town with the possibility of them using CIP Funds to help with the cost of repairs. **Marianne Hannagan** has offered to investigate the deed for any restrictions. **Casey Finch** believes that we need to start a conversation with the TA about whether or not the Town could take over the Park. The Chair has agreed to ask and will report back at the next meeting. Since Schoppmeyer Park still has not created a management plan, we won't know what they may need in the long term.

Schoppmeyer Park Committee: The SPC submitted a report to the Chair for this meeting. They are still working on the vision for the Park as-well-as the Management Plan. They are moving forward with a lighted flag pole project. The Boy Scouts are volunteering for some heavy clean-up work. The dock company is planning a date to show the DPW how to maintain the dock i.e. remove and replace. Currently the fence issue with the neighbor to the north has been resolved with string and some little signs placed between the granite posts.

7. Chairman's Report

Mail Received:

Great Bay Matters: The Fall 2018 Great Bay Matters will be posted shortly at :

https://www.greatbay.org/about/greatbaymatters_publications.htm

SELT Views Newsletter Fall 2018: http://seltnh.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/SELT_News_Fall18-webfinal.pdf

Eversource Public Comment Period Still Open: A report on this proposed project is described in Foster's: <http://www.fosters.com/news/20181011/durham-newington-residents-oppose-eversource-project> . The Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) is still taking public comment through email, which can be sent to the SEC Administrator Pamela Monroe at Pamela.Monroe@sec.nh.gov. Monroe said comment would be taken up to Oct. 29.

8. Old/New Business

Dearborn Property – Survey: Drew Kiefaber has been contacted by Scott Boudreau. Drew sent an email to confirm that every back boundary with frontage on Grant and Pendergast needs to be surveyed. Scott sent a map to Drew who approved it and Scott expects to begin work in early November. Drew will reach out to Steve Walker at F&G regarding the driveway paving. The Chair will contact Jeff Goldknopf who may have some additional information on the easement which Scott may find helpful.

Heron Point Sanctuary –New Sign: The Chair has not heard from Mike Hoffman on the sign. **Casey Finch** reported that Eversource has contacted the Facilities Director to finalize the street address for the work. The Facilities Director is working on moving the project forward as quickly as possible. There will be a clean-up day organized to pick-up trash at the Heron Point Sanctuary and more information will be published by the Town. A boat trailer parking sign has been knocked down in the parking lot at Schanda Park. The Chair will speak with the TA.

Wiggin Farm Mowing: Since a few monarch butterflies are still in the area, the Chair will speak with the TA to delay the mowing, at the discretion of the DPW, as long as possible before the ‘snow flies’.

Monitoring Schedule: The Chair suggested naming individual members to take charge of organizing the teams to complete the monitoring of the four properties this year. The following are CC members volunteered for the four properties. Thank you team leaders! 1) Piscassic River/Loiselle: **Ann LaFortune**, 2) Audubon/Smith Sisters: **Drew Kiefaber**, 3) Nostrum Farm: **Casey Finch**, and 4) Silverman Schneer: **Patrick Reynolds**. The Chair will email each leader the reports from last year to help in the preparation. Trail and boundary markers are in the filing cabinets in the Town Hall. The Chair mentioned that there were/are issues at Follett’s Brook Conservation Area with ATV use. The CC should make sure that the area is posted so he will check the property.

9. Adjourn

Action

Motion: **Marianne Hannagan** moved that the meeting be adjourned.
Second: **Ann LaFortune**
Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.
 The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 8, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary