

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 November 8, 2018

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Patrick Reynolds (Chair), Ann LaFortune (Treasurer), Sam Kenney, Sarah Finch (Planning Board Rep), and Casey Finch (Town Council Rep - Ex-Officio).

Members Absent: Marianne Hannagan (Vice Chair), Cris Blackstone, Drew Kiefaber (Alternate).

Called to Order: 7:00 PM

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

We have a new member! **Melissa Sharples** was approved at the last TC meeting and we will be sure to get her information and be sure to welcome her to the next meeting.

3. **Public Comments**

Ms. Emily Hyland, 202 Grant Road, is attending this evening to discuss the easement monitoring and markings of the property lines along the easement to her property. She respects conservation lands very much and she bought the house specifically because of the conservation land around her property. Ms. Hyland met with **Drew Kiefaber** prior to purchasing the property. Steve Walker has now completed two annual monitorings and has used what she considers to be excessive blue and orange ribbons and spray paint – adding more with each visit. She now looks out her back deck and faces these outrageous markings instead of wooded forestland. She shared photos of the markings with the CC members. She has already had the property surveyed and marked and is completely aware of the property lines. She spoke with Steve Walker last year and he was quite hostile toward her, so this year, after more markings and ribbons were added, she contacted Betsy at the NH Land Trust and she agreed to look into the problem for her. The Chair will contact Steve Walker and follow up with Ms. Hyland as soon as possible. The Chair thanked her very much for attending the meeting.

Mr. Jim Phelps, 8 North Main Street, attended the meeting this evening to discuss his property which abuts Schoppmeyer Park. He provided a map with measurements to help demonstrate several concerns he has at this time. 1) He reviewed for the members the negotiation with the Schoppmeyer Park Committee to mark the boundary line with granite posts (no chains or visible no-trespassing signs) instead of a split rail fence. He was happy with the granite posts and believes that if the mowing crew from DPW would cut the grass right up to the post line that people will not go beyond the posts into the high grass on his property. 2) He is concerned about the placement of the docks during the off season and would like them to be placed so that the residents see only a natural landscape from their picture windows. 3) He is also concerned about the colorful kayaks and racks during the season and he believes that the racks could be placed somewhere where the abutter would see the shoreline in a natural pristine condition. The Chair mentioned that the DPW will be meeting with the dock company tomorrow. **Casey Finch** will forward the map and his thoughts to the TA and TC members so that they understand what is involved in his concerns. Mr. Phelps had one more concern as he noticed with the recent heavy rains that the dock floatation sections rose as much as 12" above normal and once the water receded he was concerned about potential damage to the side sections. The Chair will speak with Rick Malasky about this issue. The CC thanks him for attending as well as alerting us to the potential issues with high water and the docking system.

4. Approval of Minutes

October 11, 2018

Action

Motion: Ann LaFortune moved that the minutes of October 11, 2018

Second: Sarah Finch

Vote: Approved 3-0-1 (Sam Kenney abstained)

5. Treasurer's Report

Ann LaFortune reported the Town finance office continues the computer software update. A report should become available for October, November and December in January.

6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Town Council: Casey Finch reported that the Town budget was approved. The TC would like to recommend that the CC be sure to suggest bright orange outwear once the hunting season begins. We might try using the fold down signs like the turtle signs to alert park users. The CC will discuss other options for clear signage. The Dam Committee was delayed with their report, but it is expected that the funding for improvements will be on the March ballot.

Planning Board: Sarah Finch had nothing to report to the Commission.

Schanda Park and Schoppmeyer Park: Patrick Reynolds had a discussion with the TA and indicated to him that the CC would like to have the Town take a more active role in the up-keep of both Schanda and Schoppmeyer Parks. The Chair is sure that he will get back to us once a decision has been made.

7. Chairman's Report

Annual Meeting of NH Association of Conservation Commissions: Patrick Reynolds, Cris Blackstone and Marianne Hannagan all attended the annual meeting of the NHACC on Saturday, November 3 at Pembroke Academy. The keynote speaker was Professor Richard B. Primack, Department of Biology, Boston University (https://www.bu.edu/biology/files/2017/09/Primack_CvSeptember2017-1.pdf) speaking on "The Effect of Climate Change on the Plants and Animals of Thoreau's Woods". His studies were very interesting and his work found that the seasons are changing (spring is two weeks earlier and fall is two weeks later). Patrick Reynolds attended breakout meetings on ground and drinking water, sand and gravel pits, and wetland buffers; Marianne Hannagan attended meetings on fundamentals of conservation commissions, conservation fund best practices, and grant writing, and Cris Blackstone attended meetings on climate change and aquatic invasive species. The Chair purchased a handbook for CC's which has lots of information and will pass it around to the members. He encourages other members to attend the meeting next year! <http://www.nhacc.org/annualmeeting47/>

8. Old/New Business

Dearborn Property – Survey: The Chair announced that the survey would be happening this week and hopefully no additional markings will be required.

Heron Point Sanctuary –Clean-up and new Signage: The fall clean-up was postponed until spring due to the intense rain. The new sign is being ordered.

Rosa Sand and Gravel Pit Walk on 11/10/2018 at 9:00 am: Patrick Reynolds will be performing the Rosa Sand Pit survey and it will likely take two hours. The CC is required to perform this survey every three years for the PB. Wayne Rosa is expected to attend the walk and can help with any questions which arise. The Chair will prepare the letter of comment, share it with members for their questions or comments, and send the final copy to the PB. All members are welcome to attend!

Monitoring Reports and Schedule:

Piscassic-Loiselle: **Ann LaFortune** reported on her recent monitoring of Piscassic-Loiselle on Friday, Oct. 26. She walked the perimeter except for the very marshy area along the border with the Audubon property, but she was still able to site the property line. There were two cases of encroachment (dumping yard waste over the stone wall). **Patrick Reynolds** will forward the report to all members and then will reach out to the abutters regarding the encroachment issue this year. He will review the older reports to note the frequency of this issue.

Silverman-Schneer: **Patrick Reynolds** and **Sam Kenney** are planning to monitor Silverman-Schneer on December 10 or 11.

New Roots Farm: **Casey Finch** has not had a reply from the owners as yet in order to schedule the walk.

Official Letter of Resignation Received: The Chair has received a letter of resignation from **Andrea Sellers**. She has been an invaluable member on the Conservation Commission for many years and we will miss her immense contributions to the Commission and the Town. Many thanks Andrea!

Planning for 2019: The Chair would like the members to consider ways to raise awareness of the Town conservation lands and our role in protecting them. Some ideas he suggested included: 1) Sponsoring a photo contest of pictures taken on our conservation properties. The Millspace has already agreed to display the photos and we could offer a prize. 2) We could speak a little more about creating interest in the field trip which we sponsor each year to the school. 3) We might want to engage more with the schools – for instance, bring in a specialist to speak with students about our conservation of the monarch butterflies at Wiggin Farm. 4) Consider updating our website by bringing in someone with these skills understanding, of course, we would need to fund this effort. The Chair asks that the members consider other ideas to share at our next meeting.

9. ***Adjourn*****Action**

Motion: **Ann LaFortune** moved that the meeting be adjourned.
Second: **Sam Kenney**
Vote: 4-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 13, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary