

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 December 13, 2018

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Patrick Reynolds (Chair), Marianne Hannagan (Vice Chair), Ann LaFortune (Treasurer), Cris Blackstone, Sam Kenney, Melissa Sharples, Drew Kiefaber (Alternate), and Casey Finch (Town Council Rep - Ex-Officio).

Member Absent: Sarah Finch (Planning Board Rep)

Called to Order: 7:00 PM

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

The Conservation Commission welcomes a new member, Melissa Sharples! We truly appreciate her commitment to serve the Town.

3. **Public Comments**

No public comment this evening.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

November 8, 2018

Action

Motion: Patrick Reynolds moved that the minutes of November 8, 2018 be approved.

Second: Ann LaFortune

Vote: Approved 3-0-3 (Cris Blackstone, Marianne Hannagan, and Melissa Sharples abstained)

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Ann LaFortune reported the Town finance office is continuing with the new 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 the first reading of the 2 million dollar municipal bond for the construction and improvements to the Macallen Dam has taken place and the 2nd reading will be on December 19. The bond covers the construction/improvements and finalized plans to control flooding with an automatic airbag system. This plan does not include any changes to the Fish & Game fish ladder or the property owned by Fish & Game that the Macallen Dam Study Committee had included in their first plan for a small park along the edge.

Planning Board: Sarah Finch was not present this evening to report.

Storm Water Meeting: Patrick Reynolds attended another meeting of this committee and progress is being made to determine ways for the Town to comply with the EPA Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-municipal-sources>.

7. **Chairman's Report**

Rosa Sand and Gravel Pit Site Walk: Patrick Reynolds recently completed the site walk (performed every

three years by regulation) of the Rosa Sand and Gravel Pit with Mr. Wayne Rosa on 11/10/2018 at 9:00 am. The sale of the property was pending and had been approved. It appears that some equipment from the new owner has been staged on the property. Rock crushing materials will be brought in and they still accept some fill. The soil from the new Elementary School excavation was recently accepted there. The Chair commented that a portion of the property has already been reclaimed and looks just like photos from the recent Fish & Game talk at the Annual Meeting of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions on reclamation of sand pits. In the report, the Chair commended the Rosa's for their care and stewardship of the property for these many years and filed his report with the Planning Board and Town.

Lubberland Creek Culvert on Bay Road: The CC committed \$10,000 toward a new culvert under Bay Road in 2016 and the Chair has received notification that the additional funding has now been secured by the Nature Conservancy to complete the culvert by next year.

Dearborn Property Survey: After the last meeting when Ms. Emily Hyland, 202 Grant Road, approached the CC, the Chair spoke with the State and discovered that they had only used the white oval boundary markers along the property line. **Drew Kiefaber** mentioned that the CC had asked Scott Boudreau to blaze, but he will contact Scott to ask about any extra flagging which might have been used. The Chair will contact Ms. Hyland to speak with her again.

New Conservation Commission Website: **Sam Kenney** looked into several websites including the Town of Lincoln, NH <https://lincolnconservation.org/explore-our-properties/trails/>. Their site has property maps and trails. Other sites from other towns he investigated included approved uses like: dogs, hunting, snowmobiles, etc. Thank you Sam! The Chair would like all members to make a wish list of what they would like to see on our website. If they find a site they like, possibly reach out to that town's CC and ask who they hired to create the site. It will be important ideally to make our site easy to use and maintain. We are very lucky that our new member, **Melissa Sharples**, works in this industry!

2019 Conservation Commission Photo Contest: After attending the Annual Meeting of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions, **Cris Blackstone**, **Marianne Hannagan**, and **Patrick Reynolds** brainstormed around the idea of a photo contest (with a \$\$ prize) of our conservation properties. There were so many great ideas including: where to hold it, to how to promote it, to deciding on categories and age groups, and possible speakers. It was generally agreed that the contest should be announced 5 months ahead of time in order to include at least three seasons and plan to hold the show in the fall. A small group of volunteers, **Cris Blackstone**, **Melissa Sharples**, and **Marianne Hannagan**, will meet and discuss a plan to bring forward at the next meeting.

'Serve with Liberty Day' Piles of Invasive Species to Burn: The Chair mentioned that we have several piles to burn this winter if conditions are appropriate. Just a little snow on the ground would be best. We will need to coordinate with the Fire Department and possibly invite the community to the fun!

8. Old/New Business

Dearborn Property – Survey: See discussion above in the Chairman's Report.

Heron Point Sanctuary Update: **Casey Finch** reported that Eversource has approved the electrical and the meter is up. He will email pictures of the progress to date to members!

Monitoring Reports and Schedule:

Silverman-Schneer: **Patrick Reynolds** and **Sam Kenney** visited the property at the end of Neal Mill Road accompanied by the new owner of the property. The only place which they could not access was the NE corner where the property meets the Piscassic River. It was a sheet of ice and did not appear safe. Otherwise everything looked good. The owner shared that he has commissioned a comprehensive forestry report for his better management of the land. He also identified some invasive species. He would also like to maintain the cemetery and it was suggested that he contact the Cemetery Trustees for the Town.

Audubon/Smith Sisters: **Drew Kiefaber** will monitor the property easement on Saturday, Dec.15 at 9:00 am.

Please park at the Audubon Parking lot on Rt. 152 to join in the fun! Rubber boots would be essential as the walk crosses Follett's Brook twice and can take up to three hours.

New Roots Farm: Casey Finch and Sarah Finch notified the owner that they would be coming. Everything looked good. The grass had not been hayed and was just a little high. The report will be completed this week.

Dodds Family Trust: For our information, the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) forwarded a copy of the monitoring report for this property. It is located at the head of Neal Mil Road.

Piscassic-Loiselle: The Chair will address the landowner who is in violation from the completed report on Piscassic-Loiselle.

Town Recycling: Casey Finch mentioned the continuing recycling issues facing the Town. Although a lot of informational material has been sent out by the Town, there are still many issues facing the Town and costing a great deal of money. Marianne Hannagan would like to put out a flyer to every resident. She has agreed to produce a draft. Thank you Marianne!

Moody Point Community Association: Approval has been received from NHDES for the permit request for the shoreline stabilization project at Moody Point which the CC reviewed at the October 11, 2018 meeting.

NHDES Minor Wetland Permit Application for 133 New Road: The CC received a copy of the approval letter for the property located at 133 New Road for a concrete pad for a solar array and underground electrical work. This property is owned by Mr. Eric Labonte and the permit was reviewed by the CC at the September 13, 2018 meeting.

9. **Adjourn**

Action

Motion: Marianne Hannagan moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Second: Sam Kenney

Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 10, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary