

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 January 10, 2019

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Patrick Reynolds (Chair), Marianne Hannagan (Vice Chair), Cris Blackstone, Sam Kenney, Melissa Sharples, Sarah Finch (Planning Board Rep), and Casey Finch (Town Council Rep - Ex-Officio).

Member Absent: Ann LaFortune (Treasurer) and Drew Kiefaber (Alternate),

Call to Order: 7:03 PM

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

3. **Public Comments**

No public comment this evening.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

December 13, 2018

Action

Motion: Marianne Hannagan moved that the minutes of December 13, 2018 be approved.

Second: Patrick Reynolds

Vote: Approved 5-0-1 (Sarah Finch abstained)

The Chair asked to revise the agenda to accommodate items from Old/New Business.

There was no objection.

8. **Old/New Business**

Macallen Dam Wetlands Permit: Jennifer Grawin, CPESA Project Manager (for Permitting) with GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., attended this evening to seek an approval by the Commission for a NHDES Wetlands Permit to cover the work being undertaken for the Proposed Rehabilitation Project for the Macallen Dam Abutments and Outlet Structure. Todd Monson, Sr. Project Manager for GZA, is the project manager and was not present this evening. The Town received a letter of deficiency from DES in 2010. In 2017, GZA GeoEnvironmental was hired to provide conceptual design options for the repair of the dam. In conjunction with a recommendation from the Macallen Dam Study Committee on the “preferred option”, the Town Council in May 2018 voted to move forward with a contract for final engineering and design in anticipation that there would be a bond issue for repair presented to the voters at the 2019 Town Meeting. The purpose of the project is to: 1) provide necessary hydraulic capacity in order for the dam to safely pass the 100 year design flood flow, 2) address structural deficiencies, 3) improve the public safety of the dam by allowing greater ability to reduce water levels ahead of forecasted flood events, 4) improve the aesthetics of the spillway and surrounding area. The project involves the following components: 1) construction of a new concrete outlet structure with a pneumatically operated gate system, 2) rehabilitation of the left and right abutment walls to correct structural deficiencies, 3) slightly raising the height of the right embankment to increase the capacity of the impoundment, 4) construction of a new armored right upstream embankment. A cofferdam will be used during the drawdown and Ms. Grawin assured the members that that it will be tightly sealed. The sediment will see minimal disturbance during this process. GZA has been working with both Fish & Game and NHDES while preparing this proposed project that is expected to be completed by fall

2019 between August and October. The drawdown is expected to take 3-4 weeks. Members had questions which were answered to their satisfaction.

Action

Motion: Patrick Reynolds made a motion to determine if the Conservation Commission members were in favor of the Chair writing a letter in support of the NHDES Wetlands Permit requested by GZA for the rehabilitation project for the Macallen Dam.

Second: Marianne Hannagan

Vote: Each member was polled with a result of 6-0-0

The Chair will write a letter of support for the NHDES Wetlands Permit Application. The members thanked Ms. Grawin for attending this evening and for her thorough and helpful presentation. The signed permit will go forward to NHDES and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after final signature by Diane Hardy. Casey Finch mentioned that the Town Council will have a hearing on this project at their next meeting on January 23.

https://www.newmarketnh.gov/sites/newmarketnh/files/minutes/nm_tc_jan_23_2019_-_reg_mtg-corr.pdf

The Commission will receive a copy of the final conditions letter from NHDES.

The meeting returned to the agenda.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Town finance office is continuing with the new computer software update. A report should become available for October, November and December later in January. The Chair mentioned that two invoices have been received: 1) Eversource- \$200.00 (already paid); and 2) Martineau Electric, Inc., \$2700.

Action

Motion: Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve expenditure of funds not to exceed \$2,800 for Martineau Electric to complete the automation of the new parking lot gate at Heron Point.

Second: Marianne Hannagan

Vote: 6-0-0

The Chair will submit the check request for payment to the Finance Office. Casey Finch will check with the facilities director to see if the CC is responsible for the Eversource bill each month.

6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Town Council: Casey Finch reported that the public hearing will be held regarding the \$2,000,000 municipal bond for the construction and improvements to the Macallen Dam on January 23. Members of the GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. engineering team as well as the Dam Committee will be present to answer any questions from the community.

Planning Board: Sarah Finch had nothing to report this evening. The next meeting is January 29.

Storm Water Meeting: Patrick Reynolds mentioned that a draft of the storm water updates is ready now for the Planning Board. The Town must comply with the EPA Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-municipal-sources>.

7. Chairman's Report

Letter from Fish & Game Regarding the Dearborn Property: The Dearborn property was received as a legacy gift from the Charlie Dearborn family. Fish & Game has an easement on this property and the letter outlines two issues of concern for them: 1) cutting of tress from an abutter and 2) the paved driveway

on the right of way. Fish & Game plans to attend our next meeting. The Chair will reach out to Ms. Emily Hyland, the current property owner. He will also reach out to the abutter regarding the tree cutting violation.

Southeast Land Trust of NH Easement Monitoring of the Hilton Conservation Easement: Every year, the Southeast Land Trust of NH (SELT) monitors the Hilton Conservation Easement for the Conservation Commission. They have submitted a copy of the report along with an invoice for \$230.36.

Action

Motion: Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve the expenditure of funds totaling \$230.36 to SELT for the annual monitoring of the Hilton Conservation Easement.

Second: Marianne Hannagan

Vote: 6-0-0

The Chair will submit a check request for payment to the Financial Office.

8. Old/New Business (continued)

Heron Point Sanctuary – New Gate: See the discussion in the Treasurer’s report above about the financial updates for the gate. **Casey Finch** mentioned that the Facilities Director has indicated that the gate will be operational next month, but will mostly likely not be used until spring. He mentioned that the spring clean-up will involve clearing some large tree limbs which have fallen. Plowing will be discussed for the 2019-20 winter season at a later date.

2019 Conservation Commission Photo Contest: Very exciting progress has been made to date on the photo contest. **Cris Blackstone** prepared a report detailing some of the many ideas /topics which might be considered. (See attachment on page 8). **Marianne Hannagan** reported on the two meetings of the small group of members: **Cris Blackstone**, **Melissa Sharples** and **Marianne Hannagan**. Groups which she has personally contacted include the Town Library, Blooming Newmarket (the garden cub), and the New Market Historical Society. She wants this to be a very inclusive, town-wide event. **Melissa** worked on the important issue of having a strong social media presence and has worked with **Casey** to get this going. She is preparing a draft of a narrative, which she will email to all members, for a flyer to be used to publicize the event through local businesses. Since we don’t know the participation level yet, the sub-com considered the Stone Church (no cost) to be the best venue for an October event based on cost and space. The members agreed and **Cris** will get back to Cheryl Hoffman to confirm the space. **Casey** has contacted Aimee Gigandet, Director of Newmarket Recreation, and she is very enthusiastic and wants to promote this event with a field trip in the summer. The small group members discussed photo rights for three years for later use on the website, a calendar, or a flyer. **Casey** suggested contacting the Newmarket Business Assoc. after the event about their desire to display the photos. **Patrick** mentioned the photos from the monitoring reports in the Town Hall files. The Wiggin Farm (once owned by Carleton Fiske) is perhaps the best documented. **Casey** mentioned adding key walk codes to the kiosks to load maps onto your phone. **Casey** will work with **Melissa** to set up a Town email account for the event. More news to come after their next meeting.

New Conservation Commission Website: **Cris Blackstone** submitted some notes on her review of several Conservation Commission websites around the local area close to the Lamprey. (See attachment on pages 5-7). **Patrick Reynolds** looked at Conway, Madbury, Hanover, and Peterborough. He was concentrating on the preamble and description of the goals of their Conservation Commission. He found that they use layman terms to describe their mission. He also suggests getting a new map for Heron Point to coincide with the new opening of the gate. We might also link the property at Neal Mill Road to the SELT site. **Melissa** looked at websites in terms of visibility and found that Exeter does a really nice job using thumb nails to link to pdf’s <https://www.exeternh.gov/bcc/trail-maps> . Another great site is Bear-Paw Regional Greenway in Deerfield (<http://www.bear-paw.org/>). **Patrick** will contact Ellen Snyder about a bid for a kiosk map for Heron Point.

Monitoring Reports:

New Roots Farm: Casey and Sarah Finch have completed the monitoring and report. There were no concerns on the property.

9. **Adjourn**

Action

Motion: Patrick Reynolds moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Second: Cris Blackstone

Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 14, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

Notes after review of other Conservation Commission websites

Submitted by Cris Blackstone, member, Newmarket Conservation Commission

Websites I reviewed were towns also in the Lamprey River Watershed Association catchment area

Epping	Northwood	Barrington
Fremont	Nottingham	Candia
Lee	Raymond	Deerfield
Newmarket		Durham

OVERVIEW OF CONSERVATION COMMISSION WEBSITES, IN GENERAL:

It looks like there are several common templates used, although there are many different websites designed for Conservation Commissions I reviewed.

Trails Maps are common.

Links, such as to D.E.S., NH State Parks, "Soak Up the Rain", Rockingham County Conservation District, wildlife.state.nh.us, among others, are given.

Many have photos of the lands they manage or easements showcased in photos (either static or in banners / thumbnails, that automatically scroll.)

Many list their Secretary or the person in Town Hall, such as Land Use Administrative Assistant, as a contact for their Conservation Commission.

Listing either a "Mission Statement" or a summary of the RSA that allows Conservation Commissions to be formed appears in many of the sites reviewed.

Several open, also, with quotes about land use, environment, or appreciation of nature.

Most list their meeting date/time and location, along with members' names and dates of their appointment conclusion.

SPECIFIC NOTES ON TOWNS' SITES:

Barrington – Lists their Natural Resource Inventory; NH Big Tree nominations/sites; Hikes and Activities; Informational Talks and Announcements as tabs

Holds regular “Weekend Walkabouts” led by Commissioners, regularly – locations listed with dates and times

Library has a NH State Park Pass to lend to patrons (not able to use for Hampton, or Cranmore / ski mountains owned by State.) The Conservation Commission purchased that pass for residents’ use who have library cards.

Candia – Shares the NH Conservation Commission newsletter on their Town of Candia Conservation Commission website

Has a form to report wildlife sightings, and shares the sightings on their site

Lists sightings, also, of rare species, and invasive plants seen

Conservation Commission has published a 2019 Calendar, with photos submitted by residents (rules to follow for these submissions are listed on site)

Holds Town Forest Walks led by residents with special interest or expertise on a regular basis

Links on their site include “Old Home Day” where they have a table top display of annual accomplishments

Deerfield - Trails Map

Durham - Invasive Plant information given, including what to look for, habitat, and what to do if you see these plants

“Soak Up the Rain” (a D.E.S. program)

Lee - Has a lengthy segment on bittersweet (an invasive that people still collect for wreaths and centerpieces) which is particularly hardy and problematic

Nottingham- Information on Light Pollution

Vernal Pools and “Big Night” (referencing information on amphibians’ appearance when temps hit 40-50 degrees, several other towns list information on vernal pools)

Includes multiple photos of activities sponsored by ConsComm and photos of properties they own and manage

Raymond - Also has information on Vernal Pools (programming about these sites)

Rockingham County Conservation District offered several programs to Raymond audiences, hosted by Raymond's Conservation Commission

Links to other sites as mentioned in several other towns, along with wildlife.state.nh.us

Here's a list of things I brainstormed that we'll need to include in the info to our photographers/participants:

<STATEMENT OF WHAT THE PHOTO SHOW CELEBRATES>

Location of culminating event

Duration of the exhibit

Photographer's name / address / e-mail address / (phone number?)

Name of the NCC property where the photo was taken

(should photos be taken during 2019, or what time period are we accepting photos)

Age group / school group /

Suggestions for age/ school categories ? NCC to discuss

Photos should be submitted digitally by __date to __address to submit to

If you can't submit digitally, submit to __address

Photos should be available to NCC for a period of __three years, to be used in other publicity such as a calendar, website or other NCC events promoting visiting our Conservation Commission properties

Photos for the culminating Community Art Show should be printed 8x10, and brought to __location of exhibit, on __date, between __o'clock and __o'clock

How will we notify the exhibitors?

Return of exhibited photos

Permission to use in press releases, and to publish on the web site and other digital outlets

Other ideas to include on the forms along with signature/agreement check box?

Thanks for your interest in making this be a great exhibit and greater community involvement event. Warm regards, Cris Blackstone