

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH

March 14, 2019

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Patrick Reynolds (Chair), Ann LaFortune (Treasurer), Cris Blackstone, Sarah Finch, Sam Kenney, Melissa Sharples, and Drew Kiefaber (Alternate-arrived at 7:20 pm)

Member Absent: Marianne Hannagan (Vice Chair) and Casey Finch (Town Council Rep – Ex-Officio)

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

3. Public Comments

No public comment this evening.

4. Approval of Minutes

February 14, 2019

Action

Motion: **Melissa Sharples** moved that the minutes of February 14, 2019 be approved.

Second: **Sam Kenney**

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

Motion: **Cris Blackstone** moved that the Notes from the Non-Public/Confidential Session of February 14, 2019 be approved.

Second: **Sam Kenney**

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

5. Treasurer's Report

Ann LaFortune, Treasurer reported on the financial report from Sept-Dec 2018. The next quarter is unavailable at this time. The Schoppmeyer Park fund currently holds \$19,606. The total Conservation Fund holds \$310,927.50. The new Heron Point Gate charge is not listed on this report, but the \$2,275 has been paid. Other expenses approved in the fall do appear on this report. This is the final meeting for

Ann LaFortune and the Conservation Commission would like to thank her for her great contribution to the Conservation Commission and the Town. She will be missed!

6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Town Council: **Casey Finch** is not present this evening. The Chair reported that the Macallen Dam will be repaired. The CC wrote a letter to NHDES to support the Wetlands Permit requested by GZA for the rehabilitation project in January 2019.

Planning Board: **Sarah Finch** announced that she had nothing to report as the Planning Board meeting last month was cancelled due to weather. The next meeting will have a heavy agenda.

7. Chairman's Report

Newsletter from NHDES: The Chair received a newsletter from the NHDES Water Trust Fund Projects. The Town of Newmarket received funding from the Trust last year for New Road main replacement (<https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-dwg-trust/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Final-Funding-List-as-voted-8-30-18-2.pdf>). Funds for this Trust come from a nationwide gasoline additive settlement and are being used for drinking water funds and, possibly in the future, ground water protection.

Request for Use of Schanda Park: LOCO Sports LLC is requesting the use of Schanda Park for the 13th Annual Great Bay Half Marathon & The Center for Orthopedics & Movement 5k (<http://greatbayhalf.com/>) They have been very careful about the clean-up in the Park every year.

Action

Motion: Patrick Reynolds moved that we approve the request for the use of Schanda Park all day on April 7, 2019 by LOCO Sports LLC for the 13th Annual Great Bay Half Marathon & The Center for Orthopedics & Movement 5k post-race celebration.

Second: Ann LaFortune

Vote: 6-0-0

Patrick Reynolds will sign the permit request.

NHDES cc of Letter Regarding 17 Moody Point Drive: The CC received a copy of the letter to the owners of 17 Moody Point which notes that they have more to do to be granted final permission. Please see the Minutes for February 14, 2019 for more information.

SCA (Student Conservation Association) New Hampshire AmeriCorps: The Chair received information from NH AmeriCorps notified the CC that 6-7 member crews are available for projects including work on trails, invasive species removal, habitat restoration/planting, erosion control, and stream bank improvement. The Chair suggested both Wiggin Farm and Piscassic-Loiselle. He will draft a request to discuss with members. The volunteers may spend up to 10 days on a project. More information is available at: <https://www.thesca.org/NHcorps> . Projects are most likely to be done in the summer.

Dearborn Property Survey: Scott Boudreau promises to have the final copy of the survey completed by the end of this month. The CC will then reach out to all the abutters and include the survey map.

Bald Hill Forest: SELT (Southeast Land Trust) has copied the CC on the progress on the new stairs and the kiosk at the Bald Hill Forest. New signage is being prepared for posting. The entrance to the Bald Hill Forest is at the end of the cul-du-sac on Hayden Place.

8. Old/New Business

Serve with Liberty 05/10/2019 – Schoppmeyer Park: The date for the Serve with Liberty volunteers in Newmarket is set for Friday, May 10, 2019 from approximately 8:00 am to 4:00 pm . The Schoppmeyer Park Committee will be meeting in April to prepare the “to do” list for the volunteers. Thank you Patrick Reynolds and Richie Shelton!

2019 Conservation Commission Photo Contest: Cris Blackstone has set the show dates at the Stone Church for October 19 to November 19. The sub-committee is still finalizing details for release forms, fund raisers like tote bags or calendars.

New Conservation Commission Website Update: Melissa Sharples has the copy ready for the photo contest to put up on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/227221754864118/>) and for posters to be posted around Town. Casey Finch is still working on the July tour planned for the Conservation Properties in Newmarket.

Annual Conservation Commission Funding for School Trip: The Chair announced that a preliminary inquiry has been received from the Newmarket Middle School for help with funding for a conservation-based field trip. The 8th grade is planning a class field trip to a Boy Scout Reservation in May. An application will follow.

Newmarket Annual Fishing Derby: Just a reminder to the members that the 2019 Annual Newmarket Fishing Derby is coming up this June. Look at all the fun pictures from past years on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=newmarket%20nh%20fishing%20derby&epa=SEARCH_BOX
Wiggin Farm: **Melissa Sharples** reported on the Wiggin Farm invasive burn. Two of the three piles were burned and great pictures and a video were put up on the Facebook page. Thank you Melissa!

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 **Patrick Reynolds**, seconded by **Ann LaFortune**, and approved 6-0-0 at 7:32 p.m.

A motion to end the non-public session at 8:20 pm was made by **Cris Blackstone**, seconded by **Patrick Reynolds**, and approved 6-0-0.

A motion to seal the notes of the non-public session was made by **Cris Blackstone**, seconded by **Patrick Reynolds**, and approved 6-0-0.

9. **Adjourn**

Action

Motion: **Melissa Sharples** moved that the meeting be adjourned.
Second: **Patrick Reynolds**
Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.
The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary