

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH

August 8, 2019

7:00 PM Council Chambers

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

Members Absent: Marianne Hannagan (Vice Chair) and Drew Kiefaber (Alternate) were excused.

Call to Order: 7:08 PM

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**2. **Roll Call**3. **Public Comments/Permits**

No public comments this evening.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

July 11, 2019

**Action**

**Motion:** Patrick Reynolds moved that the Minutes of July 11, 2019 be approved as drafted.

**Second:** Sam Kenney

**Vote:** Approved 4-0-1 (Sarah Finch abstained)

5. **Treasurer's Report**

The Chair provided copies of the financial report this evening. The payment for the survey of the Dearborn property has cleared the ledger. The current balance in the Conservation Fund is \$317,640.03

6. **Committee and Subcommittee Reports**

**Town Council:** Casey Finch reported that the TC is meeting once per month right now. The Newmarket Community Development Committee (NCDC) has offered the Town \$10,000 to look into the feasibility of building a bridge between downtown to Heron Point.

**Planning Board:** Sarah Finch had nothing to report this evening. The next meeting is on Tuesday.

7. **Chairman's Report**

**Schanda Park:** Patrick Reynolds has reached out to both Steve Miller (Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve) and Kirsten Howard (NHDES- Coastal Resilience Specialist) to inquire if they were available to meet with us to look at the condition of Schanda Park. They are very excited to meet with us to discuss a "living shoreline" installation. The meeting is Wednesday, August 21 at 1:00 pm. Members from the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee (Jessica Waters and Toni Weinstein) may also attend. The Chair will see that this will be posted as a regular meeting given the possibility that a quorum may be present.

**Bay Road Culvert Project:** Last the Chair heard, the culvert installation on Bay Road was to begin August 5.

**Non-Point Sources of Pesticides and Fertilizers Affecting the Health of the Great Bay:** A summer intern from Great Bay Piscataqua Waterkeepers reached out to us to offer an informational meeting to the public

addressing the harmful impact of excessive nutrients on the Great Bay Estuary and what actions individuals can do to help. The intern is only available in the summer months. The members were very positive about this possibility. The Chair will speak with the Town Office to reserve a date for the use of the auditorium. He will also ask if DCAT could film the presentation for those who may be unable to attend.

## 8. Old/New Business

**2019 Conservation Commission Photo Contest:** **Melissa Sharples** reported that the CC property tour had to be cancelled because of the extreme heat warnings for that day. The committee would like to reschedule for a weekend sometime in September and hope for cooler weather! **Sam Kenney** mentioned that SELT will be having an event, “Big Trail Fest”, on Sept. 21 (<https://seltnh.org/trailfest-september-21/>) so we should schedule our tour around that date. The Committee will try to reach out to the art teacher at Newmarket Jr/Sr High School and possibly let people at UNH know about this contest.

**Schanda Park:** The Town would like to confirm that we approve them caring for Schanda Park. We passed a motion on **June 13, 2019:**

### Action

*Motion: Patrick Reynolds moved that the Conservation Commission support the Town looking into assuming maintenance responsibility of Schanda Park, doing any further study that they wish, and how they might integrate that strategy into a water front plan.*

*Second: Melissa Sharples*

*Vote: Approved 4-0-0*

**Heron Point Gate:** There have been several acts of vandalism on the gate and timer. **Casey Finch** reported that Greg Marles has seen to the repair of the gate bar twice already. The most recent repair involved using a 6” bolt which should deter any further damage. The timer is now in a box to protect it. Casey believes that we should get some new reflective signage (CC has approved). There has been some volunteer clean-up making a real difference. Thank you volunteers! The Chair will email Rick and Mike to see if they can get the signage done for us.

**Piscassic-Loiselle Poison Ivy and Fence Broken:** **Cris Blackstone** asked what we might do about warning park users about the incredible amount of poison ivy this year. It appears to be a big growth year! **Melissa Sharples** mentioned that the split-rail fence has a section falling down. She spoke with Mr. Loiselle about this. The members suggested and discussed several different options: 1) granite posts, boulders, or a soil berm. **Melissa** and **Patrick** will try to get the fence back together.

## 9. Adjourn

### Action

**Motion:** **Patrick Reynolds** moved that the meeting be adjourned.

**Second:** **Sarah. Finch.**

**Vote:** 5-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary