

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH

May 9, 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)

Members Absent: Drew Kiefaber (Alternate)

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Public Comments**
4. **Approval of Minutes**

April 11, 2019

Action

Motion: Patrick Reynolds moved that the minutes of April 11, 2019 be approved as drafted.

Second: Marianne Hannagan

Vote: Approved 4-0-2 (Cris Blackstone and Sarah Finch abstained)

5. Treasurer's Report

No financial report was available this evening. The Chair reported that the annual dues to the NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions was paid and that the school field trip money was transferred.

6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Town Council: Casey Finch reports that the Heron Point Gate has been operating from sunrise to sunset! He also noted that there have been concerns by citizens about the Town use of herbicides on roadsides and sidewalks. The TC is asking the Energy and Environment Committee take a look at this issue. The Town has a contract for this work with a company until 6/30/2020. Alternatives are being investigated.

Planning Board: Sarah Finch reported that a site walk was held on the proposed golf range project for 10 Norton Lane. The site walk will be discussed at the next PB meeting on May 14.

Marianne Hannagan and Patrick Reynolds wanted to thank both Casey Finch and Dale Jones for all of their hard work on the Heron Point Gate Project. The clean-up was a great success and the park now looks terrific! A special thanks to the Town Facilities Director, Greg Marles, for his great efforts to make this project happen!

7. Chairman's Report

Letter from Newfields Conservation Commission: The Chair received a letter from the Newfields Con Com regarding a bridge which adjoins Newmarket Con Com land with Newfields. The bridge is actually within Newmarket on Halls Mill Road off of Neal Mill Road. The top planking has deteriorated. They have a crew ready to do the repair work and are just seeking our permission to move forward. Sam Kenney knows someone on the Newfields Con Com and will contact him to see if they are seeking financial assistance.

The bridge is very important to local snowmobile clubs.

Action

Motion: Patrick Reynolds moved that Conservation Commission support the efforts by the Newfields Conservation Commission to repair the bridge crossing the Piscassic River on Halls Mill Road.

Second: Melissa Sharples

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

Great Bay Matters: The Spring/Summer 2019 issue will be available at:

https://www.greatbay.org/about/greatbaymatters_publications.htm

Letters Received: 1) Letter updating the 17 Moody Point Drive application from NHDES.

2) Copy of the permit approval for rebuilding the culvert at Lubberland Creek. 3) The Planning Board shared an agreement for building new buildings at the industrial park. 4) Notification of the 2019 Lakes Congress <https://nhlakes.org/lakes-congress/> . Cris Blackstone is attending for LRAC and will report back to the CC.

UNH Cooperative Extension Newsletter: Cris Blackstone mentioned that the new Newsletter from the UNH Cooperative Extension featured two Ph.D. students from UNH who completed their dissertations. One was on the value communities place on their greenways and trails. The other student worked on apps which could be used in mapping trails using GPS. She reached out to Melissa Sharples through the CC Facebook page about mapping our trails.

8. Old/New Business

Serve with Liberty 05/10/2019 – Schoppmeyer Park: Forecast is for rain and chilly temps. The Chair has informed everyone to dress appropriately. There are plenty of jobs thanks to Richie Shelton! He will be coming down to give everyone a brief introduction to the new park.

30th Annual Newmarket Fishing Derby Request for Funding: The formal request for the funding has been received. Information is available at: <http://www.newmarketrec.org/newmarket-annual-fishing-derby/>

Action

Motion: Patrick Reynolds moved that the Conservation Commission expend funds in the amount of \$1,500 as a gift for the purchase of fish for the Annual Newmarket Fishing Derby.

Second: Cris Blackstone

Vote: Approved 6-0-0

2019 Conservation Commission Photo Contest: Melissa Sharples put the announcement up on the Facebook page today. Cris Blackstone would like to have another small group meeting to settle on details and a date for the “Casey Bus Tour of Conservation Properties” in July. Casey Finch says that the Rec. Dept. only needs a two week notice to use the bus. Possible dates: July 13 or 20th.

FYI: Great Bay Discovery Center Photo Contest Rules

<https://www.greatbay.org/documents/gbdcphotocontest.pdf>

Cris Blackstone mentioned the LRAC Community Grants Program which can provide up to \$6,000 for projects which meet their goals. The program has a rolling deadline and we should consider investigating this funding source. More information is available at: <https://www.lampreyriver.org/about-us-small-grants-program>

NHDES Wetlands Bureau Rulemaking and Process Improvement Effort: NHDES has been asking for public comments on their current efforts to change/modify rules on what they are asking of Conservation Commissions in the process of application approvals. Comments may be seen at:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/process-improvement.htm>

Update on the Dearborn Letter: The Chair reports that he and the town administration are very close to completion of the special language for the deed and he will forward the draft letter to all members for comment as soon as possible.

9. Adjourn

Action

Motion: Patrick Reynolds moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Second: Marianne Hannagan

Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 13, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Frick, Recording Secretary