

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH

July 11, 2019

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Patrick Reynolds (Chair), Marianne Hannagan (Vice Chair), Cris Blackstone, Sam Kenney, Melissa Sharples, and Drew Kiefaber (Alternate).

Members Absent: Sarah Finch (Planning Board Rep) and Casey Finch (Town Council Rep – Ex-Officio) were excused.

Call to Order: 7:08 PM

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

The Chair appointed **Drew Kiefaber** as a voting member for this evening.

3. Public Comments

No public comments this evening.

4. Approval of Minutes

June 13, 2019

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the Minutes of June 13, 2019 be approved as drafted.

Second: **Melissa Sharples**

Vote: Approved 3-0-3 (Cris Blackstone, Marianne Hannagan, and Sam Kenney abstained)

Motion: **Patrick Reynolds** moved that the Notes from the Non-Public/Confidential Session of June 13, 2019 be approved.

Second: **Drew Kiefaber**

Vote: Approved 3-0-3 (Cris Blackstone, Marianne Hannagan, and Sam Kenney abstained)

5. Treasurer's Report

No report this evening.

6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

No committee or subcommittee reports this evening.

7. Chairman's Report

Official Survey of 202 Grant Road Received: The Chair has received the large-format of the survey for the Dearborn Property at 202 Grant Road. The letters have gone out to all of the abutters of the property along with a copy of the survey. The survey will be filed in the Conservation Commission Files.

8. Old/New Business

Schanda Park Update: Last Tuesday, **Patrick Reynolds** visited Schanda Park with **Casey Finch** and Jessica Waters, from the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee, to discuss the possibility of a Living Shoreline for the Park. It was suggested that the CC schedule a trip to Schanda Park to consider and discuss this possibility. For anyone who might be interested, the Town of Durham is demonstrating a Living

Shoreline (which is being installed and is partially completed) at Wagon Hill Farm on Rt. 4 on July 30. Schanda Park is considered a 'hardened' surface – retained by concrete. A Living Shoreline uses grasses to retain the soil, but not trees. There are several other places in Great Bay and in Portsmouth where Living Shorelines are being installed. Kirsten Howard from NHDES could be invited to attend a CC meeting, perhaps in September, to discuss the Living Shoreline Initiatives Program (<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/living-shoreline.htm>). NHDES describes the Living Shoreline Initiatives Program as follows:

- A living shoreline is a management practice that provides erosion control benefits, protects, restores, or enhances natural shoreline habitat, and maintains coastal processes through the strategic placement of plants, stone, sand fill, and other structural organic materials, maintaining the continuity of the natural land-water interface while providing habitat value and protecting against coastal hazards.
- Increasing erosion and inundation of coastal wetlands due to sea-level rise and storms threaten property and natural resources in New Hampshire. Historic shoreline stabilization practices of rip rap (rock walls), revetments, and seawalls can actually make erosion worse, destroy intertidal habitat, and alter sediment transport patterns. For these reasons, hard structural solutions are either the least preferred alternative or prohibited in sensitive coastal areas. In suitable areas, living shorelines present a resilient approach to shoreline stabilization that can protect people, property, and important coastal habitats.
- The Coastal Program is working with partner organizations to advance understanding, application and success of living shoreline stabilization approaches in coastal New Hampshire.

2019 Conservation Commission Photo Contest: **Melissa Sharples** reports that the sub-com is putting things in place for the Tour of the Conservation Properties currently scheduled for July 20. They are posting the event on the CC Facebook. Since the van is available all day, we could consider two different tours (am and pm). **Drew Kiefaber** suggested that they might concentrate on selecting the more scenic properties. The CC members suggested: 1) Schanda Park, 2) Wiggin Farm (fields, woods & water), 3) Schoppmeyer Park (fields & water), and 4) Heron Point (water & woods). Piscassic-Loiselle (fields & woods) might present issues for the van to turn around. All of these properties have great information already posted on the kiosks. **Melissa** was planning about ½ hour at each place. She will email everyone about the van requirements for approval of a driver. We should contact Rich Heidt about sharing some photos from the Fishing Derby for our Facebook or website pages.

9. Adjourn

Action

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.
 The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 8, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary