

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH

September 12, 2019

7:00 PM Council Chambers

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

Members Absent: Casey Finch (Town Council Rep – Ex-Officio) was excused.

Call to Order: 7:08 PM

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

3. Public Comments/Permits

There were no members of the public present to speak. There were no permits to discuss this evening. NHDES sent the commission a copy of the permit granted to the Town for the Tucker Well.

4. Approval of the Minutes:

August 8, 2019

Action

Motion: Patrick Reynolds moved that the Minutes of August 8, 2019 be approved as drafted.

Second: Sam Kenney

Vote: Approved 3-0-3 (Melissa Sharples, Marianne Hannagan, and Sarah Finch abstained)

5. Treasurer's Report

No report was available from the financial office.

6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Town Council: Casey Finch was absent. There was no report.

Planning Board: Sarah Finch reported that there will be a site walk on October 8. The property is located 77 Hersey Lane, LLC/Walter Cheney/Chinburg Builders, Inc. This was a continuation of a public hearing for an application for Special Use Review for an open space single family subdivision, on a twelve acre lot. The lot is located at Hersey Lane, Tax Map R4, Lot 3, R-2 Zone. There was some concern expressed by neighbors that there are some informal nature trails on the Piscassic River that HS teams use to run. There are plans from Ducet Survey, Inc. available for members to review.

7. Chairman's Report

Monitoring Begins: The Chair mentioned that it time for monitoring (90% of the properties are monitored between October and January. The CC will begin making assignments at the next meeting.

Schoppmeyer Park: The new flag pole was completed last weekend by Boy Scout Tallon Sargent. Beautiful job Tallon! The Schoppmeyer Park Committee is working to transition away from the day-to-day care for the park. They still do not have a management plan. The CC may need to write one for them. The Chair suggests that next year a Serve with Liberty project might be to continue to build the bridges all the way through the woods.

Schanda Park: Members of the public have been complaining about dogs in the park. No dogs are allowed and there are signs posted. Feeding the ducks is another issue. People enjoying the park are not supposed to feed them at all. The duck population is down right now because there is a lovely Bald Eagle in the area. Yum!

The Living Shoreline Project: The Chair attended the meeting on the Living Shoreline, Others attending were: Steve Fournier, Toni Weinstein, Steve Miller (Coastal Training Program Coordinator at the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve- GBNERR), and Kirsten Howard (Coastal Resilience Coordinator, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program). There were certain parts of the area which might be good for a living shoreline – just not the sections where the wall is falling down. Toni Weinstein would like to create a formal subcommittee to look at the Water Front Master Plan. The Chair would first send a letter to the TC to request such a subcommittee. Membership on the subcommittee would include: a member(s) of the TC, a member(s) of the CC, and members of the public. **Sam Kenney** may be interested in serving. Once the subcommittee is established by the TC, **Melissa Sharples** will post the need for members at large to come forward and serve on the CC Facebook page.

Schanda Park Wall: The Chair spoke with Underwood Eng. and they estimate \$500,000 to begin fixing the wall. This is by no means a complete estimate.

Lubberland Creek Project Celebration: With incidents of coastal flooding and habitat restrictions on the rise, The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Coastal Program and the Town of Newmarket hosted a tour with elected officials and community members of a significant tidal culvert replacement project in Newmarket on Wednesday, September 4. Once completed, the new culvert will support fish passage, salt marsh migration and reduce ongoing flooding in the area. Congressman Chris Pappas attended the celebration. <https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/newmarket-tidal-culvert-project/>

Old Lee Road Bridge: The Old Lee Bridge located beyond the end of Neal Mill Road received a new deck courtesy of the Newfields Conservation Commission and volunteers last weekend. **Drew Kiefaber** helped with the work. They took all the decking materials off leaving just the steel I-beams. They laid down new pressure treated decking and shored up the corner which was leaning downstream. The bridge is still leaning a little, but not as badly. There is still work to be done –like the new hand rails. SELT has built a beautiful massive new bridge across several beaver dams. It creates a new loop for walking. The Chair checked the gate at Neal Mill Road several times recently and found the gate unlocked. Cars are not allowed on the road beyond the gate – only emergency vehicles. He relocked the gate.

ConCom Meeting with the Conservation Law Foundation: The seminar took place recently and was focused on the nutrient loading of the bay. Melissa Paly from CLF presented the seminar along with her intern. What happens when you use pesticides on your lawn and gardens? There work has been focused on Sagamore Creek in Portsmouth which has been severely impaired by pesticide use- pollutants come from two general categories: 33% comes from water treatment plants on the Bay and 66% comes from septic systems...non-point sources. Attendees Toni Weinstein, **Casey Finch**, and **Patrick Reynolds** went out on her boat to look at the eel grass. Good news is that at the mouth of the Lamprey to the Bay where oyster beds are being restored (not for commercial use) the water quality is getting cleaner. You go bivalves!

8. Old/New Business

Photo Contest: **Melissa Sharples** reported that we are about a month away from the event at Stone Church. We haven't received very many photos as yet. **Cris Blackstone** will get the details to **Casey Finch** for posting on Instagram and **Melissa** for Facebook firming up the dates.

Lamprey River Water Shed Association Annual Dinner: Cris Blackstone mentioned the Annual Meeting Dinner, October 16, at the Grange Hall in Lee, NH. For this event, Sherry Godlewski, Resilience and Adaptation Manager, NH Department of Environmental Services, will be the keynote speaker. It's only a \$10.00 donation! An intern for LRWS will be working with a drone to take some new aerial photos along the Lamprey to update the archives and they will be available to view.

Annual Meeting for the NH Association of Conservation Commissions: The invitation has arrived:

Annual Meeting and Conference

Saturday, November 2, 2019

8 am to 3:30 pm at Pembroke Academy

The NHACC Annual Meeting and Conference is the only State-wide conference dedicated to municipal conservation commission members. We offer workshops on the fundamentals of conservation commissions as well as more advanced sessions. Choose ANY 3 SESSIONS from 24 workshops – such as: DES Wetlands Rules and CC's Role in Permit Process; Using GIS to Create Maps, Nature Economy; Recognizing the Value of Natural Assets & many, many more! Don't miss this educational networking opportunity to learn from both peers and professionals. Sign up before October 19th to get the early bird rate of \$60 for members and \$70 for non-members.

The Chair wants to encourage everyone to attend. Send an email to the Chair and he will send in a batch registration. Then car pool plans can begin. The meeting last year was just fantastic!

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 **Marianne Hannagan**, and approved 6-0-0

A motion to end the non-public session at 7:46 pm was made by **Patrick Reynolds**, seconded by **Marianne Hannagan**, and approved 6-0-0.

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

9. Adjourn

Action

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

Second: **Marianne Hannagan**

Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary