

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH

October 10, 2019

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Patrick Reynolds (Chair), Marianne Hannagan (Vice Chair), Sarah Finch (Planning Board Rep), Sam Kenney, Melissa Sharples, Drew Kiefaber (Alternate), and Casey Finch (Town Council Rep – Ex-Officio), and

Members Absent: Cris Blackstone was excused this evening.

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

3. **Public Comments/Permits**

James Phelps, owner of 8 North Main Street, which abuts Schoppmeyer Park, has come to the meeting this evening to discuss several items of interest to him. He outlines his comments and they are attached at the end of the minutes. His comments centered on the future management plan (as yet still not prepared) for the park and include the 1) dock system – off-season storage, 2) the kayak racks, and 3) visitors crossing onto 8 North Main Street property. A map he presented to the CC on his first appearance on these issues on November 8, 2018 is also attached. The Chair mentioned that the docks have not been pulled this year and he and **Casey Finch** will share this information with the Town. Mr. Phelps hopes that the Town will look at the woodline for possible winter storage. He also hopes that the kayak racks from the Rec Dept. be located away from the direct waterfront impeding the line-of-site toward the waterfront for the abutting property. The members thanked Mr. Phelps for coming forward to meet with the CC.

4. **Approval of the Minutes:**

September 12, 2019

Action

Motion: **Marianne Hannagan** moved that the Minutes of September 12, 2019 be approved as drafted.

Second: **Sam Kenney**

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

Action

Motion: **Sam Kenney** moved that the Notes from the Non-Public/Confidential Session of September 12, 2019 be approved as drafted.

Second: **Melissa Sharples**

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

5. **Treasurer's Report**

No report was available from the financial office.

6. **Committee and Subcommittee Reports**

Town Council: **Casey Finch** reported that the Town Administrator has been contacted by Capstone Project students at UNH (<https://www.acec-nh.org/2019-news/unh-engineering-department-capstone-projects/>) who will be working with AECm, LLC (<http://www.aecgr.com/contact>). The students will be

presenting suggestions, possibly next summer, for improvements to the waterfront. At that point, the Ad-hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee will be addressing several issues including waterfront improvements with the end goal of a feasibility study for boat ramp rehabilitation, seawall repairs, public access enhancements and other issues brought forward by the students in the Capstone Project. He also mentioned that the Dam construction has not begun yet because bids have not been forthcoming. A new round of bids is happening now.

Planning Board: Sarah Finch mentioned that a committee to prepare Newmarket's Water Resource Chapter of the Master Plan is looking to begin work in early November. If anyone is interested in joining the committee, please contact Diane Hardy at 659-8501 ext. 1315. The 77 Hersey Lane project was granted a continuance until November 12, 2019.

7. Chairman's Report

Serve with Liberty Day: The Chair has received a request from Liberty Mutual for an early planning option. The Company will "sweeten" the pot, if we submit our requests for projects early, by putting us into a lottery for a grant (\$\$\$). The Chair has spoken with the Schoppmeyer Committee and they would like help to lengthen the paths over the wet areas which were begun last year. Members should email the Chair with any suggestions for projects.

8. Old/New Business

Photo Contest: Melissa Sharples reported that the photo contest dates have changed a little due to scheduling conflicts with the Stone Church. The exhibit dates are now November 2-30. **Cris Blackstone** and **Melissa Sharples** will be at the Stone Church on Saturday November 2 at 4:00 pm to begin setting up for the opening on November 3. They are suggesting either 8x10 or 11x14 photo formatting with matting. The reception will be held on Sunday, November 3 from 4-6 pm with live music and light refreshments provided. **Cris Blackstone** will update the TA for the weekly newsletter. We have received many wonderful entries, so please submit your photos 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 7:34 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

Addendum:

James Phelps

October 10, 2019

Re.: Schoppmeyer Park & 8 North Main St. Abutter

Conservation Commission:

Below are topics that I intend to discuss at this evening's meeting concerning the above noted subjects which, were previously discussed on 11-8-18 at that associated meeting. It is my hope that these topics will be considered within the management plan of the park.

Dock System – Off-Season Storage

- This abutter would appreciate it if the docks could be stored away from reasonable viewpoint from within the residence of 8 North Main St.
- Other than the above, I believe the management plan should consider other facets regarding the off-season storage of the docks and specifically; ease of accessibility to the waterfront in the off-season, as well as, securing the docks should there be another One Hundred (100) year flood or similar.

Kayak Racks

- If Kayak racks are to be installed, this abutter would appreciate it if they were located away from the direct waterfront. This asked because the potential, yellow, red, blue, etc... kayaks upon the racks could impede upon the otherwise, natural waterfront. If the management plan could make this consideration, it would be appreciated.

Visitors Crossing onto 8 North Main St.

- This abutter remains of the opinion that the most beneficial deterrent to visitors roaming onto the adjoining property is a passive one. Specifically, if the grass could be kept long between the granite posts this should help visitors understand where the park boundary exists.
- This abutter is not in favor of past suggestions such as signage, string, additional fencing as these elements would likely take away from the visitor experience associated with more natural landscaping and water frontage.
- If the management plan could consider the above before its implementation, it may be subconsciously appreciated by the visitors.

Thank you for your consideration,
James M. Phelps

8 North Main St. - Owner
Newmarket, NH 03857

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