

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

February 13, 2020

7:00 PM

Members Present: Patrick Reynolds (Chair), Cris Blackstone, David Bell, Sam Kenney, Drew Kiefaber (Alternate), and Sarah Finch (Planning Board Rep)

Members Absent: Excused members this evening were: Marianne Hannagan (Vice Chair), Melissa Sharples, and Casey Finch (Town Council Rep – Ex-Officio).

Call to Order: 7:04 PM

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

3. **Public Comments/Permits**

No comments from the public this evening.

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**The Chair asked to revise the agenda to accommodate items from Old/New Business.  
There was no objection.**

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8. **Old/New Business**

**Eagle Scout Project by Brady Lessard:** Brady Lessard has come before the CC this evening with Scoutmaster Rob Sargent to present his proposed Eagle Scout project. Scoutmaster Rob clearly outlined what defines an Eagle Scout project and he thoroughly approves Brady's project. Brady presented his plan for a bridge over the brook at Schoppmeyer Park. The proposed bridge would be approximately 2.5' to 3' off the ground and 6' to 10' in length. **Drew Kiefaber** asked about the necessity for special permits which might be required. **Drew** mentioned that the bridge at Wiggin Park did require permitting. Scoutmaster Rob said that Brady could use the help from the Serve with Liberty Day volunteers and that would be a great collaboration. The CC thanked Brady and Scoutmaster Rob for the proposed project and coming to our meeting. The Chair will report back on any permits necessary.

**Schoppmeyer Memorial Park Update by Richie Shelton:** Mr. Shelton has submitted a report on the Park and it is attached to these minutes as Addendum A. The Chair has asked that the committee provide the CC with a list of prioritized projects as this would help with discussions with the Town and planning for the Serve with Liberty Day on May 15.

**Chick's Weir Update:** The Chair invited Mr. Jerry Collins to the meeting this evening to provide background and history of Chick's Weir for new members as well as those in the community that are unfamiliar with the Weir. He first showed us the video about the Weir from Chronicle on WMUR. The Weir has been operated on the river by Indians since before the 1600's. Mr. Collins has been operating the Weir for 35+ years. The "pocket" weighs about 1,000 lbs. and must be constructed beside the river. The Chair thanked Jerry for coming and providing all the background information and answering questions. The Chair pointed out that we are facing several serious issues with Schanda Park: 1) it will most likely be undergoing major renovations, 2) there are sea level rise issues, and 3) whether or not Schanda Park would qualify for restoration with the a living shoreline grant. Mr. Collins was given permission for use of the Park at the January 9, 2020 meeting:

*Schanda Park – Permit Request:*

*Jerry Collins has submitted an application for use of Schanda Park from Oct. 1 to June 1 for storage of materials for Chick's Weir. Chick's Weir is placed into the water during a very*

*low tide in the spring.*

**Action**

**Motion:** Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve the use of Schanda Park by Mr. Jerry Collins to store part of the materials for Chick's Weir from now until June 1.

**Second:** Melissa Sharples

**Vote:** 6-0-0

**Sam Kenney** will share this information with the Ad-Hoc Riverfront Committee.

**Living Shorelines:** Mr. Luke Weigel from Durham had questions about where to find more information on living shoreline projects. We suggested that he look into the living shoreline that was put in at Wagon Hill in Durham. More information may be found at:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/living-shoreline.htm>

and at the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve <https://www.greatbay.org/science/research/>

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**The meeting returned to the agenda.**

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**4. Approval of the Minutes**

December 12, 2019:

**Action**

**Motion:** Drew Kiefaber made a motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2019 as drafted.

**Second:** David Bell

**Vote:** 4-0-1 (Cris Blackstone abstained)

January 9, 2020:

**Action**

**Motion:** Sam Kenney made a motion to approve the minutes of January 9, 2020 as drafted.

**Second:** David Bell

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

**5. Treasurer's Report**

There was no financial report available from the Town for this evening.

**6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports**

**Town Council:** No report this evening.

**Planning Board:** Sarah Finch reported that the PB heard a proposal on February 11 from Mr. Jonathan Kiper (owner of Jonny Boston's):

*"Continuation of a public hearing for an application for a waiver of full requirements for a Major Site Plan Review pursuant to Section 1.05(C)(1) to establish a nonresidential use of 700 sq. ft. where no non-residential use currently exists. If a waiver is granted, the application will be reviewed under Minor Site Plan review. The application is for a change of use for the second floor from residential to commercial to allow for a lounge to be added above the existing restaurant. The proposal also includes a 10 seat outdoor patio in the back of the building to be used in summer as a "beer garden". The applicant also requests a waiver from the requirement of on-site parking, as described in Site Plan Appendix B (Section 3.02 Parking (A)(3), (4) and (5)). The lot is located at 170 Main Street, Tax Map U3, Lot 175, M2 Zone."*

The Chair mentioned that he received the maps from the PB for the Hersey Lane development.

## 7. Chairman's Report

\*The Chair reported that he received a report from SELT on the Dodd's property and the Hilton property. There were no concerns reported. At this point, all of the monitoring reports are completed for the year and have been submitted to the appropriate entities. The Chair would like to add our monitoring to an earlier agenda, but it may be a challenge anyway.

\*The Town is willing to plow the road down to Heron Point. After discussion, the members decided not to have the road plowed.

## 8. Old/New Business

**Clarke Farm Easement:** There is no update on the Clarke Farm easement. Jeremy Lougee thought he might have more information for us later in February.

**Photo Event:** **Cris Blackstone** would like to launch the 2020 Photo Exhibit as soon as next month so we could have winter scenes included in the show. We might want to get a subcommittee going on the project. Most of the pictures have been returned to the Town Hall for display. The Chair suggested that we might want to open up the subcommittee to members of the public. Several towns have contacted **Cris** about having an exhibit or contest and she has been in touch with them and sharing our process.

**State Conservation Commission Annual Conference:** Mark your calendars! The date is set for November 7, 2020. <http://www.nhacc.org/>

**Pollinator Pathways 101:** <https://www.newmarketnh.gov/conservation-commission/pages/pollinator-pathways>. The 101 course is scheduled for March 21, 2020 at 10:30 am in the Library.

<https://allevents.in/newmarket/pollinators-101/200018940354556>

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day this year on April 22, 2020!**

## 9. Adjourn

### Action

Motion: **Sam Kenney** moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Second: **Cris Blackstone**

Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

## Addendum A:

Feb, 13, 2020

### Schoppmeyer Memorial Park

- 1) Modification to the float system, add a float & look into cost of a kayak launch system with EZ Docking. John will work on a kayak launch system from plans I supplied him that with modification will attached to his float system and let me know the cost. No commitment has been made to purchase kayak launch system until we have a quote as to cost
- 2) Drainage system across the field. The pipe is paid for and on site, the Town crew will install it when they have time. Any cost from town to install?
- 3) Plan on upgrading the parking lot area with finer stone or crushed gravel. American Exc. supplied the crushed stone base and spread it at no cost. Arrangements have been made to spread & grade out the new material at no cost. We have to measure the area to see how many yards we will need and see if I can find someone to donate it or what the cost will be. 2 or 3 inches should be adequate
- 4) Terry Schoppmeyer & Elizabeth Dudley will handle the garden area this early spring
- 5) Dave LeGault will maintain the mowing of the lawn / paths & cut the field. Cutting of the field as per the easement twice a year weather permitting. Dave will not accept payment for this work, donation
- 6) More brush cut down by the water edge and piles of old mowed clippings removed to open up the area, trail in the woods need cleaning up
- 7) Look into a Kayak rack, cost around 700 / 800, same as at Schanda Park
- 8) See about filling the old boat house hole by the dock area and level the area
- 9) Scout Master Rob, plans to locate one of the picnic tables in the woods, don't know his plan, now would be an excellent time, take it down the field and across the cove on the ice
- 10) Eagle Scout project, bridge across the brook, will coordinate with Patrick, CC chairman
- 11) In the future the area when you enter the park and dips down where the drain pipe crosses the road consideration should be given to improving it by raising the road. The abutting property owner's pipe appears to be not handling water runoff sufficiently and may need cleaning