

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH

January 9, 2020

7:00 PM

Members Present: Patrick Reynolds (Chair), Marianne Hannagan (Vice Chair), Cris Blackstone, David Bell, Sam Kenney, Melissa Sharples, and Casey Finch (Town Council Rep – Ex-Officio).

Members Absent: Sarah Finch (Planning Board Rep) and Drew Kiefaber (Alternate) were excused this evening.

Call to Order: 7:10 PM

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

3. **Public Comments/Permits**

No comments from the public this evening.

4. **Approval of the Minutes**

Approval of minutes from the December meeting were tabled until the next meeting.

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**The Chair asked to revise the agenda to accommodate an item from Old/New Business.**

**There was no objection.**

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8. **Old/New Business**

**Pollinator Pathways NH:** Marghi Bean and Vicki Brown are speaking before the Commission this evening to present a new program founded just one year ago. A member of the Blooming Newmarket garden club was also in attendance. After Marghi explained how she began this project in Kingston, Vicki explained the mission and answered the question “What are pollinators?”. Pollinators include bees, butterflies, beetles, wasps, flies, birds, bats, moths. Pollinator Pathways NH would like to ask the Newmarket Conservation Commission to join their group and help communicate this program/mission to the Town and collaborate in any way possible. The Chair brought up the mowing issues at Wiggin Farm for the habitat of the monarch butterflies. The Pollinator Pathways NH group uses the significant resources of UNH Extension to answer their questions. More than 260 properties and six Conservation Commissions - Chester, East Kingston, Kingston, Newton, Raymond and Rye - support them so far. They are trying to get all the towns in Rockingham County right now, but hope to reach out to the other nine counties in NH. Inquiries from other towns/counties have already been received and their interest is exciting. The website, newsletters, and facebook pages are full of great content to share! The members discussed several good ideas on ways to include the community – Blooming Newmarket garden club, the ConCom photo event, our social media content, programs at the library to name a few.

**Action**

**Motion:** Cris Blackstone made a motion that the Newmarket Conservation Commission join the Pollinator Pathways NH group and that **Melissa Sharples** will be the ConCom liason with Marghi Bean and Vicki Brown.

**Second: Sam Kenney**

**Vote:** Approved 6-0-0

Newmarket, NH Conservation Commission is excited to be partnering with Pollinator Pathways NH (started by Kingston, NH Conservation Commission) in an effort to spread awareness and action around restoring habitats for the pollinators who make our environment and food supply possible. "Our large human foot is taking its toll on wild creatures including pollinators such as bees and butterflies. These tiny members of our ecosystem are at risk when wetlands and meadows are separated by roads, housing, acres of parking lots and general human activity.

A corridor for pollinators is made when properties that are providing food for these little guys are near or next to each other. These areas are like stepping stones, giving them places to find what they need." Check out Pollinator Pathways NH on FB, and look for postings here about upcoming discussions and events! Join their email list: pollinatorpathwaysnh@gmail.com.

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**The meeting returned to the agenda.**

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**5. Treasurer's Report**

The Chair shared the most recent financial report with members. Balance in the account as of 1/9/2020 is \$330,786. The Chair wanted to remind everyone that this fund balance does not include our commitments to the SELT. The report also includes the Schoppmeyer Park account and should include the small account for Schanda Park, but doesn't. The Chair is still looking for a volunteer to be Treasurer!!

**6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports**

**Town Council: Casey Finch** reported that the Town Council is still searching for another member for the Ad-Hoc Riverfront Committee before they begin their meetings. He also wanted to remind everyone of the Presidential Primary in February and the Town Elections in March.

**Planning Board: Sarah Finch** was absent this evening.

**7. Chairman's Report**

\*The Chair reported that he is preparing the Conservation Commission year-end report for the Annual Town Report and will send the first draft to all members for comment and recommendations on additional content.

\*The Nature Conservancy submitted a copy of the final permit request for the removal of the rock structure discussed at the last meeting.

\*SELT of NH has submitted that monitoring report for the Hilton Easement. The property appeared much the same as last year. They asked if the CC had any contact with Mr. Hilton this year and we have not. They included a bill with the report.

**Action**

**Motion:** **Patrick Reynolds** made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$101.02 to SELT NH for the annual monitoring of the Hilton Easement.

**Second:** **Melissa Sharples**

**Vote:** 6-0-0

\* Great Bay Matters Newsletter received. <https://www.greatbay.org/news/great-bay-matters/>

\* A letter was received about the Macallen Dam and **Casey Finch** confirmed that work should begin around August.

## 8. Old/New Business

**Clarke Farm Easement:** Jeremy Lougee (SELT) and **Patrick Reynolds** attended the Town Council meeting recently to present the easement purchase of the Clarke Farm. Generally, the council is supportive. However, the tiny bit in Epping may be a problem and SELT will pursue that issue. It might require a separate survey of the land in Epping.

### **Schanda Park – Permit Requests:**

\* 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

\*The Town Rec Dept has submitted an application of the Arts-in-the-Park summer concert series. The dates requested are every Tuesday from 5:00-8:00 pm on July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11, 18, and 25.

#### **Action**

**Motion:** **Patrick Reynolds** made a motion to approve the use of Schanda Park by the Town Rec Department for the Arts-in-the-Park summer concert series. The dates requested are every Tuesday from 5:00-8:00 pm on July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11, 18, and 25.

**Second:** **Marianne Hannagan**

**Vote:** 6-0-0

**Serve with Liberty Day:** The date of Serve with Liberty this year is set for May 15. The volunteers will continue the work begun last year at Schoppmeyer Park. They will clean up brush, trash, and they will continue to build the little foot bridges along the path areas that are wet.

### **Monitoring Report Updates:**

<b><i>Property</i></b>	<b><i>Monitor(s)</i></b>	<b><i>Comments</i></b>
Piscassic River/Loiselle	<b>Casey Finch</b>	<b>Casey's</b> report is complete and has been sent to the Chair who will mail it off.
New Roots Farm	<b>Marianne Hannagan</b>	<b>Marianne</b> will complete her report on January 10.
Audubon-Smith Sisters	<b>Drew Kiefaber &amp; David Bell</b>	<b>Drew</b> is writing the report today.

**Photo Event:** **Cris Blackstone** is in the process of returning the photos from the show and everyone is asking if/when we are doing it again! The Committee will reconvene and begin the discussion of when and where!! This is very exciting!

9. **Adjourn**

**Action**

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

**Second:** **Marianne Hannagan**

**Vote:** 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary