

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 14, 2020

7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Patrick Reynolds (Chair), David Bell, Cris Blackstone, Sam Kenney, Melissa Sharples, and Ellen Snyder

Members Absent: Excused members this evening were: Drew Kiefaber (Alternate), *TBA* (Planning Board Rep) and *TBA* (Town Council Rep – Ex-Officio).

### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

### 2. Roll Call

### 3. Public Comments/Permits

No comments from the public this evening.

### 4. Approval of the Minutes

March 12, 2020:

#### Action

**Motion:** Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes of March 12, 2020 as drafted.

**Second:** Sam Kenney

**Vote:** 3-0-1 (Sam Kenney abstained)

March 24, 2020:

#### Action

**Motion:** Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes of March 24, 2020 as drafted.

**Second:** Melissa Sharples

**Vote:** 4-0-0

### 5. Treasurer's Report

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

### 6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Town Council: No TC rep appointed to date.

Planning Board: No PB rep appointed to date.

### 7. Chairman's Report

Thank you Marianne!: The Chair and the entire Conservation Committee would like to recognize **Marianne Hannagan** for her many years of service to the CC and the Town. We truly appreciate the time she spent serving as Vice-Chair and her wonderful work on the First Annual CC Photo Exhibit last fall and we will miss her very much!

**Tucker Property Purchase:** The Chair is pleased to announce that the purchase of the Tucker Property on Neal Mill Road is nearly complete. The CC contributed \$100,000 toward this project which was coordinated by Southeast Land Trust (SELT). An application for a grant to the Great Bay Foundation for a rebate of \$5,000 is still required. The Tucker Property is approximately 16 acres and abuts both Newmarket, SELT, and the Town of Newfields conservation properties. SELT appears first on the deed and, as such, will complete all monitoring and reporting. Long term, we hope to increase the parking area available. The Chair has spoken with SELT and they are willing to work with us on parking. Valerie Shelton, who represented the owner in this sale, wanted to thank everyone for their hard work to achieve this goal. The original owner of the property was Donald Tucker who served for many years on the Conservation Commission <https://obituaries.newburyportnews.com/obituary/donald-tucker-772777501>. He always wanted this land to become conservation land and his children carried his wish forward to this wonderful conclusion. Big thanks go to the entire Tucker Family, Valerie Shelton, Duane Hyde (SELT Land Conservation Director), Bill Tappan (Interim Director of Finance for Newmarket), Steve Fournier (Town Manager), and **Drew Kiefaber**. It was a great group effort!

**Schoppmeyer Park Committee Report:** The Chair, Richie Shelton, reported that they are getting some funding together for some kayak racks. Richie approached LRAC for funding assistance for specialized equipment to assist people entering their kayaks from the dock. The idea for this specialized equipment came from the UNH Adaptive Technologies Group.

**NHDES New Resource Book:** The Chair received a new publication from NHDES entitled: *Wetlands Best Practices Techniques for Avoidance and Minimization*. It came to us with a thank you letter from the NHDES and hopes that this would help guide us through the permitting process. The link to this publication is: <http://neiwpcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Wetlands-BMP-Manual-2019.pdf>. There are many other very interesting publications also available at: <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/categories/publications.htm>.

## 8. Old/New Business

**Schanda Park Fence:** The Chair contacted several fence companies for bids to put up temporary fencing at Schanda Park, but has not heard back. The Great Bay Half Marathon has been cancelled. The Chair has not heard anything from the Recreation Department about the 'Arts in the Park' concerts, but he is assuming that they have been cancelled unless he hears from them.

**Clarke Farm Easement:** There is no new information about the Clarke Farm easement, but the Chair is hopeful that the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) funding has come through.

**Heron Point Map:** Ellen Snyder visited the Heron Point Sanctuary to flag come additional routes for trails on the east side of the property. She worked with **Drew Keifaber** and went on a walk-about in March. Before making the map, she would like to contact **Drew** and take another walk, using appropriate distancing, before finalizing the trails and preparing the map for the entire CC to review.

**Renewal of Terms on the Commission:** **Melissa Sharples** has been approved and sworn in by the Town to serve another term on the CC. Thank you **Melissa**!

**Turtle Signs Have Gone Up!** Thank you **Melissa** for reminding the Chair to contact Public Works to put up the signs again! The Chair and **Melissa** discussed possibly adding another sign on Dame Road at the Boulder Brook development pond. Two large snapping turtles currently nest in the original smaller pond.

9. **Election of Officers for 2020-2021****CHAIR****Action**

**Motion:** Cris Blackstone nominated Patrick Reynolds to serve as **CHAIR**

**Second:** David Bell

**Vote:** 5-0-0

**VICE-CHAIR****Action**

**Motion:** Patrick Reynolds nominated Melissa Sharples to serve as **VICE CHAIR**

**Second:** Cris Blackstone

**Vote:** 5-0-0

**TREASURER****Action**

**Motion:** Patrick Reynolds nominated Ellen Snyder as **TREASURER**

**Second:** Cris Blackstone

**Vote:** 5-0-0

Special thanks to **Ellen Snyder** for seeking full membership to the Conservation Commission! She will be completing the official paperwork very soon.

**New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting:** Cris Blackstone, who is a member of the Board of Directors for the NHACC, mentioned that a decision will be made within a day or two of June 5 if the State Association is going to cancel the annual meeting which is held in November. The sub-committee for the meeting is recommending that it be cancelled for 2020, but a full vote of the board is necessary at the meeting on June 5. This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and it would be unfortunate to cancel rather than postpone (like the Tokyo Olympics!) for health considerations. Paramount on the minds of the NHACC Board of Directors is the health and safety of all members.

10. **Adjourn****Action**

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

**Second:** Cris Blackstone

**Vote:** 5-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary