

CONSERVATION COMMISSION**March 11, 2021****7:00 PM****Virtual Meeting**

Members Present: Patrick Reynolds (Chair), Melissa Sharples (Vice Chair), Ellen Snyder (Treasurer), Cris Blackstone, Megan Brabec (Town Council Rep), Melissa Brogle (Alternate), Sam Kenney, and Drew Kiefaber (Alternate).

Members Absent: David Bell was absent along with the Planning Board Representative (yet to be appointed).

1. Pledge of Allegiance**2. Roll Call****3. Public Comments**

Visitors this evening include Colin Lawson, 23 Lamprey Street, and Eric Harter, 5 Sanborn Ave. They reached out to **Melissa Sharples** to ask about getting permission to create a hiking trail on the Schultz Place Open Space conservation land. The trail may be accessed across the street from Mr. Lawson's house on Lamprey Street going onto the Boulder Brook Trail. Quite a few people use the Boulder Brook Trail. This concerns approximately ¼ acre over property which is owned by Blackhawk Corporation (a Walter Cheney corporation). They would like to find out what property is available as conservation land for trails and what property is privately owned. **Ellen Snyder** suggested that they speak with Diane Hardy about ownership and status of conservation land. None of the property in this area is Newmarket Conservation Land. Mr. Lawson knows Mr. Walter Cheney Jr. and is willing to reach out to him about this issue. He will return to the ConCom with more information. The members thanked them for attending the meeting and look forward to more information when it becomes available.

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

There was no objection.

8. Old/New Business**III. 75 Neal Mill Road:**

Christopher Albert, Project Manager, was the engineer representing the buyer at the meeting this evening. Also present were Juli Tyson, her parents, John Tyson and Susan Spinelli, and their attorney, James F. Scully, Jr. The Planning Board took up the proposal on February 9: *Request for review and comment by Planning Board on the issuance of a building permit and driveway access for a single family home on Neal Mill Road, a Class VI Road, pursuant to RSA 674:41. Request from Mr. John Tyson who has a purchase and sales agreement for 75 Neal Mill Road, Newmarket, NH 03857 at Tax Map R7, Lot 1. The 33 acre property is located approximately 750 ft. past the gate on Neal Mill Road.* The Planning Board discussion begins at 11:44 mins into the DCAT meeting:

https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekdEeRsk0JHQVHAvKJVka7_5VjxKP/media/619780?autostart=true&showtabssearch=true . They propose widening the 750 ft. of road to 14 feet and putting down gravel and burying electrical lines under the road and out to the proposed house. They have a septic location and a well sited with a 200 ft. buffer. **Ellen Snyder** wrote a letter addressing this proposal and raised several important questions and issues. Ellen's letter and maps provided by Mr. Albert are attached to the ConCom Minutes of February 11, 2021.

https://www.newmarketnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3536/f/minutes/approved_minutes_february_11_2021.pdf

The materials for the PB meeting are listed here:

<https://newmarket.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=1709&MeetingID=100> .

Ellen Snyder commented on the importance of the Class VI road and this property as a key to many conservation properties in the area. The letter from SELT also addressed issues.

The Chair outlined the steps for this approval process for the members and guests: 1) the applicant will meet with the PB next week, 2) the PB will have suggestions and questions, 3) a site walk will be planned before returning to the PB and 4) then the proposal would go before the Town Council for a final decision. Diane Hardy has requested a third party review by Mark West, West Environmental Inc. as well as a Technical Review including the DPW, FD, and PD. Mr. Albert has been in contact with the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, SELT, and LRAC in hopes of making this review process go as smoothly as possible. The members did not have any other questions. The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening.

The meeting returned to the agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

February 11, 2021

Action

Motion: **Ellen Snyder** made a motion to approve the minutes as written for February 11, 2021.

Second: **Cris Blackstone**

Vote: Unanimously approved

5. Treasurer's Report

Ellen Snyder reports that the Conservation Fund balance is \$250,161.76. The interest earned for the CF was \$90.68. There were no land use change tax deposits or any outstanding expenditures. The General Fund balance is currently \$1,181.31. The Chair mentioned that annual Conservation Commission Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. It was disappointing that there were no applicants last year. There was discussion about ways to advertise this wonderful opportunity for a high school graduating senior planning to pursue further education in resource conservation. There is a copy of the criteria and it will distributed.

6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Town Council: **Megan Brabec** reported that the Riverfront Advisory Committee has been convened. The TM is reaching out to UNH again regarding the proposed bridge project from downtown to Heron Point. The other thing discussed at the meeting was a living shoreline at Schanda Park. A site walk of Schanda Park is scheduled for March 23 at 3:00 PM with DES. There was also discussion of the solar array project. The town is seeking information on right-of-way and easement issues with a legal counsel. **Sam Kenney** also attended the meeting and is looking forward to the site walk with DES.

Planning Board: No PB Representative.

7. Chairman's Report

The Chair did not have a report.

8. Old/New Business (continued)

I. Wiggin Farm – Update: **Ellen Snyder** updated the members. She has spoken with Steve Snook, NH Mowing Division of John Brown and Sons. They are ready to get going on our project at Wiggin Farm this week when he has his crew ready. All the details have been cleared for payment with the Town Administrator. The Chair will contact the town about getting some signs to help with traffic on Grant Road when the big equipment is entering the exiting the farm through the gate. Right now the gate is unlocked, but the Chair believes that we

need to ask the DPW to be more proactive in seeing that the gate remains locked after the work is completed.

II. Boulder Drive Open Space Trail

Melissa Sharples has made contact with the HOA and hopes to get a site walk completed before the next ConCom meeting. She is looking at the first week in April and will let everyone know when plans finalize. Anyone who might want to go earlier to avoid having to post an official meeting notice, please contact **Melissa**.

IV. Earth Day Cleanup

Melissa Brogle created a draft flyer to promote the neighborhood cleanup for the week of the April 17 -24. The members had some suggestions and the final flyer will be posted on all of our social media. The updated flyer is added as an addendum on page 4. We would like to ask the volunteers take pictures of their efforts, i.e. weigh their bags, count how many of one item they picked up...just fun things to post on the website. **Ellen Snyder** asked **Cris** about inviting someone from Casella to speak with us. **Cris** is interested in asking someone to speak about composting and also night time landscaping lighting.

V. Arbor Day/Kevin Martin

The Chair reached out to Kevin Martin. He request an honorarium of \$150 and he also promotes his book, *Big Trees of New Hampshire: Short Hikes to the Biggest Trees in New Hampshire from the Seacoast to the North Country*. If the ConCom decides to invite him, perhaps we could find a co-sponsor? **Cris** mentioned that the library is sponsoring a program by Acadia Tucker on May 8 at 10:30 am via zoom (for information see the addendum on page 4). Lauren at the library would be our contact person. The Chair will reach out to her and see what we might do to promote a talk by Kevin.

VI. News From Durham - Congratulations to Ellen Snyder!

On Wednesday this week, Conservation Commission Chair Sally Needell, Land Stewardship Chair Ann Welsh, Councilor Sally Tobias, and Administrator Selig presented Ellen Snyder with a desk plaque in appreciation for the many improvements made to various town-owned property while serving as Durham's Land Stewardship Coordinator over the past four years.

VII. Thank you Drew Kiefaber!

A special thank you to **Drew Kiefaber** for his invaluable time spent on the Commission over a very long tenure. He will not be renewing his appointment as an alternate to the ConCom. We would not have all of the lovely conservation lands in Newmarket without his diligence, dedication, and stewardship. We will miss you very much and thank you for your service to the Town.

9. Adjourn

Action

Motion: **Patrick Reynolds** moved that the meeting be adjourned.
Second **Ellen Snyder**
Vote: Unanimously Approved

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.
 The next meeting will be held on April 8, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary
 Addendum

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A poster for the Newmarket Earth Week Cleanup. The left side features a photograph of a grassy area with scattered trash, including a blue soda can and a clear plastic bottle. Overlaid on the photo is the text: "NEWMARKET EARTH WEEK CLEANUP! ORGANIZED BY THE NEWMARKET CONSERVATION COMMISSION". The right side has a solid blue background with white text: "APRIL 17TH-24TH, 2021" and "JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS IN PICKING UP TRASH AND HELP KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND WATERWAYS CLEAN." Below this is the official seal of the Town of Newmarket, NH, which includes the text "TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH" and "EST. DEC. 15, 1727". At the bottom right, contact information is provided: "Email Melissa (melb103180@gmail.com) for more info and to register to clean up your street or neighborhood!"

NEWMARKET
EARTH WEEK CLEANUP!
ORGANIZED BY THE NEWMARKET CONSERVATION COMMISSION

APRIL 17TH-24TH, 2021

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AND HELP KEEP OUR
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TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
EST. DEC. 15, 1727

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register to clean up your
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Library Program

The Might of Tiny Gardens with Acadia Tucker

Saturday, May 8th at 10:30am

Acadia Tucker is a farmer and gardener who describes how to grow food without land in Tiny Victory Gardens, her third book on food gardening. In this presentation, Acadia talks about cultivating live soil, container-friendly crops, and tools you can use to raise a small-scale farm on your windowsill, patio, or dining room—year-round, if you'd like. Questions welcomed! Visit our [Facebook](#) for more info or [email](#) to register