

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION****April 8, 2021****7:00 PM****Virtual Meeting Called to Order: 7:05 PM**

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

**Members Absent:** Planning Board Representative yet to be appointed.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Roll Call**

**3. Public Comments**

No comments this evening from the public.

**4. Guest Presentation- Welcome!**

Brian Groshon, Operation Manager Trainee, Casella Waste Systems, Inc., is our guest this evening. He discussed the significant change in the recycling market over the past three years. In 2017, China banned mixed fiber through a program they called "National Sword". Everyone in the recycling business needed to find new outlets for collected materials...the cost went up and the quality of the product went down. In Newmarket, the collections each week are off loaded in Allentown and transported to Charlestown, MA where the mechanical process to separate cardboard, tin, aluminum, and plastic takes place as Casella uses 'single stream'. Their educational materials like to focus on items which can be recycled rather than those that cannot. Glass is important, but the process of sorting produces crushed glass. Recently the only plant that accepted crushed glass in MA shut down. Casella is now working with a construction company in MA to use the crushed glass as an aggregate for construction. The USDOT discusses the use of glass for roads here: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/infrastructure/structures/97148/wg2.cfm> Mellisa Brogel mentioned the new recycle 'rollies' in Stratham. Brian reported that Statham did an RFP for automated collection and they got a better rate in the process. Through the 'Recycling Partnership', each household would pay \$15 per cart. The carts are made of 40% recyclables, they have a 10 year warranty, but can last up to 20 years. Casella would only need one man per truck instead of two. **Ellen Snyder** asked how we can reach out to the community to make it clear what should and should not go into the bin. Casella suggests using flyers, promoting the video on DCAT, and all of our social media outlets for the ConCom. Casella has wonderful videos available at their website and everyone is encouraged to check them out:

<https://www.casella.com/services/recycling/recycle-better?tab=Videos#tabs> Topics include: "Recycle Better", "What Belongs in your Bin?", "What does not Belong in your Bin?", and, you don't want to miss, the "Journey of your Recyclables." They also have podcasts at their website too! **Cris Blackstone** wanted to thank Brian for his willingness to make a presentation this evening and to be so generous with his time. Thank you so much!

**5. NHDES Permit Request for 60 Grant Road**

Jim Gove, President of Gove Environmental Services, Inc., is here this evening to describe the property at 60 Grant Road and the request for an NHDES dredge and fill permit in an isolated wetlands area. The lot is a long, narrow lot of 10.3 acres that goes back to the Piscassic River. DOT was asked to approve the driveway cut onto Grant Road. However, DOT requires a site line of 400' in either direction. Unfortunately, where the driveway was placed on the original plan provided less than 200'. James Hewitt, from DOT, is mandating that

the driveway be moved down to make the 400'. Unfortunately, this will cut across 235 sq.ft. of isolated wetlands and require the owner to apply for a dredge and fill permit. **Melissa Sharples** asked about the granite ledge and the position of the house. Jim explained that all of his test pits were good and that he feels that the house is located appropriately for the lot. Jim also mentioned that he has worked with Amy Lamb at NHB regarding the special species found on this property. Fish & Game was also contacted and they just want to make sure that there is a 100' set back from the Piscassic River. This is a standard application and the ConCom should send a letter to NHDES commenting on the permit. In an answer to **Ellen Snyder's** question about the possibility of future subdivision, Alexx Monastiero, Realtor with The Gove Group Real Estate LLC, stated that she did not believe that the back portion would be considered for further development as it is very uneven and composed mainly of granite ledge. In addition, a lot cut out in the back would be landlocked and could not be sold. **Ellen Snyder** feels good about the placement of the house and the minor impact on the wetlands with this application.

#### Action

**Motion:** **Ellen Snyder** moved that the Conservation Commission write a letter to NHDES commenting positively on the plans proposed for the property located at 60 Grant Road.

**Second** **Cris Blackstone**

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

The Chair will prepare the letter and send a copy to the applicant.

#### 6. Heron Point Management Plan

Jon Martin, from Martin Forestry Consulting LLC, and his assistant Greg are here this evening to discuss Heron Point. **Ellen Snyder** introduced them and said she had been out to the site with Greg to assess the trails. Jon sent us a standard landowner objectives form. He visited the Point in March for a timber cruise to get a basis for mapping and estimating growth volumes. He observed two timber stands. He also observed that much of the timber had been harvested. Good news - black birch poles are coming into the cleared area. There was a beautiful barred owl that hung out over his head while he was assessing some of the invasives – he never moved. The hemlocks are infected with woolly adelgid and the multiflora rose has really taken over. The Chair asked about whether or not we should take down the dead trees nearest to the walkway/decking. Jon suggests that we remove the trees that are within striking distance of the trails, but leave the rest to maintain habitat for wildlife. Greg is currently getting the recreation portion of the plan together. Jon recommends opening the over story a bit to encourage song birds and encourage small mammals. Commercial forestry is difficult because of the big equipment necessary. **Ellen Snyder** described the deed which gives the reasons for establishing Heron Point as 1) scenic beauty, 2) contemplation/ meditation, 3) wildlife habitat, 4) fishing, 5) launching a kayak/paddle board, and 6) bird watching. The Chair would like to plan a site walk with Jon and Greg. **Megan Brabec** will check the current information on the allowable meeting numbers for outdoors. We may have to post the meeting. If anyone has questions, please feel free to contact Jon at: [martinforesy@gmail.com](mailto:martinforestry@gmail.com) 603-744-9484. Thank you so much Jon!

#### 7. Approval of Minutes

March 11, 2021

#### Action

**Motion:** **Cris Blackstone** made a motion to approve the minutes as written for March 11, 2021.

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

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

**8. Election of Officers for 2021-2022**

The Conservation Commission currently has one vacant position for an Alternate. If anyone is interested in serving, please complete an application which is available at the Town Hall.

Nominations:

**CHAIR****Action**

**Motion:** Cris Blackstone nominated Patrick Reynolds to serve as **CHAIR**  
**Second:** Ellen Snyder  
**Vote:** Approved 6-0-0

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

**Motion:** Patrick Reynolds nominated Melissa Sharples to serve as **VICE CHAIR**  
**Second:** Sam Kenney  
**Vote:** Approved 6-0-0

**TREASURER****Action**

**Motion:** Patrick Reynolds nominated Ellen Snyder as **TREASURER**  
**Second:** Melissa Sharples  
**Vote:** Approved 6-0-0

**9. Treasurer's Report**

**Ellen Snyder** reports that no current use funds were deposited. The General Fund balance is \$827.90. The Conservation Fund balance is \$245,375.90 which includes the Schanda Fund. We received \$44.14 in interest. Expenditures were \$4,800.00 for the John Brown Co. for the work completed at Wiggin Farm. We will receive partial reimbursement from Fish & Game of \$3,150 for that work. Expenses in the cue include the \$2,500 for the Heron Point Management Plan and the \$75,000 for the Clarke Farm Easement.

**31<sup>st</sup> Annual Newmarket Fishing Derby for 2021**

The Chair just received a letter from Rich Heidt, Chair of the Newmarket Fishing Derby. They have received their permit from the State to hold the Fishing Derby and are going forward. Information may be found at:

<https://www.newmarketrec.org/newmarket-annual-fishing-derby/>

**Action**

**Motion:** Patrick Reynolds moved that the Conservation Commission expend funds in the amount of \$1,500 for the purchase of fish in support of the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Fishing Derby to be held in June.  
**Second:** Cris Blackstone  
**Vote:** Approved 6-0-0

**Co-Hosted Event with the Newmarket Public Library**

*"Big Trees of New Hampshire" with author Kevin Martin*

*Wednesday, June 2nd at 7:30pm via zoom*

*Wooden boatbuilder and outdoorsman Kevin Martin will be discussing his book "Big Trees of New Hampshire", how lumber from similar trees is used in his boatbuilding work, and how wildlife uses these impressive parts of our landscape. Local trees in Newmarket will be highlighted! **Email to register for this free event.** Thanks to*

our friends at the Newmarket Conservation Commission for hosting!"

<https://newmarketlibrary.org/index.html>

#### Action

**Motion:** Patrick Reynolds moved that the Conservation Commission expend funds in the amount of \$150 for the speaker fees for Kevin Martin.

**Second:** Cris Blackstone

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

#### **Conservation Commission Scholarship for Graduating Senior:**

Ellen Snyder asked about the High School Scholarship. The Chair is still working on that.

Melissa Sharples and the members of the ConCom wanted to congratulate Ellen Snyder for her hard work on getting the funding for the project at the Wiggin Farm and on the fantastic job done by John Brown Co. to clear the areas requested. The farm looks great! Cris Blackstone truly appreciated the efforts to communicate with the community by social media about traffic cones etc. Ellen Snyder sent everyone examples of the interpretive signs at Wiggin which need to be replaced. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **10. Committee and Subcommittee Reports**

**Riverfront Committee:** Sam Kenney reported that the committee was out on a site walk of Schanda Park on March 23. Many different groups attended and there is hope that there will be funding opportunities. The next meeting is on April 13.

**Town Council:** Megan Brabec reported that there was nothing new to report from the TC. She did announce that she would be staying on as our Rep. Thank you Megan!

**Planning Board:** No PB Representative.

#### **11. Chairman's Report/Old & New Business**

##### **Application Requests for Schanda Park:**

1) The Newmarket Community Church is requesting the use of the Park on June 10, 2021 from 10:00-2:00 for hosting Red's Good Vibes Free Lunch truck for the community. They hope to reach out to their regular food pantry clients.

#### Action

**Motion:** Patrick Reynolds moved that the Newmarket Community Church be granted permission to use Schanda Park on June 10, 2021 from 10:00-2:30 for Red's Good Vibes Free Lunch Truck.

**Second:** Melissa Sharples

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

2) The Newmarket Recreation Department is requesting the use of the Park for the Summer Concert Series: Arts in the Park. These concerts take place from 5:00-8:00 PM every Tuesday from July 6, 2021 to August 26, 2021. <https://www.newmarketrec.org/summer-concert-series/>

#### Action

**Motion:** Melissa Sharples moved that the Newmarket Recreation Department be granted permission to use Schanda Park for Arts in the Park from 5-8 PM every Tuesday from July 6 to August 26, 2021.

**Second:** Sam Kenney

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

3) **Loco Sports, LLC** requests the use of Schanda Park for the Finish Line Celebration of the Great Bay Half Marathon and 5K Race on April 11, 2021. They request the use of the Park from dawn to dusk.

**Action**

**Motion:** **Melissa Sharples** moved that Loco Sports, LLC be granted permission to use Schanda Park for the Finishing Celebration for the Great Bay Half Marathon and 5K Race on April 11 from dawn to dusk.

**Second:** **David Bell**

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

**Earth Day Cleanup**

**Melissa Brogle** is very happy with the response so far. A few folks were surprised that we were not offering supplies. 28 households have signed up for more than 30 streets. We are still waiting on a local Jr. High School coach who has about 4 teams who want to sign up. **Melissa** has posted an interactive map of the town streets on Facebook – you just hover over a street to see who has claimed it! She just heard from Bill at Iron Goat Junk Removal (<https://irongoatequipment.com/>) and they have offered to pick up large pieces and take them to the transfer station. We are encouraging photos to post of ‘happy cleaners with piles of stuff’! One person who has volunteered this year has offered to purchase supplies for us next year! Good work **Melissa**!

**Guest Speaker for May:**

**Cris Blackstone** is excited to have a guest speaker next month from Mr. Fox Composting! Tell your friends to watch! <https://mrfoxcomposting.com/>

**NHACC Lunch & Learn Programs:**

**Cris Blackstone** has mentioned the NHACC Lunch & Learn series online. As members, all ConCom members can view these helpful videos. Check them out!

**12. Adjourn**

**Action**

**Motion:** **Cris Blackstone** moved that the meeting be adjourned.

**Second** **Melissa Sharples**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.  
The next meeting will be held May 13, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary