

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

October 14, 2021 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

**The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.**

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

**Members Absent:** None

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Roll Call**

**3. Public Comments**

No public comments this evening.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**August 12, 2021 and September 9, 2021**

**Action**

**Motion:** Melissa Sharples moved to approve both the August 12 and September 9, 2021 draft minutes as written.

**Second:** David Bell

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Unanimously approved

**5. Chairman's Report**

**Two Permits for the Use of Schanda Park:**

1) Mr. Jerry Collins has asked for his annual approval to store Chick's Weir on the property at Schanda Park from October 2021 to June 2022 in the same location as previous years. He hopes that NH Fish & Game may re-open the river to herring fishing this year.

**Action**

**Motion:** Cris Blackstone moved to approve the use of Schanda Park by Jerry Collins to store Chick's Weir on the property at Schanda Park in the same location as previous years from October 2021 to June 2022.

**Second:** Melissa Sharples

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Unanimously approved

2) The Newmarket Community Church requests the use of the Park from 8:00 am-1:00 pm on Sunday, October 17. The event planned is open to all and no fee is required.

### **Action**

**Motion:** **Patrick Reynolds** moved to approve the use of Schanda Park by the Newmarket Community Church from 8:00 am-1:00 pm on October 17, 2021.

**Second:** **Sam Kenney**

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Unanimously approved

### **The 2021 Conservation Commission Scholarship Recipient:**

The Chair was pleased to announce that we have received a very nice thank you note from Cadin Corbin, this year's recipient of the scholarship. The Chair will pass the contact information on to the Treasurer so that a check may be processed. Cadin plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh.

### **The 2021 Annual Meeting of the NHACC on November 6:**

The meeting will be held virtually again this year. One must register for each session to get a special zoom link. Please e-mail the Chair if you want to zoom-attend and learn "all things conservation related"! The keynote speaker will be Florence Williams, author of the book *Nature Fix* about the science behind nature's positive effects on humans. [The Nature Fix — Florence Williams](#) . More information may be found at: [NHACC :: Annual Meeting](#)

### **Rec'd the 2020 Annual Report from the Rockingham County Conservation District**

**Rec'd the Summer 2021 SELT Views:** This edition of the newsletter has a cover page article on the purchase of the Gaziano Track on Neal Mill Road! [SELT Views Newsletter \(seltnh.org\)](#)

**Update from SELT on Parking Signs on Neal Mill Road:** The Chair wanted to update the members about the signage proposed by SELT to help with access to the new conservation property.

SELT is speaking to all parties in the Town for input: Town Manager, Police Chief, Rick Malasky (DPW and Fire). The SELT is still seeking funding to support this project. The Chair asked **Megan Brabec** if the TC is making progress on changing Neal Mill Road from a Class VI Road to a class A Trail. He asked her if it would make sense for the ConCom to write a letter to the TC about pursuing this with all the conservation lands along Neal Mill Road. Making this a Class A Trail would tie into the other end of the road in Newfields, which is already a Class A Trail. **Ellen Snyder** never got a response from the TM if this change would be required to go to a warrant article. **Ellen** will put together a letter and **Megan** will bring it forward to the TC asking for the road be changed to a Class A Trail. **Ellen Snyder** pointed out that Class A Trails can be funded by various grant sources for upgrades and improvements whereas Class VI Roads may not be changed in any way by the Town. [Class VI Road info: [Class VI Roads and Maintenance Issues | New Hampshire Municipal Association \(nhmunicipal.org\)](#)

Class A Trail info: page 204 in [knowing the territory handbook.pdf \(nhmunicipal.org\)](#)]

## 6. Treasurer's Report

**Ellen Snyder** reports the Conservation Fund has a balance of \$167,208.32 and includes the Schanda Park Fund of \$4,764.46. The real CF balance is \$162,443.86. We have several outstanding appropriations which include the \$75,000 to SELT, \$1,500 to hazard tree work, and \$130 for the two last signs for Wiggin Farm. The Conservation Fellowship for this year will now be expended to Cadin Corbin. \$84, 631.15 is currently available in the CF. This year the budget for the ConCom was \$2900.00: included in this is the Recording Secretary salary (who got a raise), monitoring costs for the Hilton Easement, \$400.00 for annual dues, and \$200.00 for supplies. Dues and subscriptions are increasing. The Chair would like to ask the Town for an increase in the annual budget. **Megan** thinks that it is within the time line to do so. The members believed that we should ask for \$4,200. **Cris Blackstone** thought that the members should get some vests or caps to identify Conservation Commission members in the field. **Cris** shared examples of some towns in NH who got gear. **Ellen** would like to check with the Town about purchasing some safety vests with logo. **Cris** will check with some printers and other towns who have this clothing for their conservation commissions. **Jeff Goldknopf** will ask at work about the vests that they order each year.

### Action

**Motion:** **Ellen Snyder** made a motion to increase our request for General Funding from \$2,900 to \$4,200 to cover increased PT salary and increased organizational dues.

**Second:** **Patrick Reynolds**

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Unanimously approved

**Ellen** will email **Megan** the exact details so that she may present the request to the Town Council Budget Meeting.

### Action

**Motion:** **Ellen Snyder** made a motion to expend funds of \$500 to pay the annual dues for the NHACC.

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

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Unanimously approved

**Ellen Snyder** and **Patrick Reynolds** wished to help the recording secretary with the purchase of supplies. She has never requested reimbursement for expenses previously.

### Action

**Motion:** **Ellen Snyder** made a motion to expend funds up to \$100 to pay for supplies as necessary for the Recording Secretary.

**Second:** **Sam Kenney**

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Unanimously approved

## **7. Committee and Subcommittee Reports**

**Ad-hoc Riverfront Advisory Board:** **Sam Kenney** reported that the Board met on September 9. There will be a meeting on Monday, October 18 at 9:00 am at Schanda Park. Persons from NHDES and the UNH design team will be there to discuss what they think they may want to suggest to improve Schanda Park. **Sam** wanted to send a special ‘shout out’ to Dale Pike who played an important role in keeping improvements in the forefront for the Town.

**Town Council:** **Megan Brabec** had nothing new to report.

**Planning Board:** **Jeff Goldknopf** reported that the PB and the TC will hold their annual joint meeting in early November. The Town Economic Development Consultant, Stuart Arnett will be there to present his report on the three main gateways into Town and possible actions that might be taken to prompt new development. **Jeff** also brought up the presentation from the last Planning Board meeting about the proposal for Site Plan and Special Use Permit by Walter Cheney Jr for the lots located at 50-56 Exeter Rd, Tax Map U4, Lots 11 and 15, M2A Zone. **Jeff** recused himself from the discussion, but there was significant discussion about drainage changes. The meeting may be seen at: [Newmarket NH Video on Demand \(telvue.com\)](https://www.telvue.com)

**Lamprey River Advisory Council:** **Patrick Reynolds** reported that Moonlight Brook has failed every water test this summer right up to the High School where high bacterial counts were found. LRAC will be reporting this to NHDES and put the Town on notice.

## **8. Old/New Business**

### **October 2 ‘Conservation Connections’- Feedback and Takeaways:**

The Chair offered a big round of applause to all who made the event such a success including the Recreation Department and the Library. **Cris Blackstone** contacted the Library today and was told that 26 families picked up the month-long scavenger hunt cards. Many adults also came by to pick up the tracker cards. The Sunrise Sunset Center took a trip today to Neal Mill Road and, by happenstance, there were some folks from SELT present who gave the group a 20 minute talk about the property. Sharon Tucker has also volunteered to take people for a guided walk to speak about the history of the land. Unfortunately, there were no visitors to Schoppmeyer Park. The bus route was changed at the last minute. Thank you to Richie, Dennis, and **Jeff** for hanging out there! It was discussed that next time cell phone numbers will be shared in order to contact the leaders at each property and on the buses. The Recreation Department has received requests for future bird watching ‘meet-ups’ and this might occur during the winter perhaps for a trip to Plum Island (Newburyport). **Ellen Snyder** reported great success at the Heron Point work day. She got 2-4 volunteers from Nature Groupie and a total of 10 people helping to spread gravel. Bob, who is with the Community Church Garden, helped by constructing a ramp to the deck. Jon Steer, who abuts the property on Bay Road, owns all the land down to the river. He volunteered the use of his tractor to move materials in the future. Thank you Jon and Bob! **Melissa Sharples** spoke about Piscassic- Loiselle. She was there for about 1 ½ to 2 hours. Bob Sylvan did a tutorial about the birdhouses on the property. Thank you to **Melissa Brogle** for attending to all the little things!! **Cris Blackstone** has had many people contribute ideas for the future.

### **Piscassic-Loiselle Tree Work:**

The large tree that needs to be felled because of rot will not be downed by the Town. **Ellen Snyder**

will ask Jon Roy of Orion Tree Service, for his opinion on the health of the tree and possible estimate for removal if necessary.

**Piscassic-Loiselle Birdhouses and Fence:**

The Chair will reach out to the local Boy Scouts to see if they are willing to clean the houses this fall. The ConCom believes that they were originally responsible to hanging the houses as very long time ago. **Melissa** reported on the fence condition around the parking area. The split rail fence has continued to deteriorate and the abutter is putting them in a big pile at the edge lot. The abutter would like to know if we plan to do anything about this and, if so, what and when. He is also currently doing the mowing around the fence and the path down the field. The Town had been doing this in the past and he was wondering if they might start again. He also mentioned that he is posting signage on his property informing visitors about hunting season dates. Perhaps we might want to do this also on the property. The Chair will follow up with DPW about the mowing. The Chair thinks that the members should consider something more permanent which requires less work...something like granite posts. **Ellen** suggested cedar posts which are made by a company in ME. She will contact them about the cost of the posts with and without installation costs. Open posts would allow for the snow to be pushed through. **Jeff** brought up the haying issues and the need for a moveable post to allow for haying at the end. **Cris Blackstone** would like to see new signage on Rt 152 that conforms with signs like Schoppmeyer Park and others in Town.

**Heron Point Work Day:**

**Ellen Snyder** reported on the Heron Point Work Day set for Saturday, October 16, 2021 from 8:30-3:30. Fifteen people have signed up through Nature Groupie. Greg DiSanto will be there to do some training at 8:30 and directing the trail work. Greg wants to work on some stone work to create a bench. Amy, our Boy Scout working on her project at Heron Point, has SATs in the am, but will attend in the afternoon. Those attending should plan for some rainy weather, bring their lunch/snacks, and gloves.

**Wiggin Farm Mowing:**

**Ellen** reported that the last two signs have been placed out along the path. The Town mower had started to mow but then stopped. Meanwhile, **Ellen** flagged all the areas of the field that we do not want mowed. Thank you Ellen! The mowing was supposed to be put off until the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. There have still been sightings of monarch butterflies out at Wiggin and around Town.

**Bumblebees are Now Vanishing from New Hampshire:** The Chair mentioned the very sad news about the vanishing of the American bumblebee (*Bombus pensylvanicus*) from several states including New Hampshire (Maine, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, Idaho, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Oregon). He implores the community to set apart a portion of their yards to create pollinator gardens before we lose all habitat for pollinators. **Melissa** will share information on the website about this issue. **Cris Blackstone** announced that the Recreation Center has received a grant from F&G to plant a pollinator garden behind the Center. They will be working with Heidi Holman Wildlife Diversity Biologist from F&G, to make it happen. Great news!

[The American Bumblebee Has Nearly Vanished From Eight States | Smart News | Smithsonian Magazine](#)

**9. Adjourn**

**Action**

**Motion:** Ellen Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting.

**Second:** Cris Blackstone

**Vote:** Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

The next meeting will be held on November 18, 2021 at 7:00 PM  
in the Town Hall Auditorium.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary