

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

January 13, 2022 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

Members Present: Patrick Reynolds (Chair), Melissa Sharples (Vice Chair), Ellen Snyder (Treasurer), David Bell, Sam Kenney, Julianna Tyson, and Megan Brabec (Town Council Rep).

Members Absent: Cris Blackstone, Melissa Brogle (Alternate), and Jeffrey Goldknopf (Planning Board Rep).

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Roll Call

2. Public Comments

No public comments this evening.

3. Approval of Minutes

November 18, 2021

Action

Motion: Ellen Snyder moved to approve the November 18, 2021 draft minutes as written.

Second: Melissa Sharples

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously Approved

4. Chairman's Report

Welcome to Julianna Tyson - New Alternate Member on the Commission: The Chair and members welcomed **Julianna Tyson** to the board as an alternate. She brings to the Commission a wealth of experience on conservation issues and has served on a conservation commission as well as several other boards in VT prior to moving to Newmarket recently. Welcome Julianna!

The Annual Monitoring Schedule: The Chair reported that all of the annual monitoring reports done by the ConCom have been completed. He has received a copy of the Hilton Farm monitoring report from SELT (who performs this monitoring every year for the Town).

Monitoring of the Sand Pit at 421 Wadleigh Falls Road: The Chair wished to ask the Planning Board Rep, Jeff Goldknopf, if he was able to attend the PB meeting where a discussion about Seacoast Materials LLC/Chris & Chad Bennett - public hearing for an application for renewal of an excavation permit for the property located at 421 Wadleigh Falls Road, Tax Map R6, Lot 2, B 3 Zone had taken place. A review of the one remaining sand pit required to have such review was discussed at the Planning Board meeting of December 14, 2021. **Jeff Goldknopf** was not at that meeting and is not present this evening to report to the ConCom. The Recording Secretary reported

that, at the Planning Board meeting on December 14, the applicants asked for a waiver to change the renewal of an excavation permit from every three years to every five years. The waiver was approved unanimously by the Planning Board and is recorded in the Approved Minutes available on the Town website.

Melissa Sharples recommended that the ConCom table discussion on this item until the next meeting. ConCom members agreed.

Mail Received: The Chair received by mail a copy of an AOT permit, a copy of a Dredge and Fill Application regarding the Tucker Well site, and a copy of a letter from LRAC (who was asked for comment) on the Tucker Well Project. LRAC was concerned about the access to the well site because there are Blanding's and Spotted Turtles (and their nesting sites) as-well-as Northern Long-Eared Bats within the area of proposed access from the Grant Road side. A copy of a letter clearing an inspection of the property located at 230 Bay Road was also received from NHDES. The property at 230 Bay Road had a deficiency described in the January 17, 2017 minutes of the ConCom.

Southeast Land Trust Winter Newsletter: The Winter Edition may be accessed at:
https://seltnh.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SELT_News_Winter2021_web.pdf.

5. Treasurer's Report

Ellen Snyder reports the Conservation Fund has a current balance of \$163,657.44 and this includes the Schanda Park Fund of \$4,764.46. We have had some expenditures: 1) Orion Tree Service felled a tree for us, Martin Forestry billed us for a work day at Heron Point, we purchased fence railings for Piscassic Loiselle, and we purchased trail markers for Heron Point. We have \$75,000 waiting for the SELT to claim for the Gaziano Track. She has received the invoice from SELT for contracted services for the Hilton Easement of \$299.91.

Action

Motion: **Ellen Snyder** made a motion to expend funds of \$299.91 for contracted services by the SELT for the annual monitoring of the Hilton Easement.

Second: **Melissa Sharples**

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously Approved

The Treasurer will submit the bill to the financial office for payment.

7. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Riverfront Advisory Committee: **Sam Kenney** reported that the committee met last Monday with the design team. The team is moving forward and they would like another meeting with any and all stake holders in February to see if all are still on board with the final design plan before they present it to the Town Council in March.

Town Council: **Megan Brabec** reported that the meetings have been very short. The position for Director of Planning and Community Development has been posted. Masks are now required in all Town buildings. Please get vaccinated and stay safe!

Planning Board: No report this evening.

8. Old/New Business

Piscassic Loiselle - Tree Removal: **Ellen Snyder** reported that the tree was removed in late December by Orion Tree Service. We had approved \$1,200, but it cost only \$1,000. It was a complicated tree to remove.

Piscassic Loiselle - Fence Repair: **Ellen Snyder, Melissa Sharples,** and Drew Kiefaber picked up the new rails to replace those broken in the parking lot fence of Piscassic Loiselle. Thank you Drew for the generous use of your truck and expert help! **Ellen** also spoke with Rick Malasky about the snow plowing of the lot.

LRAC Grant: **Ellen Snyder** drafted an application for an LRAC community funding grant to help with a few projects at Heron Point. She included the felling of two trees right at the entrance, some new sign posts for the trails, and the interpretive panels for the new kiosk. She estimated the need at approximately \$4,500. She will continue to refine the grant funding request and send it to the Chair for review.

Wiggin Farm Invasives: **Ellen Snyder** spoke about our continuing difficulties with keeping the invasive plant species knocked back at Wiggin Farm each year. She asked Tracy Dagnon, Senior Project Manager with the Rockingham County Conservation District, to site walk the 2.5 acres we have the most difficulty with each year. Tracy is an expert on controlled herbicide use. She is willing to put a plan together for our February meeting. Should we consider doing this, they would come in late summer or early fall. We could go out and flag the area. The Town has fixed the mower, so the field was mowed in late November – early December.

Guest Speakers for 2022: **Cris Blackstone** has some specific people in mind and would like to invite them to the meetings via zoom. The Chair has asked everyone who wishes to submit possible guests as soon as possible to get them scheduled. **Julianna Tyson** will look at guests which Green Mountain Audubon had attend their meetings for possible guest ideas.

New Officers Voted in April: The Chair wanted to remind everyone who might have a term expiring to consider signing up again. He will be signing up as a continuing member, but will not serve for another term as Chair. New officers will be elected by the ConCom at the April meeting.

9. Adjourn

Action

Motion: **Patrick Reynolds** moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: **Melissa Sharples**

Vote: Unanimously Approved

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

The next meeting will be held on February 10, 2022 at 7:00 PM
in the Town Hall Auditorium.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary