

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 14, 2022 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium|

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Melissa Sharples at 7:00 PM.

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

Members Absent: Julianna Tyson (Alternate)

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Roll Call

The Vice-Chair appointed **Melissa Brogle** as a voting member for this evening.

2. Election of Officers 2022-2023

Two officers to be appointed this evening.

Action

Motion: Melissa Sharples moved to nominate **Ellen Snyder** as the Chair.

Second: Cris Blackstone

Discussion: None

Approved: Approved 7-0-0

Action

Motion: Ellen Snyder moved to nominate **Melissa Sharples** as the Vice-Chair.

Second: Cris Blackstone

Discussion: None

Approved: Approved 7-0-0

Melissa Sharples transferred the gavel to **Ellen Snyder** to continue the meeting as Chair.

3. Public Comments

Bart McDonough, the new Director of Planning & Community Development for the Town, stood to introduce himself to the Commission. He looks forward to working with the Conservation Commission. Members congratulated him on his new position and welcomed him to the Town.

4. Visiting Guest Speaker

This evening we are pleased to have two speakers from Pollinator Pathways. **Melissa Sharples** introduced Marghi Bean (Vice-Chair of the Kingston Conservation Commission) and Evy Nathan (Chair of the Kingston Conservation Commission), founders of the area's Pollinator Pathways to discuss their mission and what we might do as a Town or individual(s) to improve pollinator habitat. Their vision is to connect sustained pollinator habitat throughout New Hampshire. Their mission is to restore habitat, one yard at a time, through community partnerships education and engagement. A pollinator pathway is defined as a public and private pesticide-free corridor of native plants that provide nutrition and habitat for pollinating insects

and birds. Even the smallest green spaces, like flower boxes and curb strips, can be part of a pathway. To be part of The Pollinator Pathway group 1) rethink your lawn, 2) plant native plants, 3) remove invasive plants, and 4) avoid pesticides. They have come before us to ask for our commitment as a partner in Pollinator Pathways NH in several ways:

- Locate a liaison with whom they may work, either in your commission or someone with a keen interest in pollinator conservation

- Commit to holding one event per year which is pollinator related

- Spread the message on social media, by promoting events held by our partner commissions by sharing resources with your community

There are many wonderful websites that have so much information available at their website:

[Pollinator Pathways NH | Kingston NH](#) and their Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/pollinatorpathwaysnh

Mantras: “Be a Lazy Gardner!” and “Help One Yard at a Time!” They provided a table full of informational pamphlets as-well-as free milkweed seeds planting. All the members were very excited to help with this projects.

5. Update by SELT on the Gaziano Tract Easement Deed

We were joined this evening by Duane Hyde, Land Conservation Director for the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELT). He planned to discuss the easement deed right of conservation restrictions and enforcement (all members had received a copy by email). They have a bridge loan until June 1 and are working on securing all of the grant funds. LCHIP provided the template for the document and amended it to include the NHDES Drinking Water program language. He discussed the requirements for the Town to maintain an executory interest. Information/feedback from the Drinking & Ground Water Trust Fund included the provision that the property shall not allow motorized recreational vehicles. Under certain conditions, snowmobiles may be an approved use on the property if they are operating on snow and ice and must be operating outside of any sanitary protective area for the public water supply. They must be at least 250 ft from a surface water body being used as a water supply. They have to be more than 100 ft from any tributaries contributing to those water bodies that are acting as a water supply and may only operate on designated snowmobile trails depicted on a plan approved by the NHDES. He is still waiting to hear from the Town’s attorney. Once he has that, the Gaziano Tract Easement Deed will go forward to the State Attorney General for final review. SELT hopes to go before the Governor and Council on June 1, 2022 for the authorization for NHDES to expend the funds on the project. After that, the goal is to close by the end of June and secure the funds from all participants. The Chair mentioned a small correction on page 4 about the Silverman and the Schneer Easements and he agreed to make those changes. SELT plans to complete a “sketch” management plan at closing, but it may take a year to develop the complete management plan for this parcel. SELT is examining the mowing of the field...maybe once, maybe twice per year, but they are concerned about pollinator use and ground/grassland bird nesting. The Chair mentioned that a kiosk will be placed inside the gate on Neal Mill Road and SELT will add all of their information to the board which will make a nice trail head. Duane will keep us informed of any progress.

Cris Blackstone asked Duane to speak about their move to new office space at the Nan and George Mathey Center for People and Nature (a net-zero facility) located at the Burley Farms, 247 North River Road in Epping. It is beautiful new facility surrounded by 500 acres of conservation land. They plan an open house and their partners will be invited. The SELT website

is full of great information: [Home - SELT \(seltnh.org\)](http://seltnh.org)

6. Approval of Minutes

March 10, 2022

Action

Motion: **Melissa Sharples** moved to approve the draft minutes of March 10, 2022 as written.
Second: **Cris Blackstone**
Comments: None
Approved: **Approved 6-0-1 (Sam Kenney abstained)**

The Chair plans to transition to a ‘packet’ like the Council and Planning Board do for each meeting. Members thought this would be great.

7. Treasurer’s Report

Ellen Snyder reported that the Conservation Fund has a current balance of \$162,703.12 and this includes the Schanda Park Fund. We did receive a little bit of interest. The General Fund balance is \$363.70. The only expenditure this month was \$1,000 to Orion Tree Service for removal of trees at Heron Point. This expenditure was taken from the \$5,000 LRAC Grant.

8. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Riverfront Advisory Committee: **Sam Kenney** reported that there was a webinar on Friday, April 8 hosted by NHDES which was a wrap-up of the projects at both Schanda Park and Heron Point. **Sam** wanted to especially thank Dale Pike (Town resident and Board of Director member of the Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire) and Kyle Pimental (Strafford Regional Planning Commission) for all of their work to make these projects successful. The Town now has the updated packet and must decide how to proceed. The Committee plans to continue meet.

Town Council: **Megan Brabec** reported that last week was the Town Council tutorial meeting for new and continuing counselors on the rules and regulations given by the Town Manager. This week, the TC held their annual joint meeting with the School Board to talk about shared goals. **Megan** has requested to remain on the ConCom, but assignments will be completed at the next meeting.

The Chair would like to ask the Town Manager to attend one of our meetings to present the rules and regulations. **Cris Blackstone** will check with the Executive Director of the NHACC, Barbara Richter, to see if she is available to make a presentation to us on the services and the many resources that membership makes available to the ConCom.

Planning Board: **Jeff Goldknopf** reported that a special use permit has been granted to the project on Wadleigh Falls. Bart McDonough spoke about the approval issued at the last Planning Board meeting on April 12, 2022: “to approve the Site Plan for Seacoast Pool Plastering LLC/Robert MacInnis located on Tax Map R6, Lots 50-7 & 50-8, in the B3 Zone to permit the proposed construction of a 2,000 sq ft storage shed, approximately 84,000 sq ft of gravel parking for storage of trucks, trailers, and equipment, and associated access and stormwater management infrastructure as proposed. Subject to following conditions:

1. The two existing lots will be merged and access will be from an existing paved driveway off of

Rt. 152 Wadleigh Falls Road.

2. *The Town Engineer's final review and approval of any outstanding items previously submitted to the applicant.*

3. *The site shall be limited to the proposed uses as submitted in the revised site plan being used for storage of materials and equipment. Any changes beyond the proposed uses outlined in this revised application shall require further review and approval by the Planning Board.*

4. *Submission of an operation and maintenance plan satisfactory to the Town Engineer which will address any increase in traffic causing sediment runoff into the rain garden.*

5. *Execution of a developer's agreement with the Town of Newmarket and payment of any bonding requirements for restoration of temporary impacts.*

6. *The payment of any applicable impact fees.*

Regarding vesting (RSA674-39, Phase I to be completed within one year from recording of the final site plan, including the stabilization of slopes for Phase II. Phase II shall be completed within one year from the start of construction and that start date to be no later than 24 months from completion of Phase I."

Jeff also reported on a hearing last month for an application for Design Review, requested by Bingham Junction LLC/Shawn McGowan, for the renovation of the Rockingham Junction rail depot to include the relocation of the existing building to a new foundation on the existing site. The use of the building will for be the owner's professional office space. The work is focused on software engineering, software investing, and advanced data analytics. A small addition to the structure and a storage barn will be added. The property is located at 3 Rockingham Junction, Tax Map R3, Lot 13A, B1 Zone.

There was also further discussion of the status of the Class A Trail designation for the Class VI Road portion of Neal Mill Road. The Town Manager has told both the PB and TC that the decision is still awaiting the Town Attorney. **Ellen** added that she thought that SELT wanted to wait for the change to Class A until after all of their deed work was complete.

Ellen mentioned that the lot on Grant Road where the ConCom approved a small area of wetland encroachment has begun clearing the lot for the septic tank and home. In addition, **Ellen** mentioned that a few years ago she had discussions with Diane Hardy about updating the Prime Wetland Maps. Mark West worked on them last time. **Ellen** has asked Bart to look into the updating if there are changes in the State rules vs. the Town rules.

Autumn Event: **Cris Blackstone** reported on the ideas going forward for the fall event. She suggested that we might have a three person planning group work toward October 15 in the Town Hall Auditorium space with tech help as a tentative date.

9. Old/New Business:

Heron Point Project: **Ellen** reported that the two dead trees at the entrance to Heron Point have been removed safely. She is currently working with graphic designer Catherine Arakelian (who has worked a great deal with the SELT) on the signage for the kiosk. Both **Melissa Sharples** and **Melissa Brogle** suggest that the ConCom work toward consistency on all properties. They plan to take a look at all of the kiosks for uniformity in messaging. It is expected that Scout Amy Benson will be working at Heron Point in May and **Ellen** will supervise.

Schanda Park Accessibility: A request has come before the ConCom from the group Northeast Passage at UNH for an accessible porta potty at the park. Members discussed space issues and whether or not the Rec Dept. will fund it. During the meeting, Aimee Gigandet texted **Cris** that she will cover the cost of the accessible portable toilet for July and August at Schanda Park if it fits. **Melissa Brogle** will find out who to speak with about the space issue at Fish & Game. Aimee Gigandet also requested to reserve the park for July 5- August 23 with August 30 as a rain

date for the “Arts in the Park” concerts from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm (or until dark). These concerts are open to the public and free.

Action

Motion: **Melissa Sharples** moved to approve the use of Schanda Park for the annual “Arts in the Park” concerts organized by the Recreation Department for Tuesday July 5 to August 23 with August 30 as a rain date from 5-9PM.

Second: **Melissa Brogle**

Discussion: None

Approved: **Approved 6-0-1 (Cris Blackstone abstained)**

Wiggin Farm Invasive Volunteer Day: **Ellen Snyder** outlined plans for an invasive volunteer work day at Wiggin Farm. It was agreed to set the date for Saturday, May 14 from 9:00 to 11:30 or 12:00. **Ellen** will get the tools from the SELT and will work with members to get the word out through Nature Groupie and our ConCom social media.

Earth Day Clean-up: **Melissa Brogle** spoke about the signup is behind from last year. Fifteen people have signed up so far along with a group of Girl Scouts and a group of UNH students. We have a wonderful collaboration with Iron Goat [Junk Removal & Hauling | Newmarket, Portsmouth, Dover, NH | Iron Goat Equipment](#) to take away large pieces of trash found. The Town has provided us with blue bags to distribute to folks and the Transfer Station will gladly take them without fee. The dates will be April 17-24.

Upcoming Events and Guest Speakers: **Cris Blackstone** reported on an exciting event called ‘Rec Connect’ on May 26 from 5-7PM to be held upstairs at the Stone Church. [Rec Connect Recognition Program at the May Mixer \(newmarketrec.org\)](#)

Cris has guest speakers for the next three months. May: Joshua Megyesy from the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program of NH Fish & Game – expert on turtles. June: Matt Larkin, District Conservationist at USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in Rockingham Co. July: Natch Greyes, expert on carnivorous plants and wetlands. **Cris** would like input on future topics.

May 8 will be the LRAC and Fish & Game ‘Herring Aid’ at the Macallen Dam. Help the herring move up the Lamprey River

Melissa Sharples will contact Steve Fournier and cc: Rick Malasky about putting up the turtle crossing signs.

The Newmarket Library would like to have an event, ‘Wildlife Encounters’, at Schoppmeyer Park. The ConCom does not control the use of Schoppmeyer Park. **Cris** will let the Library know that they should contact both Steve Fournier and the Community Church to seek permission.

10. Adjourn

Action

Motion: Ellen Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Melissa Sharples

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously Approved

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM.
The next meeting will be held on May 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM
in the Town Hall Auditorium.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary