

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 10, 2022 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium|

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: Patrick Reynolds (Chair), Melissa Sharples (Vice Chair), Ellen Snyder (Treasurer), David Bell, Cris Blackstone, Jeffrey Goldknopf (Planning Board Rep), Sam Kenney, Melissa Brogle (Alternate), and Julianna Tyson (Alternate).

Members Absent: Megan Brabec (Town Council Rep-Ex Officio)

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Roll Call

2. Public Comments

Mr. Jerry Collins has come before the ConCom this evening to ask for help to ask the State to open the Lamprey River for River Herring fishing this year. Mr. Collins has been operating Chick's Weir off of Schanda Park for 45 years and 5 additional years with Mr. Chick Hayes. There has been herring fishing in the river since the 1600's. The fishing was cancelled last year and approval to begin again is being delayed. He has asked members to call Cheri Patterson, Acting Marine Division Chief at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department at (603) 868-1095 in the Durham office to ask her to open the fishing this year. If fishing is not open again this year, Mr. Collins indicates that this would be the end of Chick's Weir.

The Chair moved the agenda to New/Old Business to accommodate our guest speaker this evening. There was no objection.

8. Old/New Business

Guest Speaker – Mr. Tom Hobbs, ReVision Energy: Mr. Tom Hobbs is speaking this evening as part of the residential sales group for ReVision Energy. The Town of Newmarket is thrilled to launch Solarize Newmarket, a town-wide program aimed at increasing the number of homes powered by clean solar energy. The Town Energy Committee put out a Request for Proposals in 2021 and ultimately selected Brentwood-based ReVision Energy as the official solar installer for the campaign. ReVision Energy is a 100% employee-owned, Certified B Corp with over 7,000 solar installations completed across northern New England, including over 40 right here in Newmarket. They are hoping to double the participation in Newmarket. They have been working with the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee to create as much interest as possible in Newmarket. They are offering a special discount of 15% in addition to the Federal Tax Credit 26% (this credit will be reduced to 22% at the end of this year). They hope that interested folks would get in touch with them for an assessment of their individual properties. Just fill out a request at:

[Get started with a Free Solar Evaluation- ReVision Energy](#) . More information about the company may be found at: [ReVision Energy Brentwood, NH Solar Showroom](#) . This solarized campaign runs from 1/1/2022 and 4/30/2022. **Cris Blackstone** asked Tom to discuss the fact that ReVision is considered a B Corp. A B Corp is a for-profit corporation recognized by the majority of U.S. states that are driven by both mission and profit. Becoming a B Corp allows companies to hold on to their social mission, while allowing them to scale the business. Since they are for-profit, the company can grow and raise money though still be held to a socially responsible standard. Recertification is required every two years. **Cris Blackstone** asked about recycling of older panels. Solar panels are designed to last 25-50 years. Warranties cover them for 25 years. It could take approximately 8-10 years to pay for the investment of converting to solar energy. They do recycle their panels with a company in New Jersey where they break down the components. **Ellen Snyder** asked about different types of storage - like batteries, power cells, power wall battery backups in addition to net metering. Re-Vision will be giving a presentation thru the Newmarket Public Library via zoom next Tuesday, March 12 at 6:00 pm. Anyone interested in that free presentation should sign up with the Library to get the zoom link. The Commission thanked Tom for coming to our meeting!

The Chair returned to the agenda without objection.

4. **Approval of Minutes** **February 10, 2022**

Action

Motion: **David Bell** moved to approve the draft minutes of February 10, 2022 as written.
Second: **Cris Blackstone**
Approved: **Approved 6-0-1 (Melissa Sharples abstained)**

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Ellen Snyder reported that the Conservation Fund has a current balance of \$163,687.63 and this includes the Schanda Park Fund. We did receive a little bit of interest. We have \$75,000 waiting for the SELT to claim for the purchase of the Gaziano property. **Ellen** has contacted Duane Hyde and they are still going through all their funding and getting ready to accept our contribution in June or July. We did receive the \$5,000 LRAC grant. The General Fund balance is \$686.81. The Chair mentioned that the ConCom has not received a request as yet for the purchase of fish for the Annual Newmarket Fishing Derby to be held on June 18, 2022.

6. **Committee and Subcommittee Reports**

Riverfront Advisory Committee: **Sam Kenney** reported that the committee met on February 28 at 4:00 PM with the eight representatives of the UNH/State design team who are putting together the final report for Schanda Park. Also present at the meeting were members from Public Works, Water & Sewer, and the Recreation Department. The final version of the documents should be available before the next meeting of the ConCom.

Town Council: Megan Brabec is not present this evening.

Planning Board: Jeff Goldknopf reported that the special workshop scheduled for February 22, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers was cancelled due to lack of quorum. The Planning Board was unable to work on the Stormwater Management Site Plan Revisions and the proposed changes to the M2 A Zoning. Jeff and the other members wanted to thank Diane Hardy for her many years of excellent work for the Town.

7. Chairman's Report

The Chair wanted to take a moment to thank all of the members for all of their service as he ends his term on the ConCom. He stated that it has been an honor to serve with current and past members. He believes that this commission is a body of very hard-working individuals who have conserved so much property in perpetuity and created programs to serve and educate all members of the Town. The ConCom wanted to thank Patrick very much for his service and dedication to the Town!!!

8. Old/New Business (continued)

Officer Elections: This item was tabled until the April meeting.

Earth Day Clean-up: Melissa Brogle spoke about the success of the program for Earth Day Clean-up last year. We had 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 Transfer Station took all bags of trash even though not in Town Bags. She asked if members were interested in doing this again this year. She has emailed Toni Weinstein to see if she was going to do another cleanup. Melissa Sharples liked the idea of doing the clean up over a full week and other members agree. Melissa Brogle will prepare a flyer again this year. There was also a great response to the social media posts of happy groups with their trash!!! The dates would be April 17-24. Local groups like sports teams and Girl Scouts participated by cleaning larger areas. Melissa will coordinate with Toni on blue bags from DPW.

Wiggin Farm Invasive Control: The ConCom approved the expenditure for the work at the last meeting. Ellen Snyder said that the contract is currently being drawn up for the Town Manager's signature. She did some mechanical work last year and would like to choose a volunteer day in May or June for more mechanical removal. She points out that this is a great way for working out angst!

Heron Point Kiosk-LRAC Grant: Ellen Snyder said that there are a few more pieces that may be covered by the LRAC grant. There were two hazard trees by the entrance that were not taken down last year. She has spoken with Jon Roy at Orion Tree Service and he will be cutting them next week. One is a hemlock tree and the other an ash – both dying. She also reports that Amy Benson, Eagle Scout, will be working on her project in April – both her re-routing of a trail and creating a couple of benches. She has contacted several people who could create three interpretive signs and will ask for bids. Ellen had a talk with the Newmarket Community Church today about the 'Newmarket Cares Day' on Friday, May 13. They are working with young people from the High School and they are interested in some of the projects we still have to do at Heron Point- specifically on the Kiosk using the LRAC grant.

Virtual Workshop: The Chair announced that there will be a virtual workshop on Friday, April 8 from 9:00 AM to noon as a culmination of the facilitated design progress for the Great Bay Living

Shoreline Project. [Workshop: Designing Living Shorelines for Great Bay | New Hampshire Coastal Adaptation Workgroup \(nhcaw.org\)](#) Things all Schanda Park and Moody Point!

Next Guest Speaker: **Melissa Sharples** announced that Pollinator Pathways will be our guest speaker at the next meeting in April. The Pollinator Pathway project is organized by volunteers working together to establish pollinator-friendly habitat and food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife along a series of continuous corridors. We hope to have many members of the community attend the meeting. [Pollinator Pathways | Newmarket NH](#)

Future Guest Speakers: **Cris Blackstone** mentioned that our speaker in May will talk about wetland plants and our speaker in June will talk about turtle habitats.

"Conservation Connections 2.0": **Cris Blackstone** was asking if there is interest in repeating and improving upon the event we had last October. The ConCom appointed an official sub-committee: **Cris Blackstone** (Chair), **Melissa Brogle**, **Julianna Tyson**, and **Ellen Snyder**. They will work on a date and begin the planning. The members tossed around lots of fun ideas!

9. Adjourn

Action

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

Second: **Melissa Sharples**

Vote: Unanimously Approved

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

The next meeting will be held on April 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM
in the Town Hall Auditorium.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary