



**NEWMARKET CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022  
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM  
7:00 PM

**Members Present:**

Ellen Snyder (Chair), David Bell, Cris Blackstone, Jeffrey Goldknopf (Planning Board Rep.), Sam Kenney, Melissa Brogle, and Julianna Tyson (Alternate)

**Members Absent:** Melissa Sharples (Vice-Chair)

**Also Present:** Colin White (Town Council Rep. – *ex officio*) was present in the audience this evening.

Voting members this evening include: **Ellen Snyder, David Bell, Cris Blackstone, Jeffrey Goldknopf, Sam Kenney, and Melissa Brogle.**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Snyder at 7:02 PM.

[time on DCAT 2:53]

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Roll Call**

**4. Public Comment**

No members of the public were present this evening for comment.

[time on DCAT 4:18]

**5. Southeast Land Trust – Revision to the Deed Restrictions for the Gaziano Tract**

Brian Hart, Executive Director of the SELT, is here this evening to explain new financial restrictions on SELT to release funding for projects (such as the Gaziano Tract) so that they may come to fruition. They must restructure the arrangement of legal interest and have come to ask that the Town of Newmarket become the primary holder of the deed restrictions with LCHIP and the NHDES Ground Water Program as backups on the Gaziano Tract. This would allow all entities to be able to protect their financial investment in the property and ensure that SELT as the owner complies with their funding requirements. There is no real change to the deed restrictions – just a reshuffling of roles. Mr. Hart has asked that the Conservation Commission

endorse this approach. The Chair stated that this change would require the ConCom to conduct that annual easement monitoring, but because we have abutting easements on two properties nearby (Silverman and Schneer) that this should not be an undue burden.

#### **Action**

**Motion:** Ellen Snyder moved to endorse the recommendation by the SELT that the Town of Newmarket become the primary holder of the deed restrictions with LCHIP and the NHDES Ground Water Program as backups and that they recommend that the Town Council approve this recommendation.

**Second:** Cris Blackstone

**Discussion:** None

**Approved:** Approved Unanimously 6-0-0

#### **6. Guest Speaker**

[time on DCAT 7:18 – 27:50]

Our guest speaker this evening is Matt Larkin, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. He will speak on “Water Quality, Soil Health, and Opportunities to Promote Both Throughout Newmarket”. The Chair gave an introduction of his accomplishments before Matt began his presentation. The NRCS primarily works with private landowners to help identify areas of concern and problem solve. Over the past few years, they have been concerned with water quality and soil health. Nearly 70% of land in the U.S. is privately owned. They provide technical assistance and financial assistance. They also will provide soil health assessments. He brought along two pamphlets: 1) ‘Conservation Stewardship Program in New Hampshire’ ([www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nh/programs/financial/csp/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nh/programs/financial/csp/)) and ‘Steps to Assistance’ ([www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nh/programs/financial/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nh/programs/financial/)). The ConCom can have a role in the Town by making landowners aware of the opportunities available to them. Matt’s office in Epping covers both Rockingham and Strafford Counties. The NRCS motto is “Helping People Help the Land”. It all begins with planning a vision for their land and moves from there. Last year they did \$1.1 in cost share agreements. A few years ago the NRCS had a big push to provide New England Cottontail habitat and were quite successful in generating a lot of early successional habitat. He suggests that the Newmarket ConCom members could attend the Rockingham Conservation District meetings and workgroups to provide input <https://rockinghamccd.org/>. The next workgroup will be toward the end of July and it will be posted and advertised. The Chair would like to get the workgroup posted on the town newsletter. The Chair also asked about delayed mowing advice on some of our properties like Wiggin Farm and NRCS can provide suggestions. NRCS has partnered with the Xerces Society for pollinator concerns. Their specialist is Alina Harris <https://xerces.org/staff/alina-harris>. The members thanked Matt for his time and great information.

#### **7. Kerry Cronin, Library Director**

[time on DCAT 28:00- 22:15]

Kerry Cronin is attending the meeting this evening to propose the use of Piscassic River-Loiselle Conservation Area for a story walk between July 10 and 16. They laminate the pages of a story book and Velcro them to a stake (installed with a mallet). The stakes are approximately 7 feet

apart along the path. The library was awarded an ARPA grant for early literacy which provided funds for the purchase of additional stories for these walks. The Chair will try to have the path mowed just before the walk. The book being used is “Henry Hikes to Fitchburg” which is the first book of a series of five picture books by D.B. Johnson based on Henry David Thoreau.

#### **Action**

**Motion:** **Sam Kenney** made a motion to approve the use of Piscassic River-Loiselle Conservation Area between July 10 and 16 by the Newmarket Library for a story walk.

**Second:** **Melissa Brogle**

**Discussion:** None

**Approved:** **Approved Unanimously 6-0-0**

#### **8. Heron Point Sanctuary**

**[time on DCAT 33:32]**

a. Amy Benson is here this evening to discuss the completion of her Eagle Scout Project at Heron Point Sanctuary. Over the past few months, she has been working on fund raising for her project. Her project included closing an old, rooty trail along with creating two new trails (mentored by **Ellen Snyder**). She also placed a picnic table at the point with the help of 10-12 people! She was happy to gift the Conservation Commission with the left over money from the fund raising in the amount of \$1,077.60. Thank you so much Amy! **Cris Blackstone** took the photo op with the money for promoting her wonderful work!

b. The Chair stated that, with the trails completed, work is still being completed on the interpretive signs for the three panels of the kiosk. They are asking for comments on the drafts. She hopes to use some 1940/1950 aerial imagery from Matt Larkin as well as a photo from the New Market Historical Society showing an early 1900's view showing the time when the point was barren.

c. The Chair reported on the good works of the Newmarket Cares Day – organized between the Newmarket Community Church and the students from Newmarket Jr/Sr High School. Melissa Brogle was there to help out and they met Silas Richards the faculty sponsor of the NetZero Club. The NetZero Club is interested in possible collaborations with the ConCom on projects. The Chair thought it might be nice to have them come to one of our meetings to talk about what they do. Their newsletter is quite well done and informative.

#### **9. Rec Connect: Conservation Connections -2022 Program of the Year Award**

At the Rec Connect/Newmarket Business Association May 26 event, the Conservation Commission was honored to receive the “Event of the Year” Award. Our heartfelt thanks for the award and we’d like to share the honor with the Recreation Department (and vans!), Sunrise Sunset Center, Dept. of Public Works, Town Library and most of all, to the volunteers at Heron Point, presenters and attendees, because without these people, the event wouldn’t happen! **Cris Blackstone** gave a little update on the presentation and about the many people who helped make this event so successful. Rec Connect II will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium on Oct. 15. Everyone seems to be on board to go for another successful event this year. **Cris** will be changing some of the photos in the glass cases upstairs in the hallway and the award will find a

home there.

**10. Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2022**

**[time on DCAT 48:19]**

**Action**

**Motion:** Ellen Snyder moved to approve the draft minutes of May 12, 2022 as written.  
**Second:** Melissa Brogle  
**Discussion:** None  
**Approved:** Approved 4-0-2 (S. Kenney and Cris Blackstone abstained).

**11. Finance Report**

**[time on DCAT 48:48]**

The Chair reported that we did not get a financial report this month, but she does not believe that there are any changes from last month. Next month, the wonderful donation from Amy Benson will be included in the Conservation Fund.

**12. Bart McDonough – Town Planner Report**

**[time on DCAT 49:13]**

Although **Bart** was present this evening, he has no speaking voice. The Chair is going to give his report. He is currently working on Moonlight Brook and the living shoreline project at Schanda Park. **Ellen** and **Bart** have been brainstorming about things we might do- like collaborating with other towns on commuting, biking, and regional trail connectivity. Since **Ellen** and **Bart** have worked with the Town of Durham previously, they thought it might be good to get together with their Planner and Conservation Commission Chair for a chat. Another town to speak with would be Newfields. The SELT is in the midst of hiring a trails specialist which is a new position. **Bart** would like to reach the goal of municipal agreements.

**13. Committee/Board Reports**

**[time on DCAT 53:19]**

Planning Board: **Jeff Goldknopf** reported that the PB has not met since the last ConCom meeting. The PB is still working on the Stormwater Management Sub-Division and Site Plan Revisions. The Board does expect to hear from the owner of the property at 3 Rockingham Junction/the Rockingham Rail Depot about his proposed changes to the property.

Town Council: **Colin White** is present this evening sitting in the audience. **Ellen Snyder** welcomed him to the ConCom and we are excited to have him. Since the TC has already changed the Class VI Road (Neal Mill Road) to a Class A Trail, the ConCom would like to see the section of Old Lee Road sandwiched in between Newmarket and Newfields changed to a Class A Trail also.

**Action**

**Motion:** Melissa Brogle made a motion that the Chair write a letter to the TC asking to change Old Lee Road to a Class A Trail which would connect both ends of the Class A Trails.  
**Second:** Cris Blackstone

**Discussion:** None  
**Approved:** **Approved 6-0-0**

**Colin** agreed to take this idea back to the TC at their next meeting and **Ellen** agreed to write a letter from the ConCom to the TC including the most recent map which shows the portion of Old Lee Road in question. Welcome **Colin**!

**Cris Blackstone** asked about the next budget cycle with the Town. **Ellen** said that our ConCom budget would go through **Bart** and we will put this discussion on the July agenda.

*Ad hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee:* **Sam Kenney** reported that the committee met on May 16 and are scheduled to meet again on Monday, June 13. The objective of the committee remains the same. A have had a conceptual design prepared for the living shoreline at Schanda Park. There is also discussion by the Town about how to approach the issues of the Moonlight Brook outfall. The committee is focused on grant opportunities. **Bart** applied for a Flood Smart Grant, but the Town was not selected. The denial letter did, however, sound positive about the project. At the Monday meeting, the Lamprey River Advisory Group will be present and the Ad hoc Committee is hopeful about the possibilities to align with their goals and seek funding. They will also discuss applying for the NHDES Coastal Resilience Grant which should be due near the end of July.

**Cris Blackstone** reported that Aimee Gigandet will cover the cost for the special access porta potty for the ‘Arts in the Park’ concerts this summer at Schanda Park. However, she is still trying to locate one. The cost has risen from \$75/mo to \$175-200/mo. It appears now to be impossible to have one in place for this season. She still has some ideas and is staying positive. Thank you Aimee!

**Ellen** and **Bart** had a discussion about the proposal for a pedestrian bridge walkway across the Lamprey River from downtown to Heron Point. She gave a copy of the deed for the property to **Bart**. **Bart** will ask the Town Manager to speak with the Town Attorney about any deed restrictions which might be an issue. Matt Larkin asked if this bridge might limit boat traffic. **Sam** mentioned that this is still too much in the beginning stages. **Bart** spoke about the opportunity of applying for funds through NH Community Planning Grants which could provide funding for the stakeholders to hold a charrette.

**Melissa Brogle** announced that this was her last meeting as a member of the ConCom. She has relocated out of town and may no longer serve on any Boards or Commissions in Newmarket. She has been involved so many activities. But two major new ConCom activities included (1) the annual town roadside clean-up (which **Julianna** has agreed to take over) and (2) the special speaker flyers (which **Melissa Sharples** has agreed to take on). We are so sorry to see her leave and wish her good luck in her next adventures. Thank you so much **Melissa**!

#### 14. Events

[time on DCAT 1:12:54]

June 18, 2022: The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Newmarket Fishing Derby will be held from 7:00-10:00 AM.

June 22, 2022: Resilient Shoreline Tour including the Lubberland Creek Culvert 1:00-4:30 PM.

June 25, 2022: How does Your Garden Grow Tour, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The first garden tour sponsored by the Rec Dept. of gardens in Newmarket. Lots of info at the Rec Center!

July 14, 2022: Conservation Commission Monthly Meeting: Guest Speaker- Natch Greyes, Esq. on the topic of carnivorous plants and bog plants.

August 5, 2022: Town-wide Event: ‘The Backyard Bash’. Happening at the Rec Center...just in the planning stages...food vendors, music groups...lots of fun!

August 11, 2022: Conservation Commission Monthly Meeting: Guest Speaker- Barbara Richter, Executive Director, from the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions.

October 15, 2022: The 2022 Conservation Connections II Event.

## 15. Adjourn

[time on DCAT 1:18:49]

### Action

**Motion:** Cris Blackstone moved to adjourn the meeting.

**Second:** David Bell

**Discussion:** None

**Approved:** Approved Unanimously 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.  
The next meeting will be held on July 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM  
in the Town Hall Auditorium.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

DCAT:

[https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekkdEeRsk0JHQVHAvKJVka7\\_5VjxKP/videos](https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekkdEeRsk0JHQVHAvKJVka7_5VjxKP/videos)