



TOWN OF  
**NEWMARKET**  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Conservation Commission

April 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

### APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

**Members Present:** Ellen Snyder (Chair), Melissa Sharples (Vice-Chair), David Bell, Cris Blackstone, Jeffrey Goldknopf (Planning Board Rep.), Tom Jones (Alternate), Sam Kenney, Colin Lawson (Alternate), and Julianna Tyson

**Members Absent:** Colin White (Town Council Rep- *ex officio*)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

[time on DCAT 3:27]

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Roll Call**

**3. Elect Chair and Vice Chair**

**Action**

**Motion:** Sam Kenney moved to nominate **Ellen Snyder as Chair and Melissa Sharples as Vice-Chair** for 2023-2024.

**Second:** Cris Blackstone

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** **Approved 7-0-0**

**4. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

\*\*\*\*\*

**5. Guest Speaker**

We had technical difficulties, so the Chair moved ahead in the agenda without objection.

\*\*\*\*\*

**6. Acceptance of Minutes, March 9, 2023**

[time on DCAT 7:18]

The Chair had one correction to page 5.

### Action

**Motion:**        **Melissa Sharples** moved to approve the amended Draft Minutes for March 9, 2023.

**Second:**        **Julianna Tyson**

**Discussion:**    none

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

### 7. Financial Summary

[time on DCAT 8:45]

The Chair reported that the Conservation Fund has a current balance of \$131,557.34 and there is no change in the Schanda Park Fund. Income for March included \$239.58 interest and a deposit from LCHIP of \$600.00 for the monitoring of the Piscassic River Loiselle easement. We have an approval for \$500.00 for Lew Shelley of Snowhawk LLC for the assessment of the possibility of accessible trails at Sliding Rock. We also have the funding approved for the Wiggin Farm footbridge repairs. The General Fund currently has a balance of \$1,560.58.

### 8. Committee/Board Reports

[time on DCAT 10:08]

**Planning Board and Town Planner:** **Jeff** reported on the most recent meeting of the Planning Board where the PB discussed at length potential changes to the Historical Overlay District. The PB also approved a two year extension to Eric DeWitt for the property at 81 Exeter Road while he continues to seek a funding partner. He will continue to work on this approved landscape plan in the meantime.

**Riverfront Advisory Committee/Schanda Park:** **Sam** reported that the committee has met twice since our last meeting. They will be submitting two grants: 1) Coastal Resilience Grant and 2) Clean Water SRF1 through NHDES. The Committee members are busy speaking with people about the upcoming design charrette and trying to spread the word and get people interested in participating. The next meeting will be on May 8 and there are plans for a site walk at 3:00 PM south of Creighton Street/off Colonial Drive to consider ways to connect with the River Walk. Dr. Stephen Jones (who was the guest speaker in March) will be going out to walk along Moonlight Brook with Lyndsay Butler and Sean Grieg...hunting for potential sample sites. Fish & Game has announced that the 2023 river herring fishing is prohibited. This includes both alewife and blueback herring. Any trap or weir must allow for total escape of herring. **Cris** mentioned that Herring Aid will return this spring when the river herring head back from the ocean to their birth places upstream to spawn the next generation. In 2022, over 77,000 fish came back to the Lamprey River. A date will be set soon – mid to late May - and everyone is welcome to come help move the fish up over the fish ladder.

**Town Council:** The Town Council still hasn't appointed a new representative to the ConCom. **Ellen** reported that the TC passed a new ordinance in February called "**Ordinance No. 2 - 2022/2023 - An Ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the code of the Town of Newmarket, NH; Naming of Public Land and Facilities and Placement of Memorials.**" This is important to the ConCom because we have a pending request for placing a "memorial" picnic bench at Wiggin Farm. The Town Manager must now

determine an application process and fee schedule. The naming of any Town properties is the purview of the Town Council.

**Energy and Environment Advisory Committee:** **Julianna** reported that, at the last meeting of EEAC, the committee members continued with their goal of preparing and editing the different sections for their Master Plan proposal for the Planning Board. They have completed three sections. They have held two public hearings on the Community Power Coalition and they may be seen on DCAT for more further information.

**Newmarket 300th Steering Committee:** **Melissa** was unable to attend the last meeting, but will attend the meeting next Wednesday. Right now the committee is looking at logo and tag line ideas. They have established a commemorative book committee. The Town has requested the Steering Committee form a 501(c)3 organization. They will be reviewing the committee by-laws next week.

The Chair wanted to mention the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Backyard Bash on August 4, 2023. It will be held from 5:00-8:00 PM. [The Backyard Bash 2023, Newmarket Rec, August 4 2023 | AllEvents.in](#). The ConCom could have a table set up at the Bash. **Cris** suggested that we might share a table with LRAC (they are planning a table of information). The Chair will get in touch with them.

The Chair wanted to let everyone know that Toni Weinstein has organized another road side cleaning effort in Town. Past years have been a great success. It has been scheduled for Sunday, April 30. Toni will be distributing the special blue bags from DPW downtown on Main Street. The bags must be out for pickup by the DPW on May 1.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **5. Guest Speaker- Cody Crytzer**

[time on DCAT 29:42 - 53:12]

With the technical issues resolved, the Chair introduced our guest speaker this evening. Cody Crytzer, a Graduate Research Assistant in the Environmental Policy, Planning, and Sustainability Lab (EPPS Lab) is pursuing a Master's degree in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (NREN) at the University of New Hampshire with a concentration in environmental justice and access to nature. He previously earned his B.S.F.(forestry) from UNH. His research is rooted in his passion and desire for environmental justice, resiliency and economic benefits for communities and their community members through the protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Cody's thesis title is: "Access to Nature in New Hampshire: Ensuring Equity and Quality of Life for All".

Cody plans to speak to us this evening about the *Nature Economy: Access to Nature in New Hampshire*. His research objectives include: 1) understanding barriers and opportunities of access to nature and its benefits for underserved communities, 2) sharing information about barriers and opportunities with local, regional, and state organizations in this sector, and 3) contributing to strategies to ensure that equity is at the forefront of all environmental protection, justice efforts, and future policy considerations. There is a clear relationship between access and health/wellbeing. One

major issue in NH is limited public access, from public bus systems to parking at trail heads. Sidewalks are a clear issue as well. Bike lanes, sidewalks, and bike racks are all possible solutions to help with access. Time may also be a barrier to access nature especially if you are a single parent household and the parent is perhaps working two jobs. Winter sports, although very popular, may be prohibitively expensive and transportation is required. UNH Coop Ext. can help by completing a case study in Newmarket. They can look at access issues in general, but, more specifically, at ADA accessibility issues. While doing his case study in Rochester for his thesis, Cody interviewed both Jenn Marsh, Assistant Director of Economic Development, and Lauren Krans, Assistant Director of Recreation and Arena. They are both working on trying to make some of their trails and recreation areas ADA accessible. He will put the Chair in touch with them. Thank you so much Cody!!

\*\*\*\*\*

## 9. Initiatives

[time on DCAT 53:21]

Pollinator Pathways – **Melissa Sharples** reported that we have received a grant of five pollinator kits to distribute in Newmarket as we are a partner with them. The seed packets will create gardens ~ 6'x 9'. The seed kits will be ready to pick up during the last week in April. They are looking at places for the gardens. Some ideas include the library, the Newmarket Community Church Thrift Store, the Recreation Department, the High School Environmental Club or the Elementary School Garden Club, or the Police Dept. **Cris** will speak to the Community Church about the Thrift Shop property and the Recreation Dept. **Melissa** will check with the library, High School, Elementary School, and the Police Dept. There are many places to think about. **Bart** zoomed into the meeting. He had several ideas including the garden divider at Gerry Ave. and South Main, the area behind the Town Hall where the hillside is eroding because of big rain events, and Fillion Park near the dam and the Book Exchange.

"Connect to Protect" - **Tom, Ellen,** and **Bart** have been working with a collaborative program for the New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan. Our team has met with the technical assistance program twice. **Tom** introduced a draft document which includes our goals. A copy is attached as Addendum page 1. We hope to use this plan as a guide while we move ahead conserving and improving our lands in Newmarket. The team is collaborating with Rick, Lyndsay, and Sean as well as Duane Hyde from SELT. Pete Steckler, who co-authored the report called 'New Hampshire's Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan in 2021', is available to prepare and simplify any maps we may need. The hope is to connect or reconnect to other communities by trails and, ultimately, making Newmarket a healthier community. **Julianna** would like to see a plan for more trails to include equestrian use.

**Colin** wanted to address the Boulder Trail. He, **Melissa,** and **Bart** went on a site walk and found that the trail needs some work. **Colin** would like to suggest that the ConCom communicate with the HOA and suggest a meeting. **Bart** stated that the trail is part of the approved site plan which allows for public access.

*Stream and Wildlife Crossing Enhancement Project* - **Colin Lawson** reported about the data base survey of the locations and conditions of all culverts in the State. All the culverts in Newmarket are included in the survey. **Colin** is getting help from people at Trout Unlimited to pull the study up and print it out. He believes that the ConCom could look at potential sites to improve culverts (wet) and also dry passage for other wildlife. **Ellen** watched an informative webinar last week about Aquatic Restoration Mitigation (ARM) and restoration grant opportunities [Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund | NH Department of Environmental Services](#).

A vote on the “Pathways for People and Nature” draft will wait until the next meeting in May.

**10. Conservation Commission Operating Guidelines** [time on DCAT 1:34:30]

The Chair would like everyone to look at the draft Operating Guidelines for the ConCom which is in the meeting packet. The last set of by-laws was updated in 2007. **Ellen** contacted the NHACC and they said we are not required to have by-laws, but, since we have old ones, we can update them and call them Operating Guidelines and discuss them at the next meeting. All members agreed.

**11. Conservation Easement Monitoring** [time on DCAT 1:36:57]

We currently monitor 7 easements (3 privately owned, 1 Town owned, 1 Audubon owned, 1 farm (Nostrum). **Melissa** and **Jeff** confirmed that monitoring of the Nostrum Farm has been completed. They had a brief discussion about 2 monuments, but it would not make a difference unless the land changes hands. **Jeff** would still like to have a conversation with the owner about his future plans and what he is doing with all the agricultural plastics he noticed. He will reach out to the owner. **Ellen** and **Jeff** will be visiting the Hilton Easement again to try and locate two monuments. They hope that Win Hilton will go along with them.

**12. Land Stewardship** [time on DCAT 1:41:50]

*Sliding Rock Recreation and Conservation Area:* **Ellen** is still working on the Sliding Rock interpretive panel. She met with John Carmichael of the New Market Historical Society to find out exactly where the “sliding rock” is located. It is actually located on private land. The second kayak rack has been ordered.

*Piscassic River–Loiselle:* **Melissa** reported that the sign is done and she will contact Rick at DPW to talk about getting installation help.

*Wiggin Farm: April 22, 2023:* The volunteer work day (9:00-noon) at Wiggin is all set to go to extend the boardwalk. The Chair has borrowed a suitcase generator from SELT. She has contacted Rick about picking up the old kiosk. She is going to get (2) 4”x4” posts for the sign and moving both the new kiosk (design still in process) and sign to dryer places closer to the trail head. Newmarket Cares Day is scheduled for May 26 from 8:30-11:30 AM and **Ellen** plans to take that group of students back out to Wiggin for more work.

The Chair was pleased to be notified that we were selected (along with the Lee

ConCom) for the Seacoast Stewardship Summer Interns. Newmarket and Lee Conservation Commissions will work with the three interns on projects on our respective Town conservation lands and trails. We anticipate three days in Newmarket and two days in Lee.

Dearborn: The driveway ROW easement on the deed has been completed by the Town Attorney. It has been returned to Fish & Game and then it goes to the State Attorney General.

**Bart**, Lyndsay Butler, Dave Evans, and Tim Cremen have been making programs for broadcast on DCAT. Has everyone seen the program called “Newmarket on the Streets – King Tide 2023”? **Bart** would like to suggest that we consider a series of films on our conservation properties and **Ellen** also suggested filming the work days. The films could be posted on the website. We would coordinate these efforts with Tim.

### **13. Adjourn**

[time on DCAT 1:56:55]

#### **Action**

**Motion:** David Bell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM.  
**Second:** Cris Blackstone  
**Discussion:** None  
**Vote:** Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

#### **DCAT:**

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



## Addendum page 1



## Pathways for People and Nature



*An Initiative of the Newmarket Conservation Commission  
and the Department of Planning and Community Development*

### Our Goals

- **Protect Water Resources.** To protect our drinking water supplies, restore and maintain the natural shoreline along the Lamprey and Piscassic Rivers, and protect freshwater wetlands and salt marsh that provide many benefits to our community.
- **Maintain Habitat Corridors.** To protect critical natural habitats and places to maintain connectivity across the landscape for animals on land and in the water.
- **Create Trail Networks.** To create trail connectivity across town and between our neighboring communities to ensure safe recreating and commuting for pedestrians and cyclists.

### Our Strategies to Build on Existing Partnerships and Conservation Efforts

#### Protect and Connect Priority Lands

- **Build on Newmarket's wealth of conservation lands.** Newmarket's extensive network of conserved lands protect farms, wetlands, forests, fields, wildlife habitats, drinking water, shorelands, and trails. These conservation areas and parks are managed by municipal, state, private, and nonprofit partners, including the Town of Newmarket, NH Fish and Game, The Nature Conservancy, Southeast Land Trust, and NH Audubon and include lands have been conserved through the subdivision open space process.
- **Identify high priority conservation opportunities.** The 2021 NH Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan provides guidance on where to focus conservation efforts to best protect clean drinking water, aquatic and upland habitats, connectivity for fish and wildlife, flood storage, farmland, and more.
- **Look for willing landowners.** The existing open spaces and the new coastal plan guide us in prioritizing our conservation efforts. We will look to interested landowners and conservation partners to enhance the protection of these critical areas.

#### Restore Waterways

- **Improve places where roads and streams cross.** Some culverts and bridges are getting old or are too small to allow water, sediment, and organic materials to easily flow downstream. Poor stream crossings can lead to flooding and road hazards and prevent the movement of fish, turtles, and other wildlife. Building on the success of the Lubberland Creek culvert upgrade on Bay Road and working with our Town Engineer, Public Works, and conservation partners, we seek to improve stream crossings and restore aquatic connectivity where needed throughout Newmarket.
- **Enhance Newmarket's waterfront.** We are evaluating ways to improve the Newmarket riverfront for people, restore a living shoreline to prevent further erosion, and restore the health of Moonlight Brook as it flows into the Lamprey River at Schanda Park in collaboration with the Riverfront Advisory Committee, UNH, our Town Engineer and Environmental Services Director.

#### Create Trail Networks

- **Create safe routes for hiking and biking.** Trails offer opportunities for recreation, nature observation, commuting, rejuvenation, and scenic enjoyment. Newmarket and neighboring communities host a variety of trails on conserved lands. As our local roads become busier and potentially less safe for pedestrians and cyclists, we seek to connect trails across town and beyond to offer safe passage for all.

**We believe these goals and efforts will enrich our community, foster a healthy ecology, and advance a more economically sustainable Newmarket.**

For more information contact Bart McDonough, Director of Planning and Community Development at [bmcDonough@newmarketnh.gov](mailto:bmcDonough@newmarketnh.gov) or Ellen Snyder, Chair, Newmarket Conservation Commission at [ellensnyder1@gmail.com](mailto:ellensnyder1@gmail.com)



TOWN OF  
**NEWMARKET**  
NEW HAMPSHIRE