



TOWN OF **NEWMARKET** NEW HAMPSHIRE

Conservation Commission

May 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Ellen Snyder (Chair), David Bell, Jeffrey Goldknopf (Planning Board Rep.), Tom Jones (Alternate), Sam Kenney, Colin Lawson (Alternate), and Julianna Tyson

Members Absent: Melissa Sharples (Vice-Chair), Cris Blackstone, Colin White (Town Council Rep- *ex officio*)

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

[time on DCAT 7:59]

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

The Chair appointed Alternates Colin Lawson and Tom Jones as voting members this evening.

3. Public Comment

There were no comments this evening.

4. Guest Speaker: Dr. Gabriela Bradt, UNH

[time on DCAT 8:42- 56:30]

Microplastics on NH Beaches: What have we learned in 8 years.

Dr. Gabriela Bradt is a fisheries specialist holding a double appointment with NH Sea Grant and UNH Coop Ext. She focuses on NH fisheries, the seafood industry, and on the European green crabs (an invasive species) as well as microplastics found on NH beaches. Outreach and education are upper most in her work. They are non-advocacy groups that present scientific and evidence based information to both researchers and their stakeholders at the State, regional, and national levels. She works with local fishermen on direct marketing and presents workshops with chefs and members of the seafood industry to expand the palates of consumers to incorporate new flavors of underutilized food sources like green crabs and seaweed. Aquaculture is also important in her work. The local lobstermen cleanup derelict debris along the coastline annually in the spring. They can clear up to 10 tons per annum of lost and abandoned traps, buoys, floats, etc. In general, people have become overly reliant on single use plastic and,

when it is carelessly discarded, plastic breaks down in the ocean into smaller and smaller bits with the wave and storm action. NOAA defines microplastics of 5 mm or less as a microplastic and 1 mm or less as a nanoplastic. UNH Coop Ext began monitoring five recreational beaches in NH in 2014 with the help of many volunteers. They choose a 1 meter square plot at the high tide mark and monitor by sieving and collecting what they find from April to October. Each beach has 5 sites: 1 in the north, 1 in the south, and 3 in the middle. The five beaches she surveys and collects data on include: Wallis Sands, Jenness, Hampton, Hampton Harbor, and Seabrook Beaches. Seabrook Beach is much cleaner in general because no one can get there...no parking places etc. Styrofoam balls are the worst microplastic because they are light and can move around easily. They have been working with a biostatistician at UNH, Dr. Patricia Jarema, to look at the large data set to, hopefully, help make some statistically based recommendations. **Colin** asked about how to increase PR. She says, that although many people see the problem, she finds that doing outreach to younger groups is making a difference. The next step is putting pressure on corporations. The Blue Ocean Society schedules all the cleanups, so if people are interested, they should contact them directly. [Beach Cleanups and Marine Debris Research – Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation](#). Thank you so much Dr. Bradt!

5. Financial Summary

[time on DCAT 56:27]

The Chair reported that the balance in the Conservation Fund is \$131,829.10 with no expenditures last month. The General Fund has a current balance remaining of \$1,483.75.

6. SELT's Piscassic Greenway Management Plan Update

time on DCAT 57:27 – 1:18:00]

Drew Kiefaber is with us this evening to update the members on SELT's progress with the Piscassic Greenway Management Plan. The Plan is on a ten year cycle for updates. They have established a Management Advisory Committee made up of members from Newfields, Newmarket, Fish & Game, and also SELT's new trail manager, Yohann Hanley. **Ellen** has been hired to facilitate their meetings. They have just wrapped up the final set of meetings. Drew reviewed the history of the greenway which began as three pieces of property. Charlie Marenco was the original person who created the management plan. He has been hired again to do the update. The first three properties were in Newfields and, as SELT added new properties over time, they were primarily in Newmarket. Each piece of property has different funding partners. This means that each property may have its own restrictions and constraints. The goal is to manage the greenway for wildlife habitat, biodiversity, forest health, water quality, and recreation. There have been and will continue to be timber harvesting on the properties. If there is any income from harvesting, it is usually reinvested in the property. A fair number of invasive species have negatively impacted tree species on the properties. Two of these include the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). The Advisory Committee is asking questions of Charlie as to whether or not the trees should be taken out or left in to die in place. There are also invasive plants in the fields and what happens if they mow? Will they spread? There are also different uses especially in the case of the Cole Farm: 1) a community garden space, and 2) a sheep farm.

Management access to these properties include Neal Mill Road, Halls Mill Road, and a private access off of Rt. 87. There are likely to be recommendations related to public use, trailheads, and parking. The Committee hopes to wrap up their recommendations by next month and Drew will return to give the ConCom a handout. **Jeff** asked whether there have been discussions about possible improvements to Halls Mill Road which is quite wet. Possible drainage help? The two members from Newfields (both on their ConCom) and Yohann from SELT have been addressing trail improvement ideas.

Action

Motion: **Jeff Goldknopf** moved that the Conservation Commission recommend that the Town Council reclassify the portion of Old Lee Road in Newmarket (currently a Class 6 road) to a Class A Trail.

Second: **Julianna Tyson**

Discussion: None

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

Ellen will write a letter to the Town Council.

7. Conservation Commission Operating Guidelines [time on DCAT 1:20:00]

The Chair included in the packet the proposed ConCom draft of Operating Guidelines. Several members had not had a chance to review them yet, so the discussion is postponed to the next meeting without objection.

8. Committee/Board Reports [time on DCAT 1:21:18]

Planning Board and Town Planner - **Jeff** reported that the PB met last Tuesday. **Bart** read the draft of the "Pathways for People and Nature" and the PB was very supportive. Congratulations, **Jeff**, for being reappointed to the Conservation Commission as the PB Representative again this year.

Riverfront Advisory Committee/Schanda Park – **Sam** reported that the committee met last Monday. The conversation centered around how one might expand the River Walk to the south. Both **Bart** and Lyndsey were there and it appears that the charrette may not happen until next spring. They had a discussion about park maintenance: missing bricks, tree trimming, schedule of trash pickup. **Ellen** mentioned the Schanda Fund and that we haven't used any of those funds yet. She will meet with Sam, Aimee, and Rick to assess the conditions of the park.

The Chair has received an application for the use of Schanda Park. Elizabeth Loabe would like to hold a Celebration of Life ceremony for Thomas Sewall.

Action

Motion: **Tom Jones** moved to approve the use of Schanda Park by Elizabeth Loabe from 11:30 AM -1:00 PM on 6/3, 6/10, or 6/17 for a Celebration of Life for Thomas Sewall.

Second: **David Bell**

Discussion: None

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

The Chair will notify Ms. Loabe and ask her to choose a date.

Town Council – We do not have a representative, but should by the next meeting.

Energy and Environment Advisory Committee – The ConCom needs to appoint a representative to the EEAC. **Julianna Tyson** has agreed to continue to serve.

Action

Motion: **Tom Jones** moved to appoint **Julianna Tyson** as the ConCom Representative for the EEAC for 2023-2024.

Second: **Colin Lawson**

Discussion: None

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

Julianna reported that the Town Council will be voting on the Community Power Coalition at the next meeting. Community Power has enrolled 63,000+ members since the end of April. Another 10,000 still remain to enroll. The enrollment includes the towns of Exeter, Durham, Dover, Portsmouth, and Stratham. Newfields is still looking into the program.

Newmarket 300th Steering Committee – No report this evening.

9. Initiatives

[time on DCAT 1:30:00]

Pollinator Pathways – **Melissa** told **Ellen** that she has reached out to the Jr/Sr HS and the Recreation Center and she is getting responses.

Pathways for People and Nature – The ConCom had no further comments on the document.

Action

Motion: **Jeff Goldknopf** moved to formally adopt and share the “Pathways for People and Nature” initiative as written.

Second: **Sam Kenney**

Discussion: **Ellen** is working with Pete Steckler on the big maps with overlay trails for this project.

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

Stream and Wildlife Crossings – **Colin** reported that he still needs a few weeks to have the full data set ready for the members to discuss. He is meeting with the Chair of the HOA for the Boulder Assoc. and **Bart** at 9:00 AM tomorrow. They seem to be receptive to improving the trail. There was an old dam near the river for ice skating, but it is in disrepair.

11. Land Stewardship

[time on DCAT 1:31:53]

Sliding Rock Recreation and Conservation Area: The Chair reported that the Recreation Dept. has the 2nd kayak rack now and slips are being rented out. As soon as the racks are placed, **Tom** and **Ellen** are going out to fence off the eroding slope.

The Chair was contacted by a UNH student, Lauren White. She would like to set up camera traps at the turtle crossings on Ash Swamp Road. **Ellen** referred her to **Jeff** and Lyndsey Butler, the Town Engineer, to determine what permissions might be required. Josh Megyesy from F&G referred her to us. Thank you DPW for putting up the turtle

crossing signs last month!

10. Events

[time on DCAT 1:46:46]

2023 Newmarket Fishing Derby: The Chair reported that they have raised all necessary funding for the Fishing Derby this year. We have been asked to be the Town sponsor for the Derby this year. She spoke to them and said she wished to have a conversation with them and the Rec Dept sometime this summer.

Action

Motion: **Colin Lawson** moved that the ConCom be the Town sponsor for the Fishing Derby for 2023.

Second: **Tom Jones**

Discussion: None

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

Rec Connect & Backyard Bash Events: The Chair spoke to **Cris** about making a trail related bookmark - one side for ConCom and the Library on the other side. It might be a good combination. She will get in touch with the Librarian.

11. Land Stewardship (cont.)

[time on DCAT 1:51:03]

Piscassic River–Loiselle: **Melissa** told the Chair that the sign is done and she is working with the sign maker and DPW to see about the installation.

Wiggin Farm: The work day at Wiggin Farm was just amazing! The group completed 50' of boardwalk and cleaned the sign and set it. DPW hauled away the old kiosk. There are great pictures of workers on the web site – check it out! **Ellen** sent around pictures of smaller and lighter kiosks that we might consider. We have the UNH Interns around June 5, so we could use them to build the kiosk.

Action

Motion: **Sam Kenney** made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$500.00 for building materials for the kiosk at Wiggin Farm.

Second: **Julianna Tyson**

Discussion: None

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

The ConCom will vote on hiring a designer for the kiosk sign at the next meeting. **Ellen** will be working on the text and images...the designer does the rest.

The Chair mentioned the remaining balance in the General Fund for supplies is \$123.00. She would like to use some of those funds to buy some of the expensive hardware (screws).

Action

Motion: **Colin Lawson** made a motion to use up the remainder of the supply monies for FY2023 (after the Recording Secretary expenses) for the purchase of hardware for future use.

Second: David Bell
Discussion: None
Vote: Approved Unanimously 7-0-0

Newmarket Cares Day: The date will be May 26 (Friday at 8:30 AM). The Chair plans to take the young volunteers to Wiggin Farm for several projects.

UNH Interns: The Chair will have the UNH Interns from June 5-7 and plans to work at Wiggin Farm and Heron Point with them.

Dearborn: Driveway ROW easement is still making its way to the Attorney General's Office.

Julianna is the Piping Plover Monitor for Fish & Game this season and she is getting ready to train volunteers for the monitoring process. There are 6 nests of Piping Plovers on Hampton Beach and Seabrook Beach and monitoring will begin around June 1st or June 2nd. If you are interested, please let her know. The piping plover is globally threatened and endangered.

Jeff wanted to thank Toni Weinstein for organizing the successful roadside cleanup effort this year. He also wanted to mention that Epping has been dumping effluent into the Lamprey River. He was curious if anyone was testing. The Chair will email Sean Greig and inquire. Newmarket does not take drinking water from the Lamprey.

12. Adjourn

[time on DCAT 2:05:16]

Action

Motion: Tom Jones moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 PM.
Second: Jeff Goldknopf
Discussion: None
Vote: Approved Unanimously 7-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

DCAT:

https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekkdEeRsk0JHQVHAvKJVka7_5VjxKP/videos