



TOWN OF **NEWMARKET** NEW HAMPSHIRE

Conservation Commission

November 9, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Ellen Snyder (Chair), Melissa Sharples (Vice-Chair), David Bell, Jessica Cann (Alternate) *via zoom*, Sam Kenney, Colin Lawson (Alternate), Julianna Tyson, and Brian Ward (Town Council Rep. ex officio)

Members Absent: Cris Blackstone, Jeffrey Goldknopf (Planning Board Rep.), and Tom Jones (Alternate)

Town Staff Present: Bart McDonough, Director of Planning and Community Development

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

[time on DCAT 0:29]

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

The Chair appointed Alternates **Colin Lawson** and **Jessica Cann** as voting members this evening.

The seven voting members include **Ellen Snyder, Melissa Sharples, David Bell, Jessica Cann, Sam Kenney, Colin Lawson, and Julianna Tyson.**

3. Public Comment

There was no one present for public comment.

4. Approve Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2023

[time on DCAT 2:06]

Action

Motion: **Colin Lawson** moved to approve the Draft Minutes with the date correction for October 12, 2023.

Second: **Sam Kenney**

Discussion: none

Vote: **Approved 6-0-1 (Melissa Sharples abstained)**

5. Financial Summary

The Chair did not receive a financial report this month, but she does not believe that

ADDENDUM page 1

Open Space Update Timeline

NOV: Kickoff meeting, review progress, revise map set, establish check-ins, schedule goal-setting workshop, begin survey

DEC: Check-in, review first draft narrative, promote survey, prep for joint-board goal setting workshop

JAN: Host Goal-setting workshop, close survey, review first draft narrative

FEB: Review survey results, workshop first draft narrative

MAR: Approve final narrative, review & workshop recommendations

APR: Approve recommendations & prep for joint-board wrap-up

MAY: Host joint-board wrap-up, final revisions, begin adoption process

ADDENDUM page 2



SRPC's deliverables

- Meeting agenda & notes from each meeting
- Project contact list
- Summary of progress toward 2007 recommendations
- Literature review notes and/or summary from review of local & regional plans & policy/management guides
- Revised map set
- First and second draft of the Open Space chapter, including recommendations
- Community survey & summarized survey results
- Outreach material, presentation, and meeting notes from final joint-board wrap-up meeting
- Public notice language & educational material for MP chapter adoption public hearing @ Planning Board meeting
- Final comprehensive draft of all combined sections as adopted

ADDENDUM page 3



ADDENDUM page 4



ADDENDUM page 6

<p align="center"><u>Newmarket Conservation Commission</u> Expense Estimate for Boulder HOA Trail Improvements <u>Estimated Project Implimentation - Fall 2023 through Spring 2024</u> Date Proposed Budget Submitted: 11/9/2023</p>											
Trail Section	Trail Description	Length in Feet	Proposed Action to Improve Trail	Required Materials:	Purpose of Application	Estimated Length	Estimated Unit of Material	Cost per Unit	Total Units	Totals Material Cost	Funds
Yellow - 1	Boardwalk	20	large puddle appears during heavy rain events	Pressure Treated 1x6 & 4x4 Lumber	Used to drain rain water under trail	24 ft	72 board ft	2.00	72	144.00	TBD
Gray - 2	Chain Link Fence	75	remove and dispose of old fence	None	remove old fence and recycle through Newmarket DPW	75 ft	NA	0	0	0.00	TBD
Orange - 3	Upgrade - wet and eroding existing trail.	150	repair this stretch with stable ground cover and drainage	Course #3 Stone - base	add roughness to trail base to improve water drainage	150 ft	20 yds	40.00	20	800.00	TBD
Orange - 3				Wood Chips	add top dressing as walking surface to trail	150 ft	20 yds	42.00	20	840.00	TBD
Green - 4	Trail Relocation	200	relocate trail to level ground and drain	Course #3 Stone - base	add roughness to trail base to improve water drainage	200 ft	20 yds	40	20	800.00	TBD
Green - 4				Wood Chips	add top dressing as walking surface to trail	200 ft	20 yds	42	20	840.00	TBD
Tan - 5	Wooden Walking Bridge	20	install walking bridge over the stormwater channel	Pressure Treated 1x6 & 4x4 Lumber		24	72 board ft	2.00	85	170.00	TBD
										\$ 3,594.00	

there are any changes to report.

The Chair asked to move forward to Agenda item #7 without objection.

7. Committee/Board Reports

[time on DCAT 3:30]

Town Council: **Brian** reported that the new tax rate was increased by 9.3% to \$29.49. The Tax Collector is in the process of preparing the bills and the due date is December 6, 2023. He reported that the foot bridge over the Lamprey River has been repaired and should be okay for a few years. It is safe for walking traffic only and they will be looking for grants to fund a major repair. He mentioned that Rachel Cote was appointed to as an Alternate to the Arts, Culture, & Tourism Commission, Ginny Ouellette was appointed to the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee, and Gerald Martin was re-appointed to the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) representing Newmarket.

The Chair asked to return to Agenda item #6 without objection.

6. Master Plan Update – Open Space Plan

[time on DCAT 6:36 –1:01:00]

Bart rose to speak about the Open Space Chapter of the Master Plan Update. He is joined this evening by Autumn Scott from the Strafford Regional Planning Commission. She will be the manager for our plan along with Jackson Rand who is the GIS Planner. The team also includes Kyle Pimental, Lisa Murphy, Rachel Dewey, Mark Davies, Natalie Gemme, and Angie Cleveland. Autumn had a presentation entitled “Protecting Source Water Through Open Space Conservation Planning”. The updates to the Open Space Master Plan Chapter are funded through a grant from the NHDES Local Source Water Protection Program. Once completed, the Plan should become a tool for municipal staff and volunteers in land use decision-making processes and it should be a resource for residents to understand their landscape and engage in stewardship. The methodologies used will be a compilation from the NH Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan. She presented the timeline for the process ([See Addendum page 1](#)). Additional technical assistance partners include the UNH Sustainability Institute and the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The SRPC’s deliverables are covered in the grant ([See Addendum page 2](#)). **Ellen** wrote the last chapter and had comments/updates to suggest and she will email her comments to all. A survey has been created for the community and Autumn read through the pertinent questions. She has asked that the members take the survey and provide input on the questions. The survey combines Housing with Open Space to avoid ‘over surveying’ the community. Autumn would like the member’s comments in one week to get the survey rolling by the end of November or early December. The members had a discussion of ways to promote the survey among the community. Autumn plans to attend our next meetings.

The Chair asked to return to Agenda item #7 without objection.

7. Committee/Board Reports

[time on DCAT 1:01:13]

Planning Board: No report this evening.

Riverfront Advisory Committee/Schanda Park: **Sam** passed out a mapped based on

discussions within the RAC about incremental ways in which the Riverfront could be promoted (**See Addendum page 3**). The map shows an initial connection concept for a “Newmarket Community Trail”. **Julianna** mentioned Burlington Wildways, which is a partnership that connects and protects the wild places and paths of Burlington, VT. [Burlington Wildways](#). Great beginning and good work RAC! The design charrette for the Riverfront will be in the Fall of 2024. **Bart** also mentioned ‘wayfinding’ as a tool. There are four types of wayfinding signs, identification, directional, informational, and regulatory. As a standalone, signs serve a specific role, but as part of a greater wayfinding system, they inform each other. **Bart, Ellen,** and Dave Evans are working on finalizing the signage language for Schanda Park signs...don’t feed the ducks, etc. and will present it to the ConCom when complete. Moonlight Brook is still an issue with pollution. **Bart** mentioned a catch basin which is being investigated further.

Energy and Environment Advisory Committee: **Julianna** reported that they are working on public transportation issues in Newmarket...maybe an Uber system with a sliding scale. She will also ask for a Master Plan Sub-Committee volunteer from EEAC.

300th Anniversary Committee: **Melissa** reported that preparations are in the early stages. The 300th anniversary for Newmarket is 2027 and the 250th anniversary for the USA is 2026. The celebration will be a combination. Logo submittals are beginning to come in now. **Melissa** will be meeting with PromoCentric about various tchotchkes for the event. She also wanted to ask members if they wanted to do something specific for the ConCom.

8. Conservation Easement Monitoring [time on DCAT 1:22:54]

Tom couldn’t be here tonight for a report. The Chair reported that she has finished the Schmeer easement and everything looks good. The Gaziano Track also looks good and she sent a report to SELT. She will monitor Silverman in early December. **Sam** will be monitoring the Piscassic River-Loiselle shortly. **Julianna** is all set to do Bald Hill. **Dave** will be monitoring the Smith Sisters. SELT will be hiring someone to mow the field at Gaziano this fall.

9. Land Stewardship [time on DCAT 1:06:31]

Wiggin Farm Kiosk and Interpretive Panel: **Ellen** has sent materials off to Greg DiSanto – no news to report yet.

Folletts Brook Boundary Reconnaissance: It is planned for December and the Chair will email everyone.

Sliding Rock- phase 2 project ideas: Suzanne Petersen from LRAC would like us to look at the boat launch and find someone to assess the need. We could write another LRAC grant with a cap of \$7500. There are also lots of invasive plants growing behind the kiosk. They could be removed and we would replant the area with native plants. The proposal would include an evaluation and design for the boat launch and beach area. **Bart** has a couple of firms in mind for the work and will report back.

10. Other Projects

Boulder Drive Trail: **Colin** reported that the trail is about 1200 ft. long. It is in need of protecting from erosion. He provided a map and cost estimate. (**See Addendum pages 4-5**). It may take a few days to complete the work as proposed (w/ crushed stone base).

In some places there are roots growing up above ground by 3 inches which might require about 6" of stone. He met with the new HOA representative who is receptive to the work. The HOA would like a fence along ~150' removed from their view and they would not like to pay for removal. **Bart** will ask DPW if they will take it away if we can roll and remove the fencing and haul it to the road. **Melissa** would not like to see this trail advertised...it is very short. **Bart** mentioned that he would do a little research to see if the Town has an easement and who has the liability for the trail. The HOA would not want the liability. Future connectivity of this trail was discussed.

Neal Mill and Old Lee Class A Trails: The Chair is waiting for word from SELT.

11. Events

[time on DCAT 1:48:30]

January 8, 2024: Astronomy Night with the Nature Conservancy

Earth Day 2024: Sliding Rock Invasive Removal and Native Planting- to be planned

Connect to Protect: Lunch & Learn Webinar - How coastal NH/ME communities are advancing land conservation priorities. Friday, December 8, 12:00-1:15 PM [Follow - Connect to Protect \(connect-protect.org\)](#)

12. Adjourn

[time on DCAT 1::50:00]

Action

Motion: **Melissa Sharples** made a motion to adjourn at 8:52 PM.

Second: **Colin Lawson**

Discussion: none

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

DCAT:

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