



**NEWMARKET CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022  
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM  
7:00 PM

**Members Present:** Melissa Sharples (Vice-Chair), Cris Blackstone, Jeffrey Goldknopf (Planning Board Rep.), Sam Kenney, and Colin White (Town Council Rep. – *ex officio*)

**Members Absent:** Ellen Snyder (Chair), David Bell, and Julianna Tyson,

A quorum of voting members this evening includes: **Melissa Sharples, Cris Blackstone, Jeff Goldknopf, and Sam Kenney.**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair **Melissa Sharples** at 7:02 PM. [time on DCAT 5:28]

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Roll Call**

**4. Public Comment**

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

**5. Guest Speaker – Natch Greyes**

[time on DCAT 6:33 to 1:08:31]

**Cris Blackstone** introduced out guest speaker this evening, Natch Greyes. Mr. Greyes is a prominent municipal association attorney in New Hampshire who is also widely known for his work with carnivorous plants and bogs. As a carnivorous plant enthusiast and active member of the New England Carnivorous Plant Society (NECPS) <https://www.seacoastsarracenia.com/>, he is also the author ‘Cultivating Carnivorous Plants’ and other publications [https://www.amazon.com/Cultivating-Carnivorous-Plants-Natch-Greyes/dp/1505891604/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=2MZU7WIPO3O3I&keywords=natch+greyes&qid=1658165112&srefix=Natch+Greyes%2Caps%2C80&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Cultivating-Carnivorous-Plants-Natch-Greyes/dp/1505891604/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2MZU7WIPO3O3I&keywords=natch+greyes&qid=1658165112&srefix=Natch+Greyes%2Caps%2C80&sr=8-1). He is an avid gardener of carnivorous plants as well. He described in detail the four species primarily found in New England/New Hampshire. They include Pitcher Plants, Sundews, Bladderwort, and Butterwort. He also described in detail the five ecosystems that carnivorous plants call home: Kettle Bogs, Boreal Bogs, Atlantic White Cedar Bogs, Pine Barrens, and Sand Dunes. If one is looking for carnivorous plants, you may find them in the areas where you find sheep laurel, mountain laurel, cotton grass, and blueberries. They thrive in full sun, acid and moist terrain. The biggest threat to their continued existence if human activity, habitat destruction, poaching, and climate change.

Carnivorous plants are grown successfully in containers and one local company excels at this – Seacoast Sarracenia <https://www.seacoastsarracenia.com/> . He answered questions from the members. Thank you Natch!

**6. Heron Sanctuary – Review Draft Kiosk Interpretive Panels [time on DCAT 1:08:47]**

**Ellen Snyder** has included in the packet the draft interpretive panels for the kiosk of the trail map at Heron Pt. Sanctuary. **Cris Blackstone** commented that the panels were quite beautiful, but she would like the very nice pictures not at an acute angle because, if you wanted to take a screen shot with your phone, there may be problems.

**7. Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2022**

[time on DCAT 1:09:57]

**Action**

**Motion:** **Jeff Goldknopf** moved to approve the draft minutes of May 12, 2022 as amended with information that **Colin White** was in attendance for the entire meeting.

**Second:** **Cris Blackstone**

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** **Approved Unanimously 4-0-0**

**8. Finance Report**

[time on DCAT 1:12:02]

**Ellen Snyder** submitted information to be voted on with regards to the finance report this evening.

- a. Approve payment of \$650 from the Conservation Fund to Martin Forestry for GIS work and creation of the Heron Point Trail Map, as part of the grant from LRAC.

**Action**

**Motion #1:** **Sam Kenney** made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$650 from the CF to Martin Forestry for GIS work and creation of the Heron Point Trail Map, as part of the grant from LRAC.

**Second:** **Melissa Sharples**

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** **Approved Unanimously 4-0-0**

- b. Approve payment of up to \$1,000 from the Conservation Fund to Cathy Arakelian for the design of the three interpretive panels for the Heron Point kiosk, as part of the grant from LRAC.

**Action**

**Motion #2:** **Melissa Sharples** made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$1,000 from the CF to Cathy Arakelian for the design of the three interpretive panels for the Heron Point kiosk, as part of the grant from LRAC.

**Second:** **Sam Kenney**

**Discussion:** None

**Approved:** **Approved Unanimously 4-0-0**

- c. Approve payment of up to \$600 from the Conservation Fund for printing of the three kiosk panels and two trail maps for trail signposts at Portsmouth Sign, as part of the grant from LRAC.

**Action**

**Motion #3:** **Cris Blackstone** made a notion to approve the expenditure of up \$600 from the Conservation Fund for printing of the three kiosk panels and two trail maps for trail signposts at

Portsmouth Sign, as part of the grant from LRAC.

**Second:** Melissa Sharples

**Discussion:** None

**Approved:** Approved Unanimously 4-0-0

[time on DCAT 1:14:26 to 1:28:52]

**9. Bart McDonough, Town Planner- Proposed ConCom Budget FY24**

**Bart** is present this evening to address the proposed Conservation Commission Budget for FY24. The budget was sent to members are part of the packet. He and **Ellen** met to discuss the increase to several of the General Fund requests. The CC went over budget this year in several areas. They propose increasing the recording secretary budget from \$2,000 to \$2,200 and dues would increase from \$400 to \$500 (paying for NHACC). All other line items would stay the same. The overall change would be an increase of \$2,900 to \$3,200. This is the time of year to make the “ask”. **Cris Blackstone** would like to ask for \$100 to go toward the Conservation Connections Event on October 15. **Bart** agreed to add that to the proposal. **Cris** described last year’s successful event. It was discussed that this funding could come from general supplies and **Bart** agreed to look into that for us. **Bart** also wanted to speak about opportunities to seek funding through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process this year. He mentioned the monitoring which must be completed and, since monitoring is a benefit to the Town, we could ask for help with costs for trail maintenance, invasive species removal, infrastructure within the trails, purchasing of property, planning documents (like a new prime wetlands map), and studies. He would like the Conservation Commission to come up with some proposals for the CIP by the next meeting. He also discussed grant opportunities. The Conservation Fund balance is \$79,340. **Ellen** and **Bart** wanted to bring up the Land Use Change Tax which is currently split between the Town and the ConCom (50-50). In other municipalities, 100% is typically given to the ConCom. **Bart** says that we would need to have a conversation with the Town Manager. **Ellen** wanted to bring up the fishing derby which is \$1,500 per year - perhaps there is a different way of funding the expenditure. **Bart** will have an idea about properties which might be coming out of current use at the next meeting after speaking with the Town Assessor.

**10. Committee/Board Reports**

[time on DCAT 1:28:53]

**Planning Board:** **Jeff Goldknopf** asked **Bart** to speak about the PB. **Bart** said that at the next meeting, the PB will be discussing a draft proposal on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). They will also be looking at previous documents/minutes of past discussions about the re-zoning of N. Main Street. They will also discuss the report by Stuart Arnette from the combined TC and PB meeting on 11/20/2019.

**Town Council:** **Colin White** reported that the Town Council will discuss Resolution 2021/2022-37 - Sustainable Energy Goals for the Town of Newmarket at their next meeting on July 20, 2022 (second reading). There was discussion about some verbiage – possibly to change the word ‘commit’ to ‘aspire’ or ‘set a goal’.

**Ad hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee:** **Sam Kenney** reported the committee met on June 13 and will meet again on July 18. What the Committee has spent most of their time discussing is to advance the living shoreline at Schanda Park more so than the issues surrounding the Moonlight Brook culvert. It may be likely that the Committee will fracture the timeline and apply to the CIP for the funds for the Moonlight Brook restorative work. They may apply for grant funds for the Living Shoreline separately and be more successful.

**11. Events**

[time on DCAT 1:40:02]

August 5, 2022: Town-wide Event: ‘The Backyard Bash’. Happening at the Rec Center, spearheaded by Aimee Gigandet, from 5:00-10 PM. There will be food trucks, musical groups, kid’s games, adult games, and lots more. **Cris Blackstone** mentioned that this is very much like “Old Home Days” (revisited). More information may be found at: [Backyard Bash | Newmarket Recreation Department](#).

August 11, 2022: Conservation Commission Monthly Meeting: Guest Speaker- Barbara Richter, Executive Director, from the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions. FYI: the fall meeting of the NHCAA will be held in person at Pembroke Academy, Saturday, November 5, 2022 beginning at 8:30 am.

September 8, 2022: Conservation Commission Monthly Meeting: Guest Speaker- Emma Tutein, UNH Extension. “Conservation Easement Monitoring”. **Cris** wanted to put in a little nudge to use some of the money from our great Eagle Scout for safety vests that are printed with ‘Newmarket Conservation Commission’ so that we remain safe and are recognizable,

October 15, 2022: The 2022 Conservation Connections II Event. Aimee Gigandet will be letting us use the van again this year. They are still working on fabulous ideas to make this event successful.

**Cris Blackstone** has had a report back from Kerry Cronin, Library Director, about the Story Book walk installed at Piscassic River-Loiselle Conservation Area July 10 and 16. She is very grateful and has heard from so many residents (anecdotally) asking “when will the next book walk be?”.

**Bart** mentioned that, when **Ellen** was working for Durham, she created a book on each conservation property in Town which included everything about the property. **Melissa** mentioned that they have begun that process. **Bart** said that this might be another opportunity to seek funding for a consultant to help with that process.

**15. Adjourn**

[time on DCAT 1:49:07]

**Action**

**Motion:** **Melissa Sharples** moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM.

**Second:** **Sam Kenney**

**Discussion:** None

**Approved:** **Approved Unanimously 4-0-0**

[time on DCAT 1:49:33]

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

The next meeting will be held on August 11, 2022 at 7:00 PM  
in the Town Hall Auditorium

**DCAT:**

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