



TOWN OF **NEWMARKET** NEW HAMPSHIRE

Conservation Commission

February 9, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

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

Members Absent: Cris Blackstone, Julianna Tyson, and Colin White (Town Council Rep- *ex officio*)

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

[time on DCAT 2:57]

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

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

3. Public Comment

Paul Marino, 28 Dame Road, came forward to introduce himself to the members. He has met several members before and has a keen interest in trees, forests, and invasive pests/species. He just moved to Newmarket and is studying non-fiction at UNH and has a background in journalism. Stella McShera, 10 Packers Falls Road, introduced herself. She, too, has just moved to Town and bought the Mongeon Farm House (C.1860). She is working on an M.S. in Degrowth which is the study of the intersection of ecology, economy and equality and is very interested in the Conservation Commission and the work of other committees in Town. She is interested in attending other meetings in the Town as well.

4. Approval of Minutes

January 12, 2023

[time on DCAT 5:59]

The Chair made some editorial changes to page 5.

Action

Motion: **David Bell** moved to approve the amended draft minutes of 1/12//2023.

Second: Melissa Sharples
Discussion: none
Vote: Approved Unanimously 7-0-0

5. Finance Report

[time on DCAT 7:39]

The Chair reported that the current balance in the Conservation Fund is \$130,805.40. A check was issued as a deposit for one half of the price of the new Piscassic River Loiselle sign. The current balance in the General Fund is \$1,823.43.

6. Committee/Board Reports

[time on DCAT 8:35]

Planning Board: Jeff Goldknopf had nothing new to report from the Planning Board.

Town Planner: Ellen reported about the first meeting of 'Connect to Protect'. The team representing Newmarket includes **Ellen Snyder, Tom Jones, and Bart**. The goal of 'Connect to Protect' is to present workshops and opportunities tailored for assistance to municipal boards and conservation organizations. This first meeting was a brainstorming session to help work toward our interests in connectivity while preserving lands in the Town and, in particular, our desire to connect with other groups to learn and benefit from their efforts. It appears that they could help us upgrade our trail maps. She also mentioned that the ConCom would like to connect with our partners like SELT. We have reached out to SELT to continue conversations about what they are planning for this area and ways we might be more collaborative. **Tom** mentioned that the coordinators were very interested in the wetland corridors and ways to improve saltmarsh resiliency and mitigation. The Chair will keep everyone posted as the discussions progress. [New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan - Connect to Protect \(connect-protect.org\)](https://connect-protect.org)

Riverfront Advisory/ Schanda Park: Sam Kenney reported this evening that the next meeting will be held on February 13, at 4 PM and will be a joint meeting of the RFAC and Conservation Commission members with the Strafford Regional Planning Commission to discuss coastal resiliency and grant opportunities. It will be taped for DCAT. **Ellen** reported on the recent oil spill of 200 gallons from a private home off Bay Road that leaked into the Lamprey below the dam. See **Addendum #1** at the end of the minutes for details. The Recreation Department has sent an application to secure the dates for the Annual Arts-in-the Park concerts at Schanda Park for summer 2023. The concerts will begin on Tuesday, June 27. Further information on the concert series may be found at [Arts in the Park Concert Series | Newmarket Recreation Department](#).

Action

Motion: Sam Kenney moved to approve the use of Schanda Park for the Newmarket Recreation Department's annual 'Arts-in-the-Park' concert series for the summer of 2023.

Second: Melissa Sharples
Discussion: None
Vote: Approved Unanimously 7-0-0

Town Council: Colin White is absent this evening. She also mentioned that **Colin** has notified her that regrettably he has a conflict with the ConCom meeting time and has

asked the TC Chair to appoint another member to serve in his place.

Energy and Environment Advisory Committee: Julianna Tyson is absent this evening.

7. Conservation Easement Monitoring [time on DCAT 16:46]

Melissa and **Jeff** completed the monitoring of the New Roots Farm and **Melissa** is finishing the report. **Jeff** was concerned about a few of the markers that were gone and should be replaced. The ConCom will review the report when available. He will touch base with Jeff Cantera, the owner, and discuss any possible changes with him. The Chair understands that he has changed the name of the farm.

8. Land Stewardship/Conservation [time on DCAT 20:08]

Sliding Rock Recreation and Conservation Area – LRAC Grant: **Ellen** reported on one of the components of the LRAC grant. She visited the ¼ mile trail with Lew Shelley who is a trails consultant. He answered her basic questions and he provided a best estimate for a completed accessibility trail which could cost approximately \$40,000. **Sam** will do research about the cost of any extra permitting costs. The Chair thinks that we need to speak with Rick Malasky about the current cul-du-sac parking. Several parking spots would need to be dedicated to accessible handicapped parking. It was decided to go out there with Rick during a peak summer time and **Colin Lawson** was enthusiastic about going on the site walk as well. **Ellen** mentioned the new accessible trail completed recently at Manchester Cedar Swamp Preserve by the Nature Conservancy – it is truly beautiful. [Manchester Cedar Swamp Preserve | The Nature Conservancy in NH](#). The members will continue to discuss the possibility of an accessible trail. **Ellen** is reaching out to the sign maker we often use to get a quote on the new kiosk signage which is another part of the grant from LRAC.

Wiggin Farm – 2023: kiosk bridge, sign posts, invasives: **Sam** walked out with Vic Bilodeau to assess the bridge. They pushed on the rails and posts, but more inspection will be necessary after spring melt. They felt that the bridge needed to be extended about 15' on the parking lot side and about 40' on the other end. They looked at any loose boards which might need to be replaced. Both **Melissa** and **Jeff** mentioned using some anti-slip materials on the boards and **Sam** and Vic agreed. Lumber is certainly not cheap, so they recommend focusing on the bridge extension and just replacing boards on the bridge as necessary. They looked at the kiosk. The posts are 'done' after they snapped in the storm. The roof is still okay and the plywood might be salvageable. **Ellen** asked **Sam** to check on any permitting costs for doing the extensions. **Ellen** will contact Kevin Martin about a new kiosk. Another issue at Wiggin Farm is the entrance sign. The posts securing the sign have heaved and need to be re-set. The sign is dirty and needs to be cleaned and/or repainted. **Melissa** checked on the cost for that work and it would be \$875.00. **Sam** would like to try a little vinegar and a tooth brush. The signage on the kiosk is outdated and we need new panels. **Ellen** would like to schedule an invasive removal work day around Earth Day (April 22). A date will be chosen at a later meeting.

Dearborn – Driveway ROW Easement: **Ellen** just received several samples of ROW easement language from Fish & Game. She will be putting together a draft for the deed and will be running that by Bart and F&G for their comments. She plans to bring this

back to the ConCom, the abutters, and then ask the Town Attorney to review the deed changes.

SELT's Piscassic Greenway Management Plan: SELT is just beginning a review of the existing management plan for the Greenway and consider updates. The plan will include forestry, wildlife, and recreation. The committee has representatives from Newfields, Fish & Game, and Newmarket. Drew Kiefaber (long-time member and Chair of the ConCom) will be the representative from Newmarket. Due to a staff vacancy at SELT, **Ellen** has been hired to facilitate the meetings. Anyone from Newmarket with comments may send those to Drew at (drew.kiefaber@gmail.com) or we could invite Drew to attend a ConCom meeting. The meetings will begin this month and continue for approximately six months.

UNH Extension Summer Stewardship Intern Applications: When **Ellen** worked for Durham, she applied for UNH Extension Summer Interns. She contacted Ann Tappan from the Lee Conservation Commission to collaborate on a request. She attached a copy of the application and description of projects to the member's packet. She was thinking of asking for an Intern for one week (hours to be determined). It is necessary for the interns to be accompanied at all times and the interns are funded by UNH.

Action

Motion: **Colin Lawson** made a motion to submit the proposal for the UNH Extension Summer Stewardship Interns.

Second: **Tom Jones**

Discussion: None

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

The draft application is attached as **Addendum #2** to these minutes.

9. Adjourn

[time on DCAT 53:21]

Action

Motion: **Tom Jones** moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM.

Second: **Melissa Sharples**

Discussion: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

DCAT:

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

ADDENDUM #1



TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Oil Spill in Lamprey River

Approximately 200 gallons of home heating fuel leaked into the river in the area of Bay Road.

At approximately 11AM on February 7, a call came into Newmarket dispatch of Lamprey River near Heron Point. It was later determined that the oil was a private heating oil tank at a residence on Bay Rd. This oil entered the Town's drain system in the area of the Bay Road parking lot and went into the river. It is estimated to be approximately 200 gallons of No. 2 oil in the river.

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) was immediately notified, and their Emergency Response Team is now working with the Fire and Rescue to contain it and determine next steps. NHDES is the agency in charge of the incident.

We will provide additional information when available.



ADDENDUM #2 (pages 6 and 7)

PROPOSAL – FOR DISCUSSION AT LEE AND NEWMARKET CC MEETINGS

Date: February 2023

To: Malin Clyde, UNHCE

From: Ellen Snyder, Newmarket Conservation Commission
Anne Tappan, Lee Conservation Commission

Re: Seacoast Stewardship Summer Interns – Proposal from Towns of Lee and Newmarket

Sponsoring Organizations

Newmarket Conservation Commission

186 Main St, Newmarket, NH 03857

c/o Ellen Snyder, ellensnyder1@gmail.com, 603-583-0039

Lee Conservation Commission

Lee Town Office, 249 Calef Highway, Lee, NH 03861

c/o Anne Tappan, Anne.Tappan@comcast.net

Description

The Intern(s) will assist the Newmarket and Lee Conservation Commissions with stewardship projects on our respective Town conservation lands and trails. We anticipate three days in Newmarket and two days in Lee. The following projects are anticipated, although may be adjusted if site conditions warrant:

Newmarket – Wiggin Farm Conservation Area

- Hand pull invasive yellow rattle from the meadow
- Hand cut and pull invasive bittersweet vines from old field and along stone wall
- Re-set two interpretive signposts and dig out three unneeded posts in the meadow

Newmarket -- Dearborn Conservation Area

- Assist with the creation of a baseline documentation report for the property
- Add conservation area signs along the boundaries

Newmarket -- Heron Point Sanctuary

- Bench and brush out trails
- Add gravel to trails as needed
- Invasive plant removal

Lee

The Lee Conservation Commission has a suite of properties at which they are working on invasive plant control using mechanical methods: hand pulling, cutting, digging, smothering. In June, we anticipate working at the following conservation areas:

- Maud Jones Memorial Forest: hand pull or smother (buckthorn baggies) glossy buckthorn
- Joe Ford Wildlife Sanctuary: cut and pull Japanese knotweed along Laynes Brook
- Little River Park: hand pull and dig invasive plants, including bittersweet, buckthorn, and barberry

Location

Town Conservation Areas in Lee and Newmarket. Outdoors.

Timeframe

One week, preferably in mid-June

Training and Supervision.

Conservation Commission members (Ellen Snyder-Newmarket and Anne Tappan-Lee, or other members with similar experience) will work together with the interns on all projects during week and train them in all skills needed for these projects. Interns will need their own transportation.

Interns will learn:

- How to identify and control invasive plants using various mechanical/hand tools
- Identification of some New Hampshire native plant species and plant communities
- How to improve and maintain trails
- About stewardship issues such as dogs, signage, rogue trails, wetland crossings, sustainability, land management
- About NH Conservation Commissions