

Conservation Commission Minutes June 14, 2012

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 14, 2012

7:00PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Drew Kiefaber (Chairman), Bruce Fecteau (Vice Chair), Jeff Goldknopf, Fred Pearson, Jessica Veysey (Alternate), Stephanie Coster (Alternate), Donald Tucker (Alternate), Janice Rosa (Planning Board Rep), Dan Wright (Town Council Rep)

Members Absent: George Hilton

Called to Order: 7:06 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Drew Kiefaber nominated Donald Tucker as a voting member in the absence of George Hilton.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

May 10, 2012: There was a review of recommended changes to the draft minutes.
Action

Motion: Janice Rosa made a motion to approve the minutes as amended.

Second: Drew Kiefaber

Vote: All in favor. Bruce Fecteau abstained due to absence at the May 10, 2012 meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Jeff Goldknopf distributed the monthly report for May and reviewed the transactions for the month.

6. Committee Reports

Town Council Report – Dan Wright reported that the Open Space Fund agreement is taking longer than anticipated and frustrations are mounting as they work toward finalizing the details with the town attorneys. They have been promised that it should be completed soon and the money returned shortly.

Planning Board – Nothing to report.

Dam Removal Study Committee – Stephanie Coster reported that the next step for the committee will be to post the RFP on the town website and allow two weeks for public comments. She will notify everyone when she confirms that it has been posted and invited the Commission members to comment as they see fit.

7. Chairman's Report

Fishing Derby June 16 – Drew Kiefaber reported that the fish were stocked on Wednesday and the event is scheduled to begin at 7AM on Saturday. Donald Tucker and Drew Kiefaber found a brochure listing the conserved properties in town that they will be distributed at the Fishing Derby for the anglers as outreach through the recreation department.
Action

Motion: Bruce Fecteau made a motion to expend \$43 to pay for the printing costs of the Fishing Derby brochures.

Second: Fred Pearson

Vote: All in favor.

Old Home Day and Oyster Festival, August 12 – Drew Kiefaber reported that he notified the planning committee of the Commission's decision and requested that they submit an application for the usage of Schanda Park for the event.

The Nature Conservancy has invited Conservation Commission members to observe the initiation of the oyster reef restoration next Tuesday. Please respond to the email invitation if you plan to attend, space is limited

Drew Kiefaber distributed copies of the spring/summer edition of Great Bay Matters magazine.

8. Old/New Business

Susan Labrie, Code Enforcement Officer – She addressed the Conservation Commission and offered her assistance as a resource when zoning questions or concerns arise, particularly wetlands violations. She also asked to discuss the permit application for Lionel Labonte. He applied for a septic design for a three bedroom home on his property and the proposed septic system is located in a protected area. Since there may have been some shoreland and wetland violations on the property, she requested comments or concerns from the Commission that she can share with David Price at NH DES. Drew Kiefaber commented that the application had already been approved and shared a copy of the permit that was issued by the state with her. Bruce Fecteau suggested that the Commission recommend that restrictions be included with the building permit that limits the usage of fertilizers on the property. Susan Labrie offered to check with the town attorney to see if it could be added to the deed but she suspects that it is already a standard condition for

approval. Discussion ensued around the potential of overly burdensome regulations for future owners of the property if these restrictions were included in the deed but the regulations were to change. Jessica Veysey asked Susan Labrie how she would like Commission members to handle future code concerns or reported violations; she asked they contact her directly and she will investigate.

Stewardship monitoring; Silverman-Schneer – The final report is in process.

Ongoing Conservation Commission activities – Stephanie Coster reviewed the Top 5 priorities and then grouped them by common effort for sub-committees to address. She recommended 3 sub-committees to cover 1) Policy and Process; 2) Land Protection; and 3) Education and Outreach. She also proposed a future Trail Team to focus on existing trail maintenance and enhancements. The members of the Policy and Process sub-committee are Jeff Goldknopf, Drew Kiefaber and Janice Rosa. The members of the Land Protection sub-committee are Jessica Veysey and Stephanie Coster. The members of the Education and Outreach sub-committee are Dan Wright, Fred Pearson and Bruce Fecteau. For the next commission meeting, Stephanie Coster will send out the list of sub-committees so they begin working on their initiatives.

Rain Barrels, CC Shirts and Hats – Fred Pearson reported that all of the composters have been sold and there are two rain barrels left. Discussion ensued around the merits of continuing the program and all agreed it was worthwhile and important to the mission of the Conservation Commission. Drew Kiefaber asked Fred Pearson to research the cost to purchase a dozen of each and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Fred Pearson reported that the cost for six Conservation Commission hats and shirts will be approximately \$264.
Action

Motion: Bruce Fecteau made a motion to buy six hats and six shirts of varying sizes not to exceed more than \$300.

Second: Drew Kiefaber

Vote: All in favor.

Conservation Commission Scholarship – Drew Kiefaber spoke to Guidance Department regarding the lack of applicants this year. He was informed that there were no seniors graduating this year who were planning to declare environmental sciences major. Many students are pursuing liberal arts major at community colleges for the first two years to save on tuition costs. This prompted discussion regarding the possibility of extending the application for scholarship through their sophomore year in college when a student is more likely to declare a major. The commission will keep this in mind for next year's scholarship program.

Action Item List

- Code Enforcement – Complete
- RFP for dam removal – Complete
- Fishing Derby outreach – Complete
- Help moving fish – Complete
- Letter drafts. to Wiggin Farm abutters – In process as Jeff Goldknopf and Jessica Veysey continue working through drafts.
- Dog waste reminders to town – Complete; Dan Wright will remind the Town Clerk's office to make sure they are being distributed.
- Install dog waste signs – No further action; Bruce Fecteau & Drew Kiefaber will coordinate.

- Old Home Festival – Complete

- Durham Town Newsletter – Jessica Veysey will get a copy to distribute to the commission members; Dan Wright passed it on to the Town Council but he does not foresee any further action until the new Town Administrator is in position.

- Top 5 ranked priorities subcommittee ideas – Complete

- Rain barrels/hats/shirts – Complete

- Notify Audubon of the Smith Sisters cutting – Drew Kiefaber reported that the deed seems to indicate that Audubon owns a strip of land that extends out to Route 152 but we still need to determine if the cuttings are in fact located on Audubon property. Jeff Goldknopf and Janice Rosa will visit the property to confirm the property boundaries.

- Lighting for Schanda Park – Jessica Veysey reported on the impact of night lighting on invertebrates and that many are attracted to UV (blue spectrum) lights. Those that live in the water are attracted to red spectrum lights and exposure can change feed cycles. She recommended that if the light is kept in place then it should be in the yellow spectrum and she will do some research on an appropriate bulb. Jeff Goldknopf also suggested this might be something to consider for future riverfront development. Janice Rosa offered to share the information with the Planning Board.

- Southeast Land Trust accreditation letter – Complete

- Retroactively paid Southeast Land Trust – Complete

- Wiggin Farm encroachment issue – In process

- Silverman-Schneer report – In process

- Move mowing to Sept. 15 – In process

- Help mow/maintain parking head at Piscassic River - Loiselles – No further action

- Eagle Scout project – Drew Kiefaber reported that the project is moving forward. The scout has about 12 months to complete the project with the majority of the work expected to begin in the fall. Drew Kiefaber will invite him to a future Conservation Commission meeting to discuss his project with the Commission.

- Remove snowmobile bridge from Wiggin Farm – Drew Kiefaber will contact Jim Bergeron for recommendations for next steps.

- Lexan and balusters for Heron Point kiosk – The balusters have been received and Fred Pearson will purchase the Lexan.

- Arrange for Snowrollers to meet with Conservation Commission – Drew Kiefaber will follow up with Jim Bergeron.

Bruce Fecteau requested an updated members list; Drew Kiefaber referred him to the town website which should have all members contact information listed.

Bruce Fecteau agreed to contact with the boat owners to schedule and reserve the boat for Heritage Festival tours. He will also check with Joe Schanda to see if he's interested in being a guide again this year.

9. Adjournment Action

Motion: Bruce Fecteau made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Donald Tucker

Vote: All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 07/12/12 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky LaPense