

Conservation Commission Minutes July 12, 2012

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

July 12, 2012

7:00PM Council Chambers

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

Members Absent: Fred Pearson, Jessica Veysey excused

Called to Order: 7:04 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Drew Kiefaber nominated Stephanie Coster as a voting member in the absence of Fred Pearson.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

June 14, 2012: There were no changes or edits.
Action

Motion: Bruce Fecteau made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Second: Janice Rosa

Vote: All in favor.

5. Treasurer's Report

Jeff Goldknopf distributed the monthly report for June and reviewed the transactions for the month. There is one deposit for \$162 from the State of NH has yet to be made but will be posted in July. George Hilton asked for clarification of the cross fund; Drew Kiefaber explained it was the account used to post transfers from the town's Conservation Fund to the General Fund.

6. Committee and Sub-Committee Reports

- Town Council Report – Dan Wright reported that the Town Council approved to release the Open Space Bond funds to the school for the purchase the land.

- Planning Board Report – Janice Rosa reported that the new owner of the public golf course presented a preliminary development design proposal that includes open space, enhancements to the golf course, clubhouse and parking lot, as well as the construction of 51 single family homes with town water/sewage. The owner plans to lease out the management and operation of the golf course and maintain public access. Janice Rosa shared a copy of the schematic for review and discussion ensued about the specifics of the plan. As this is the initial proposal, many details have yet to be worked out. She has communicated the Conservation Commission's recommendations for lighting in Schanda Park and asked that it be considered when discussing ongoing riverfront development. Janice Rosa will ask Jessica Veysey if she would be willing to speak directly with the developers if/when they need clarification or guidance for lighting at the riverfront. The development proposal for the building that formerly housed Joyce's Kitchen is still in process. The existing proposal calls for a four-story mixed space (retail, commercial, residential) and it is back on their agenda for September 18th. Janice Rosa also reported on an issue before the Planning Board involving the obstructed view at the driveway at Fox Hollow. The town is planning to do some earthwork there to improve the visibility so Janice asked if there were any potential environmental impacts to the removal of the dirt. She announced a workshop to discuss the land use change tax and possible zoning changes. The meeting will be held on July 24 at 7PM in the Council Chambers and the public is invited to attend for comment.

- Sub-Committee Reports

§ Policy and Process – No further action.

§ Land Protection – Stephanie Coster reported that they have developed a "to do" plan and their first step is to meet with Ellen Schneider regarding past open space plan options and move on from there.

§ Education and Outreach – No further action. Stephanie Coster asked that the sub-committee look at ways to post or label sewer storm drains in an effort to draw attention to their location and educate the public that the water goes into the river. Bruce Fecteau mentioned that there were fish stenciled on the drains that flow into the river but they are no longer visible. Other towns have installed more permanent markers and the sub-committee will look into possible options and report back to the Commission.

7. Chairman's Report

Fishing Derby June 16 – Drew Kiefaber shared a thank-you letter from the organizers; the numbers were down slightly, mainly due to HS championship baseball game in Manchester that same day; Donald Tucker attended the derby and reported that everyone seemed to be having a good time and there were plenty of fish.

Drew Kiefaber reviewed a letter from DES that was shared with Commission members via email regarding environmental remediation at the towing and auto salvage property on Route 152. The remediation is complete and passed all criteria for issuance of NFA certificate.

Drew Kiefaber shared a letter and \$162 incentive payment from LCHIP for the successful monitoring of the Piscassic-Loiselle and Wiggin Farm properties

Drew Kiefaber shared an invitation from the UNH Cooperative Extension inviting to a three day workshop for wildlife habitat and conservation in NH. 25 participants each year are selected to attend and if you are interested in attending,

please let Drew know.

Drew Kiefaber reported that an application for the usage of Schanda Park was submitted by the Newmarket Fair Committee for usage on August 11th during Newmarket Old Home Day and Oyster Festival. Park usage will start at 8:30AM and remain throughout the day until after fireworks.

Action

Motion: George Hilton made a motion to approve the application.

Second: Janice Rosa

Stephanie Coster asked if there were any concerns about the fireworks affecting the fishing weir. George Hilton commented that it would be easier to get launch the pontoon boat if it were removed but Bruce Fecteau cited the historical and educational value in keeping it there. The group agreed that it would be best to leave it in place for the event.

Vote: All in favor.

Drew Kiefaber will sign the application and return it to Debbie Garretson, along with a copy to the police and fire departments.

8. Old/New Business

Stewardship monitoring, Silverman-Schneer - The draft version is complete.

CC Shirts and Hats - The shirts and hats have arrived and are available for pick up.

Heritage Festival Sept. 22 – The Conservation Commission has been contacted by event organizers to reserve a booth this year. Stephanie Coster suggested hosting nature walks on conservation properties to introduce the public to the many conservation areas around. Bruce Fecteau suggested using the trolley to transport walkers and Stephanie Coster offered to reach out to some of her contacts to find nature guides. Drew Kiefaber will follow up with the Heritage Festival coordinator to inquire about the availability of the trolley on that day and if they have any recommendations for the location(s), time of day and number of guided walks to be offered.

Bruce Fecteau reported that the pontoon boat has been reserved for the guided river tours.

George Hilton reported damage to a middle post at the Piscassic-Loiselle but Drew Kiefaber explained that they made modifications to the post so that the tractor has easier access for mowing.

Action Item List

- Letter to Wiggin Farm abutters – In process as Jeff Goldknopf and Jessica Veysey continue working through drafts; Jeff stated that there is no lock on the small gate at the moment.

- Dog waste reminder – Drew Kiefaber contacted Becky Benvenuti who confirmed that, to her knowledge, they

were being distributed as requested.

- Install dog waste signs – No further action; Bruce Fecteau & Drew Kiefaber will coordinate.
- Durham Town Newsletter – Dan Wright forwarded a copy to the Town Council but does not foresee any further action until the new Town Administrator is in place.
- Notify Audubon of the Smith Sisters cutting – Jeff Goldknopf reported that the abutters had been given permission by Audubon to cut the invasive trees but suggested that the Conservation Commission be notified when exceptions like this are made to avoid any confusion. Bruce Fecteau suggested drafting a letter to Audubon making this request.
- Lighting for Schanda Park – Janice Rosa shared the information with the Planning Board.
- Wiggin Farm encroachment issue – In process.
- Silverman-Schneer report – Draft completed.
- 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 he has been in contact with the Scout who is working this summer at a camp in Manchester. Since he is not available to attend a Conservation Commission meeting, Drew Kiefaber asked him if he would draft a one page “executive summary” on his project that Drew can share with the group.
- Remove snowmobile bridge from Wiggin Farm – Drew Kiefaber will contact Jim Bergeron for recommendations for next steps.
- Lexan for Heron Point kiosk – no further action.
- Arrange for Snowrollers to meet with Conservation Commission – Drew Kiefaber will follow up with Jim Bergeron.

Bruce Fecteau reported that The Lamprey River Park is being sold and suggested that the Conservation Commission look into the easement right-of-way. Jeff Goldknopf will look at the deed to confirm that it is there.

9. Adjournment Action

Motion: Janice Rosa made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Bruce Fecteau

Vote: All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 08/09/12 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky LaPense