

# Conservation Commission Minutes May 10, 2012

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 10, 2012

7:00PM Council Chambers

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

Members Absent: Bruce Fecteau (Vice Chair), Fred Pearson excused

Called to Order: 7:06PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Drew Kiefaber nominated Stephanie Coster and Jessica Veysey as voting members in the absence of Bruce Fecteau and Fred Pearson.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

Apr. 12, 2012: There was a review of recommended changes to the draft minutes.  
Action

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

Second: Drew Kiefaber

Vote: All in favor.

5. Treasurer's Report

Jeff Goldknopf distributed the monthly financial statement. One clerical error from the prior month's statement was

corrected and reflected accurately on the YTD financial summary.

## 6. Committee Reports

**Town Council Report** – Dan Wright reported that the Town Council is reviewing the details of Open Space Bond funds to acquire land for a new school. In the event that the land is purchased and then sold at a later date for profit, they want to ensure there is verbiage to address this. As soon as the draft is completed, Dan Wright agreed to provide a copy to the Conservation Commission.

**Planning Board** – Janice Rosa provided a brief update on several development proposals before the Planning Board including the development of approximately 56 “green” homes and open space, as well as the reconstruction/remodel of the former Joyce’s Kitchen building. The developer of the latter project may be required to get a wetland permit and the location of a planned wind turbine may need to be relocated due to a 50’ height restriction in the proposed location. Janice Rosa agreed to invite Susan Labrie, Code Enforcement Officer, to the Conservation Commission’s June meeting to discuss permitting and code requirements for the town.

**Dam Removal Study Committee** – Stephanie Coster provided an update on the committee’s progress and the question of landowners’ underwater property rights. The committee determined it is beyond the scope of the committee to set those guidelines and will recommend that property owners/abutters reference the deeds to their property for clarification. Jessica Veysey inquired about the final fall structure and Stephanie Coster confirmed the committee is requesting an aesthetic visualization. Stephanie Coster will send Janice Rosa a copy of the draft RFP per her request; she will also distribute a draft of the Executive Summary to the Conservation Commission.

## 7. Chairman's Report

**Fishing Derby June 16** – Drew Kiefaber reminded the Commission of the event and encouraged anyone who is interested to attend. Donald Tucker asked about opportunities for conservation outreach at the Fishing Derby; Jessica Veysey mentioned that there might be some materials left over from the Heritage Festival to hand out at the derby. Drew Kiefaber agreed to look into that and get the materials to Donald Tucker, who will attend the Derby on behalf of the Conservation Commission. George Hilton offered his assistance for the transport of the stocked fish, if needed.

**Old Home Day and Oyster Festival, Aug. 12** – The organizers have invited the Conservation Commission to set up and man a booth at the festival. After some discussion, the consensus was to decline the offer considering the commission’s participation and support of the Heritage Festival. Drew Kiefaber will notify them of the decision and ask them to submit a formal application for usage of Schanda Park (as a matter of protocol only).

**Other** – Drew Kiefaber shared a thank you letter from Loco Sports for usage of Schanda Park for the Great Bay Half-Marathon; a \$250 donation was also provided and will be deposited to the Conservation Fund.

A workshop on the flood zones of the Lamprey River is scheduled for June 1 at the Raymond Baptist Church. Members are encouraged to attend if available.

The Nature Conservancy will be conducting a weed watcher training session on Saturday, May 19 at the office on Bay Road from 9AM-2PM for anyone interested in invasive species removal on TNC properties.

There have been no applications for the Conservation Commission scholarship this year.

Jessica Veysey inquired about the possibility of the town creating a newsletter, similar to one that she saw recently from the Town of Durham. She will forward a copy to Dan Wright to share with the Town Council see if something similar can be implemented for the Town of Newmarket.

## 8. Old/New Business

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

Letter for Southeast Land Trust of NH Accreditation; Drew Kiefaber sent a draft version to commission members requesting their review and suggestions for edits.

Letter for funding educational opportunities – The letter went out to the high school and elementary schools principal; no response as of yet.

Ongoing Conservation Commission activities – Stephanie Coster reviewed the group's "Top 5" goals. Consensus was strong on most and the discussion centered on the best course of action. Stephanie Coster will follow up with Bruce Fecteau and Fred Pearson regarding their "Top 5" and then make recommendations for the development of sub-committees at next month's meeting.

Rain Barrels, CC Shirts and Hats – Fred Pearson spoke with Drew Kiefaber prior to the meeting and asked to mention that we may need to purchase more rain barrels and Conservation Commission t-shirts and hats for the new members.

#### Action Item List

- Dog waste signage – signs have been received and look good
- Lighting in Schanda Park flag pole – Jeff Goldknopf explained that the concern for fishermen in the area would be the impact of the lighting on herring; he was informed that herring do not move at night and was given at contact at the state for more lighting recommendations; he will follow up with that contact and report back
- Smith Sisters Property – Jessica Veysey reported that abutters seem be continuing work in that area; Drew Kiefaber stated he took note of the property but did not notice anything out of the order; he will notify The Nature Conservancy of her concern for further follow up
- Janice Rosa reported that Becky Benvenuti confirmed that there are no current tax liens on any property
- Tax map updating – Janice Rosa created an updated listing of parcels; this document can be used the subcommittee
- TNC Oyster Reef Funding – No further action taken; Drew Kiefaber reported the receipt of an email that needs follow up before further action can be taken
- Wiggan Farm ATV activity – Jeff Goldknopf reported seeing fresh ATV tracks on the property and asked if there were any ways to monitor this activity on the property; he suggested drafting a letter to all abutters to educate them on the sensitivity of the area at certain times of the year, particularly to identify the nesting species in that area; Jeff Goldknopf and Jessica Veysey will work together to draft a letter that is informative and educational in tone; George Hilton also recommended posting an informative flyer on the kiosk

#### 9. Adjournment Action

Motion: Janice Rosa made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Jeff Goldknopf

Vote: All in favor.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:48PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 06/14/12 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky LaPense