



NEWMARKET CONSERVATION COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING

**THURSDAY, June 9, 2022
7:00 PM**

TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Public Comment
- Southeast Land Trust – Revision to the Deed Restrictions for Gaziano Tract
- Guest Speaker: Matt Larkin, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: Water Quality, Soil Health, and Opportunities to Promote Both Throughout Newmarket
- Kerry Cronin, Library Director: Story Walk proposal
- Heron Point Sanctuary
 - Amy Benson, Eagle Scout Project
 - Review draft Heron Point Sanctuary Trail Map
 - Net Zero Newmarket High School environmental organization
- Rec Connect: Conservation Connections-2022 Program of the Year Award
- Approval of Meeting Minutes, May 12, 2022
- Finance Report
- Bart McDonough, Town Planner Report
 - Collaborations with neighboring towns
- Committee/Board Reports
 - Planning Board
 - Town Council - Class A Trails/Class VI Roads: Neal Mill Rd and Old Lee Rd
 - Riverfront Advisory
- Events
 - June 18, Newmarket Fishing Derby
 - June 25, How Does Your Garden Grow Tour, 10 am – 4 pm
 - July 14, CC Monthly Meeting: Natch Greyes, Carnivorous Plants
 - August 5, Town-wide event: The Backyard Bash
 - Oct 15, Conservation Connections event
- Adjourn



1
2 **NEWMARKET CONSERVATION COMMISSION**
3 **THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022**
4 **TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM**
5 **7:00 PM**

6 **1. Call to Order**

7
8 The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Snyder at 7:03 PM.
9

10 **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

11
12 **3. Roll Call**

13 **Members Present:**

14 Ellen Snyder (Chair), Melissa Sharples (Vice Chair), David Bell, Jeffrey Goldknopf (Planning
15 Board Rep.), Melissa Brogle, and Julianna Tyson (Alternate)

16 **Members Absent:** Cris Blackstone, Sam Kenney, and Colin White (Town Council Rep. –
17 *ex officio*)
18

19 On behalf of the Conservation Commission, the Chair thanked **Megan Brabec** for her service as
20 the Town Council Rep for the last two years. We will welcome our new Town Council Rep.

21 **Colin White**, at our next meeting.
22

23 The Chair appointed **Julianna Tyson** as a voting member for this meeting.
24

25 Voting members this evening include: **Ellen Snyder, Melissa Sharples, David Bell, Melissa**
26 **Brogle, and Julianna Tyson.**
27

28 **4. Guest Speaker**

29 The Conservation Commission is joined this evening by Joshua Megyesy, the turtle biologist
30 with the NH Fish & Game Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program. This program was
31 established in 1988 and is the steward for the state's nongame wildlife -- species not hunted,
32 fished or trapped. Josh is a specialist in all things ‘turtle’, but works primarily with four of the
33 seven turtle species found in NH (Blanding’s turtles, spotted turtles, wood turtles, Eastern box
34 turtles) identified as species in greatest need of conservation in the [New Hampshire Wildlife](#)
35 [Action Plan](#). He joins us via zoom to present information on “Turtles Around Us and Their
36 Habitats”. He began with a presentation on the semi-aquatic, semi-terrestrial Blanding’s turtles
37 who enjoy a large home range, they are long-lived (up to 80 years), their habitat includes
38 wetlands, shrub swamps, vernal pools, forested wetlands, and emergent wetlands. These turtles

1 cover territory in a large portion of the Southeastern portion of the state. He showed slides of
2 several turtles who have been tagged with monitors to demonstrate how far they travel every
3 year. Spotted turtles are very secretive and use a variety of habitats in a single season. They are
4 long-lived (up to 60 years) and their favorite habitat is wetlands, vernal pools, shrub swamps,
5 and fens (naturally marshy regions supporting a rich ecology). Like the Blanding's, they live
6 mostly in the southern half of the state. They both hibernate under water in the winter (they need
7 18" of water). Vernal pools are perhaps the most important habitat for both hibernation and as a
8 food source early in the spring. Upland sandy areas are very important to both species for nesting
9 and are disappearing with increased development. Within the NE: NH has 41%, MA has 23%,
10 NY has 24%, ME has 11%, and PA has 1% of the turtle habitat. They re-sample the populations
11 every five years. Newmarket and Durham are two very important areas as well as Bear Brook
12 State Park and Pawtuckaway State Park. The greatest threats to these turtles is road mortality
13 (because of nesting in June) and residential and commercial development (loss of habitat). Land
14 protection is the highest ranked conservation action to protect at-risk turtle populations and
15 biodiversity. There is more information on some of the programs available to help with
16 conservation at: www.americanturtles.org/uploads/2/6/3/4/26349000/megyesy_josh.pdf .
17 Reporting observations is important. Individuals may report all wildlife observations with photos
18 and locations to raarp@wildlife.nh.gov . Report all vernal pools to help inform the future
19 monitoring of these species. The Chair had several questions about culverts and mowing fields
20 and Josh was very helpful. The Chair and members thanked him for his time and information this
21 evening.

22

23 **5. Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2022**

24

25

Action

26 **Motion:** Melissa Sharples moved to approve the draft minutes of
27 April 14, 2022 as written.

28 **Second:** Melissa Brogle

29 **Discussion:** None

30 **Approved:** Approved 5-0-0

31

32 **6. Finance Report**

33 The Chair reported that the current Conservation Fund has \$160,955.10, The Richard Schanda
34 Fund is still at \$4,764.46. We have approved expenditures of approximately \$79,000 from the
35 Conservation Fund, so that the balance is more like \$81,000 after payment of expenditures. We
36 have not had any deposits from current use change tax in a few years. We did have some
37 contributions to the Conservation Fund of \$5,000 from an LRAC grant which we are using at
38 Heron Point and we received \$500.00 from LCHIP for submitting monitoring reports last year.
39 The General Fund balance is \$111.03.

40

41 **7. Funding Request – 32nd Annual Newmarket Fishing Derby**

42 Rich Heidt is here this evening to seek ConCom funding to help with the purchase of fish for the
43 32nd Annual Newmarket Fishing Derby. This event will be held on Saturday, June 18 between
44 7:00 and 10:00 am. There is no entry fee, but entrance registration is required through the
45 Recreation Department. The Derby was not held in 2020, but in 2021, there were approximately
46 105 participants. The fish cost has risen since they started by about 3-6% each year and the

1 fisheries have suffered economically. They have terrific volunteers who raise funds for prizes,
2 collect donations, and to cover the increased cost of fish. They also have a raffle to raise funds.

3
4 Rules to participate:

5 - Fishing Derby is for children up to 14 years of age. Age brackets: 4 & under, 5/6, 7/8, 9/10,
6 11/12 & 13/14

7 - Residents & Grandchildren of Residents only.

8 - Horn blows at 7:00 AM sharp (beware of flying bobbers!)

9 Registration is online only at: [Log in \(recdesk.com\)](http://recdesk.com)

10
11 **Action**

12 **Motion:** **Jeff Goldknopf** moved to approve that the Conservation Commission expend
13 \$1,500 for the purchase of fish for the 32nd Annual Newmarket Dishing Derby.

14 **Second:** **David Bell**

15 **Discussion:** None

16 **Approved:** **Approved 5-0-0**

17
18 **8. Committee/Board Reports**

19 *Planning Board:* **Jeff Goldknopf** reported that the PB took up the following: “*Eric DeWitt -*
20 *There will be a public hearing for an application for Design Review & Extension of Conditional*
21 *Approval of 12/13/18. The Design Review involves a two lot subdivision. One lot containing the*
22 *approved future 2,920 sq. ft. mixed use building would be .078 acres, with 220’ road frontage*
23 *and the other lot would be 4.52 acres, with 451’ road frontage. The lots are located at 81 Exeter*
24 *Road, Tax Map U3, Lot 137, B1 Zone.” Jeff also mentioned that the PB has a new section for the*
25 *Stormwater Management Plan which combines the Sub-Division and the Site Plan Regulations*
26 *into one section called Appendix C. It will be ready for the first hearing at the next meeting.*

27 **Ellen Snyder** has met with Bart McDonough and he has agreed help the ConCom with several
28 ways. He will be checking on the current land use change taxes to make sure that we have
29 received all the funds we are entitle to and he will help with working on the prime wetlands map.
30 The wetlands have most likely changed since the last time they were mapped (when Mark West
31 prepared them). **Jeff Goldknopf** suggested that it would be helpful for Mark West come to the
32 ConCom as a guest speaker to talk about wetland mapping.

33 *Town Council:* Since **Colin White** is not here this evening, **Ellen Snyder** spoke about the
34 proposal taken up by the TC this week to make the Class VI portion of Neal Mill Road a Class A
35 Trail. She spoke at the meeting as well as other members of the public. The second hearing will
36 be May 18, 2022.

37 *Ad hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee:* Since **Sam Kenney** is not here this evening, **Ellen**
38 **Snyder** spoke about her meeting with Bart McDonough. Bart has applied for a grant from
39 NHDES called “NH Flood Smart Seacoast Project” in order to help NH coastal communities:
40 incorporate best available coastal flood risk science and guidance in decision-making, adopt
41 higher floodplain management standards, and access FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance
42 funding. This is a planning grant to help with the culvert planning on Moonlight Brook and help
43 with the living shoreline portion of the project. **Ellen** reported that Fish & Game has nothing to
44 do with the parking spots at Shanda Park, but there still is a questions about the funding of the
45 park and if Fish & Game has an interest.

1
2 **9. Land Stewardship Projects and Priorities**

3 The Chair and Vice-Chair have been discussing a way to better monitor the conservation areas
4 we have in Newmarket. They thought that they would start with the areas where the ConCom is
5 currently working on projects. There four areas include: Heron Point Sanctuary, Wiggin Farm
6 Conservation Area, Piscassic-Loiselle Conservation Area, and Schanda Park. They handed out
7 spreadsheets for the first three to discuss with the members. **Melissa Sharples** began by going
8 through the Piscassic-Loiselle Conservation Area list as an example. The thought is that we
9 would be in touch with DPW about plowing, mowing, and repairs. We can also look for more
10 scout projects. They would like to discuss at the next meeting all the properties we are
11 responsible to maintain – possibly each member could take responsibility for one or two areas –
12 together with another member or alone. The Chair went through some of the incredible work that
13 the community and DPW have done to help with Heron Pont. We are pleased to say that the
14 Conservation Commission was selected to benefit from “Newmarket Cares Day” on Friday, May
15 13 from 9:00 to noon. A team of students will be working along with **Ellen** and **Melissa** at
16 Heron Point to continue to spruce up the trails and boardwalk. **Melissa** also suggested that we
17 reserve time in August to do a session on easement monitoring training. All members were
18 excited about working on this project and they are excited about putting all this information on
19 the website
20

21 **10. Events**

22 *April 2022 Earth Week Roadside Clean-up Report:* **Melissa Brogle** reported that the clean-up
23 went really well this year. Twenty-two families signed up for 37 streets including both schools
24 and the recreation department. Iron Goat Equipment -Junk Removal participated again this year
25 and collected 4 large pieces of debris. Special thanks to the DPW for providing “blue bags” to
26 our workers which could be dropped off at the Transfer Station for free. We had seven unique
27 finds submitted for the photo contest. See the winner on our Facebook page! The Chair was very
28 thankful for the Town for sending out a special flyer about proper disposal of your pet waste and
29 collection of waste while walking your dogs. See more information at: [pet_waste_brochure.pdf](#)
30 [\(newmarketnh.gov\)](#) Thank you **Melissa Brogle** for coordinating the clean-up again this year!
31 **Melissa Sharples** also wanted to mention that dogs are not allowed at Schanda Park. It is
32 posted, but it is widely ignored. **Ellen Snyder** also mentioned that many residents put their
33 garbage out the night before collection. Several things can happen: wildlife can tear open the
34 bags and spread it all over the roadway and they can get into the trash and eat some pretty
35 unhealthy things. It can attract wildlife making them more of a pest and it is simply not a healthy
36 source of food. We should try to get the word out into the community on this important issue.
37 **Jeff Goldknopf** wanted to appeal to the public to avoid littering (throwing items from their cars).
38 Microplastics are a major problem to wildlife and can be found in so many things including
39 cigarette butts. Read all about this issue: [Microplastic pollution and the potential health risks |](#)
40 [CNN](#)
41 *May 13, 2022 Newmarket Day of Caring:* This was reported by the Chair in the Land
42 Stewardship section above.
43 *May 14, 2022 Wiggin Farm Invasive Plant Pull:* **Ellen Snyder** decided to cancel this volunteer
44 event – too many things going on right now and the temperature is likely to be over 80 degrees.
45 She will reschedule the event for another time.
46 *Guest Speaker for June 9, 2022:* We are pleased to have Mr. Matt Larkin from the USDA

1 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) be our guest speaker at the next meeting. He
2 will speak on 'Understanding Water Quality, Soil, Health, and Newmarket's Role'.
3

4 **11. Adjourn**

5 **Action**

6 **Motion:** Melissa Sharples moved to adjourn the meeting.

7 **Second:** David Bell

8 **Discussion:** None

9 **Approved:** Approved 5-0-0



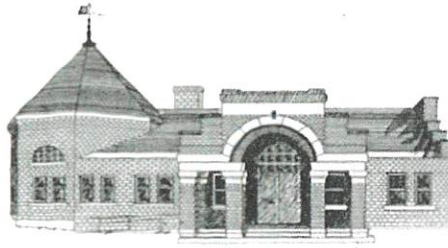
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The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.
The next meeting will be held on June 9, 2022 at 7:00 PM
in the Town Hall Auditorium.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary





Newmarket Public Library

Memorandum

From: Kerry Cronin, Library Director *KEC*
Date: May 27, 2022
Subject: Ellen Snyder, Chair of the Newmarket Conservation Commission

I am writing on behalf of the Newmarket Public Library to request the opportunity to install a temporary StoryWalk® on the Piscassic River – Loiselle Conservation Area from July 10 - 16, 2022. This location was popular with families during last year's Conservation Connection scavenger hunt due to ease of access and would be similarly beneficial for this purpose.

The StoryWalk® concept was originally developed by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT with the help of Rachel Senechal of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library as an innovative way to promote reading and enjoyment of the outdoors for children. I have selected the title, Henry Hikes to Fitchburg by D.B. Johnson, a picture book inspired by the life of Henry David Thoreau. If approved, approximately 30 laminated pages would be attached to wooden stakes and installed along the perimeter of the path leading to the woods. As families hike along the trail they will be directed to the next page in the story.

Earlier this year the Newmarket Public Library received an ARPA grant to promote early literacy, including the implementation of StoryWalks® at the library, Newmarket Recreation, and other town locations. Since last fall we have successfully offered 4 StoryWalks® on the library grounds, which have been popular with all ages.

I would be glad to answer any questions that you have and look forward to attending the Conservation Commission's June meeting. Thank you for your consideration.



Join us for a Resilient Shoreline Tour!

June 22nd, 2022 @ 1PM-4:30PM

Space is limited: Please register here

You are invited to join a tour of Great Bay shoreline sites in Dover, Durham and Newmarket where we will explore the impacts of sea level rise and learn about different strategies being implemented to ensure their shorelines remain safe, resilient and vibrant. Municipal board members, staff, residents, and consultants working in the region are encouraged to participate.



Henry Law Park,
Dover

Dover staff will explain how the City is improving stormwater management and enhancing resilience and accessibility at the riverfront park and future waterfront development.



Town Landing,
Durham

Speakers will talk about flooding risks for Great Bay shorelines, the anticipated Mill Pond dam removal project, and a new community oyster garden.



Lubberland Creek,
Newmarket

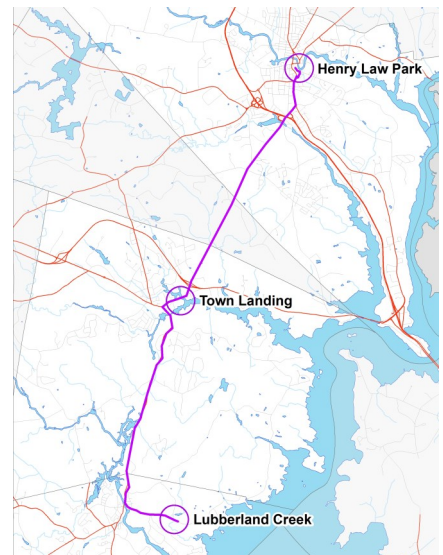
Project leads will explain how the Town upgraded a culvert to mitigate road flooding and protect saltmarsh habitat.

Logistics

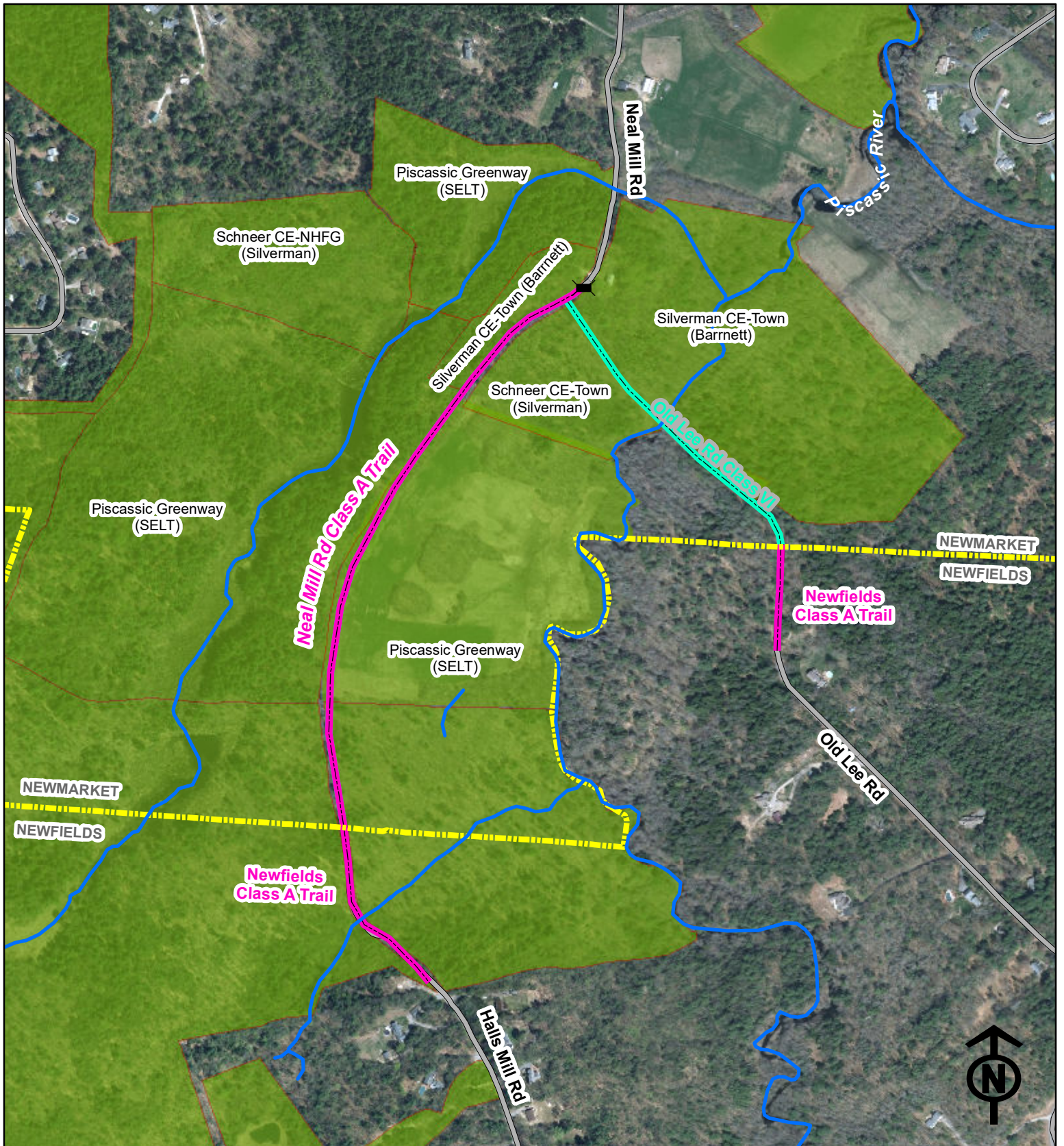
- * Meet at Henry Law Park in Dover at 1PM.
- * Be prepared to be outside and walk at each stop.
- * Hats, sunscreen, water bottles, and sturdy shoes are recommended.
- * Carpooling is encouraged.
- * Expect a roundtrip back to Dover, where attendees are invited to join for happy hour.

Questions? Contact:

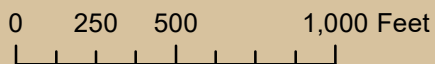
Kyle Pimental, SRPC at kpimental@strafford.org



This project was funded, in part, by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act in conjunction with the NH Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program.



- Conservation Land
- Class A Trail
- Class VI Roads
- Roads
- Gate
- Streams



Class VI Roads and Class A Trails Neal Mill and Old Lee Roads Region Newmarket and Newfields, NH

Boundaries and features are approximate. June 2022



Silas W Richards

NHS NET Zero Newsletter

To: Ellen Snyder

Yesterday at 2:26 PM

Hi Ellen,

It was a pleasure meeting you on Newmarket Cares Day. As the advisor for NET Zero, Newmarket High School's environmental organization, we'd love to extend our help for future projects and initiatives.

Additionally, I attached a copy of our annual newsletter. We would be delighted if you shared this with the Conservation Commission. If the commission has any questions or interest in partnering with us, we'd love to hear from you.

Best regards,

--

Mr. Silas W. Richards M.Ed.
High School Social Studies
Class of 2023 & NET Zero Advisor
Newmarket Junior Senior High School
213 S Main St. Newmarket NH 03857

NET ZERO



*Earth Day
Rally at
Market
Square*



A YEAR IN REVIEW.

This year, as our founding members neared their graduation date, Net Zero has emphasized the solidification of sustainable club practices, which will allow our mission of a more sustainable environment in the Newmarket schools and community to outlive any individual member's tenure. Over the 2021 - 2022 school year, Net 0 has implemented a school garden, worked to promote solar energy, established rain barrels, and organized roadside cleanups across Newmarket.

LOOKING AHEAD.

While we reflect on all the great work Net Zero had done to improve environmental sustainability in the Newmarket community, there is always room for more growth. In the coming year, we'd like to expand our garden program to include raised beds, vegetables, and a composting system. We'd like to work with our facilities director to bring greenery into our courtyard and establish a new bike rack, closer to the school, to promote cleaner transportation. Finally, we'd like to hold the district accountable for the 'single stream' recycling program in our high school and work collaboratively towards a solution.



*Our
Freshly
Painted
Courtyard
Table*

The Garden Corner.



Planting Season.

The Fall of 2021 marked the arrival of our long-awaited school gardens. After countless hours of meticulous planning, we got to work digging and made our dream come to life: two flower gardens situated to the left and right of the Jr/Sr High School's main entrance.

We are so proud to have made this real, tangible step to promote environmental awareness and sustainable practices in our community and look forward to expanding our gardens in the coming years. Thank you to everyone who helped along the way.

Rain Barrels.

This year we made a lot of progress on making our garden even greener. With the help of Ms. Gatt, we built our own rain barrels from repurposed materials. Mr. Reilly, the facilities director assisted us with the optimal location and taught us how they worked. Going into next year, we plan to reduce our dependency on tap water and instead use runoff from the roof for our gardens.



Thank you.

All of this work would be impossible without the help of the Newmarket community and all of our generous donors. We'd like to extend a special thanks to Wentworth Gardens, Blooming Newmarket, Aubuchon Hardware, the Newmarket School Board, our anonymous donor, and everyone else who has helped make our environmental dream a reality.





GROWING, GROWING, GONE.

GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT GOING SOLAR.

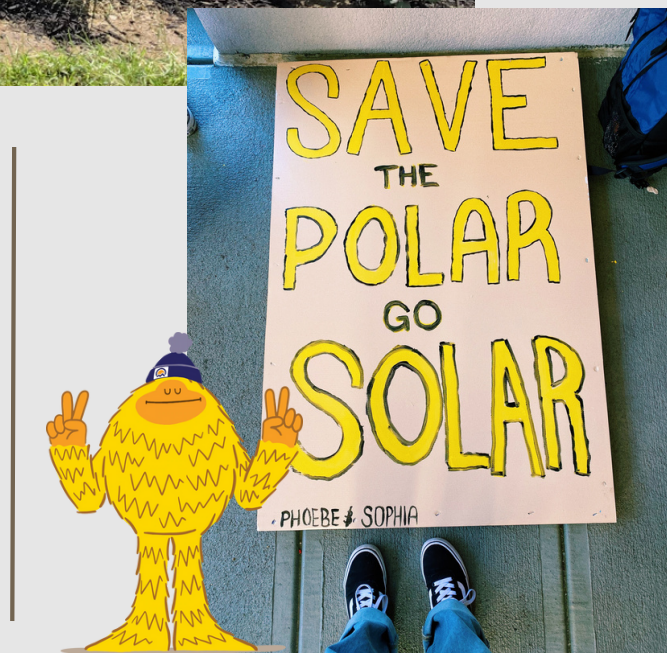
Did you know NJSHS already has an array of solar panels... but they're not in use? Net Zero has been working collaboratively with administrators (special thanks to facilities director Mr. Reily) to explore why they're out of commission and how we can restore them to make NJSHS a greener place. Currently, our infrastructure isn't in a place to support solar, but advocating for green energy lets our administrators know that the environment is a priority and will pave the way for future progress.

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS.

You may have seen a large fluffy yellow creature roaming the streets of Newmarket... that would be Sunsquatch; the cuddly ambassador of green energy. Net Zero has been spreading his message through a joint PSA campaign with Revision Energy. Revision is a local business that strives to spread knowledge about solar energy and its positive impacts on the environment.

Through guest speakers and hand-painted signs, we've worked with Revision to educate on the importance of pursuing greener energy. Solar is the fastest-growing form of energy production and it's time for Newmarket to catch up.

Learn more at revisionenergy.com



CULTIVATING A CLUB.

4 years ago, Net Zero was founded by 8 passionate kids and one brave advisor. This year, our membership grew tenfold to over 40 active participants. The truth is simple: Newmarket students care about our environment and our future. With the help of Ms. Bisson and Ms. Bazzell, we were excited to establish our middle school chapter and now we're looking to spread sustainability to the wider Newmarket community.

REDUCE

REUSE

RECYCLE

**DOING
OUR
PART...**



**TO CLEAN OUR
COMMUNITY.**

This past year we have held three official roadside cleanups, with many of our members being inspired to organize outside-of-club events to further reduce litter and pollution in the Newmarket Community.

Wrapping It Up



Saying Goodbye.

We'd like to take a moment to thank our current senior officers and club founders for all their hard work in helping Net Zero to grow. Shout out to Phoebe Swiatek, Sylvia Rissel, Riley Nolan, Sophia Nolan, Cate Geier, and Porter Malone. You will be missed.

The Future.

Net Zero is proud to announce the winners of our 2022-2023 executive leadership election. Congratulations to Lilla Bozek (President), Quill Burke (Vice President), Alanna Hagen (Secretary), Allison Burke (Treasurer), and Payton Hock (Outreach). They will be working hard in the coming year to continue Net Zero's mission and promote a cleaner Newmarket.



Final Thanks.

Environmental sustainability is truly a community endeavor and we cannot stress how thankful we are to the Newmarket community for embracing our efforts with open arms. Additionally, we are forever grateful to our advisor, Mr. Richards, and Ms. Bisson and Ms. Bazzell, for their dedication and continued support; none of this is possible without you.