



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Conservation Commission

January 12, 2023, at 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

AGENDA

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Public Comment**
- 4. Acceptance of Minutes, November 10, and December 8, 2022**
- 5. Guest Speaker: Lyndsay Butler, Newmarket Town Engineer**
- 6. Finance Report**
- 7. Committee/Board Reports**
 - 1. Planning Board/Town Planner**
 - Connect to Protect Initiative
 - 2. Riverfront Advisory/ Schanda Park**
 - 3. Town Council**
 - 4. Energy and Environment Committee**
- 8. Conservation Easement Monitoring**
- 9. Land Stewardship/Conservation**
 - 1. Sliding Rock Recreation and Conservation Area – LRAC grant**
 - 2. Wiggin Farm – 2023: kiosk, bridge, invasives**
 - 3. Dearborn – Driveway ROW easement**
- 10. 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Priorities**
- 11. Adjourn**



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Conservation Commission

November 10, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

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

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 2:31]

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

3. Public Comment

The Chair invited a member of the audience to introduce himself to the Commission. Tom Jones spoke about recently retiring and moving to Newmarket from Milford. He served on the Piscataquog Land Conservancy as the Land Protection Specialist for the past eight years. Almost all of their land conservation has been done in concert with Conservation Commissions in that area and he is eager to volunteer with the Newmarket Conservation Commission in any way needed. Thank you Tom!

[Piscataquog Land Conservancy - Piscataquog Land Conservancy \(plcnh.org\)](http://Piscataquog Land Conservancy - Piscataquog Land Conservancy (plcnh.org))

4. Guest Speaker

[time on DCAT 5:05-7:58]

'Community Oyster Gardening at Newmarket', Kimberly Arlen, The Nature

Conservancy: Kimberly Arlen is the Habitat Restoration Coordinator for the Nature Conservancy with the Marine Team working on oyster reef restoration and community engagement across the Great Bay area. She is here this evening to speak about the 'Community Oyster Gardening Program'. Historically, as many as 1,000 acres of thriving oyster beds may have covered the estuary in 1970, but over 90% of those oysters were lost due to pollution, harvest, and disease. Without oysters, the Great Bay Estuary is lacking the natural filtration capacity to maintain healthy eelgrass beds and fish nurseries as nitrogen and siltation increase. The Nature Conservancy partnered with UNH and others in 2009 to rebuilt the reef habitat in the Piscataqua Region Estuary of

1 New Hampshire and Maine. They continue to seek community partners in this process.
 2 Currently, they began a Community Oyster Garden in Durham at the town landing in
 3 2019 and another in Dover by Henry Law Park last summer. Each town or volunteer
 4 (who has a dock or private mooring) receives four cages that they care for in the
 5 summer months. They currently have approximately 300 participating volunteers along
 6 the seacoast of NH. There are five volunteers along the Lamprey River in Newmarket.
 7 TNC teach groups about the benefit of oysters, their growth, and their survival rates.
 8 The 'baby oysters' (spat) are monitored and counted in July by volunteers. TNC
 9 purchases the spat and, once they are a little bigger, they are placed into cages to be
 10 distributed to the volunteer sites. Volunteers measure and count them during the
 11 summer months. All the equipment (brushes and measuring calipers) will be provided.
 12 In the fall, the cages are collected by TNC. In late August or September, they release
 13 the oysters to their restoration reefs sites in the Great Bay. Ray Grizzle and Kyrstin
 14 Ward at UNH continue to monitor the protected reef sites to collect scientific data on
 15 survival rates and health. She would like to propose a Community Oyster Garden for
 16 Newmarket. The garden should be accessible to the public and she and her colleagues
 17 would educate the public during counting/cleaning sessions and offer workshops
 18 throughout the summer as a further community component. The members did agree
 19 that this would be a great thing for Newmarket and discussed where we could place the
 20 cages. The Chair mentioned that there is time to plan and discuss the placement for
 21 cages. The ConCom will be back in touch with TNC. Thank you Kim!

22 **5. Approval of Minutes**

23 **September 8, 2022:**

[time on DCAT 18:34]

24 The Chair had some editorial corrections.

25 **Action**

26 **Motion:** Ellen Snyder moved to approve the amended draft minutes of Sept 8,
 27 2022.

28 **Second:** David Bell

29 **Discussion:** none

30 **Vote:** Approved Unanimously 5-0-0

31 **October 13, 2022:**

32 The Chair had some editorial corrections.

33 **Action**

34 **Motion:** Ellen Snyder moved to approve the amended draft minutes of Oct.13,
 35 2022.

36 **Second:** Melissa Sharples

37 **Discussion:** None

38 **Vote:** Approved 4-0-1 (Sam Kenney abstained)

39 **6. Finance Report**

[time on DCAT 22:45]

40 The Chair reported that the General Fund balance is currently \$3,939.38 and the
 41 Conservation Fund balance is currently \$133,998.01 which includes the Schanda Park
 42 Fund. She also reported that **Bart** confirmed that our slightly increased budget request
 43 for FY24 has been supported and forwarded. We hope that it will continue to the final

1 budget approval.

2
3 **7. Committee/Board Reports** [time on DCAT 23:57]

4 **Planning Board/Town Planner:** Jeff Goldknopf gave a report about the recent PB
5 meeting. The PB briefly touched on the letter/comments submitted by the ConCom
6 regarding their concerns about the ADU/DADU proposed amendments to the ordinance.
7 It was decided by the PB members to strike the portion having to do with adding an
8 ADU to any section of the prime wetland protection overlay district. This was done so
9 that applicants could not encroach further into wetlands. The PB plans to revisit this
10 section again. They also discussed the Open Space Requirements and struck the
11 section. However, they did discuss requiring 35% pervious surface no matter how large
12 the lot. The PB did retain the 100 sq ft bonus for an ADU/DADU if you place solar on the
13 roof. An applicant is required to obtain a building permit and then will be required to
14 register annually. The check list for that annual registration has not been created as yet.
15 If they do not comply, they would be served with a Zoning Violation. A consensus of the
16 PB was to have only one ADU or DADU per lot. The PB will continue further discussions
17 next month regarding the discussion of allowable curb cuts. This entire process could
18 take several more months complete the proposal and send it to the Town Council. The
19 Chair asked Jeff for a copy of the next draft before the PB meeting in December and he
20 will email that her for distribution to the ConCom members.

21 The Chair mentioned that Bart has arranged a site walk with Lyndsay Butler, PE, our
22 new Town Engineer, to review the Ash Swamp Road culvert near Jeff's house and
23 where we place several of our turtle crossing signs every year. The site walk will take
24 place at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, November 15 and all may attend.

25 **Ad-hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee:** Sam Kenney reported that the ARAC held
26 a meeting about three weeks ago with Lyndsay Butler. The ARAC was briefing her on
27 the Schanda Park and Moonlight Brook projects to date and enlisting her guidance.
28 Sam has had the pleasure of working with her previously in a professional capacity and
29 feels that Newmarket is very lucky to have her working for us. The next meeting of the
30 ARAC will be next Monday, November 14. They hope to hear more about the outcome
31 of the CIP process regarding both Schanda Park and Moonlight Brook. He will report
32 again at the next meeting of the ConCom.

33 **Town Council:** Colin White could not make the meeting this evening and there was no
34 report.

35 **Energy and Environment Advisory Committee:** Julianna Tyson is our new
36 representative on that Committee and was unable to make the meeting this evening to
37 report. Julianna mentioned to the Chair that there is a lot going on at the EEAC and
38 they have held a community forum on a community power coalition plan for Newmarket
39 on November 9 : [Newmarket NH Video on Demand \(telvue.com\)](https://www.telvue.com) .
40

41 **8. Conservation Easement Monitoring** [time on DCAT 42:41]

42 The Chair mentioned that she had received the monitoring report for the Bald Hill
43 Easement and will send it along to SELT (who owns the property). She noted that there
44 were a few issues with the property. Julianna and Jeff walked the full boundary line.
45 They were able to find all the monumentation with a little difficulty (lots of leaves!). They
46 noticed that the property lines that didn't have any stonewalls or barbed wire fencing,

1 had no signs at all. They placed tags where they could. There is no marked trail, but
 2 there are some stairs to 'nowhere'. Two neighbors came out to meet them and wished
 3 to have a marked trail system to use. We will suggest to SELT that they might create a
 4 marked trail. They both noticed that there had been some tree harvesting, but the
 5 boundaries were respected. **Jeff** noted that SELT visited the property the day before
 6 their visit and **Julianna** mentioned that SELT found some of the same issues.

7
 8 **9. Land Stewardship/Conservation** [time on DCAT 48:55]

9 **Piscassic River-Loiselle Conservation Area:** The Chair reported on the successful
 10 work day at Piscassic River-Loiselle. She and **David Bell**, **Melissa Sharples** and
 11 **Julianna Tyson** along with friends and volunteers all helped accomplish the plan for the
 12 day. They shored up the footbridge until that can be replaced at a later time. We now
 13 need to design and purchase two 18 x25" signs for the newly installed posts. The Chair
 14 got a quote from Portsmouth Sign Co. for under \$250. She will circulate the proposed
 15 signage. The members did not feel it would be necessary to get another quote.

16 **Action**

17 **Motion:** **Sam Kenney** moved to expend up to \$250 to purchase two trail signs
 18 for Piscassic River-Loiselle from the Portsmouth Sign Co.

19 **Second:** **Melissa Sharples**

20 **Discussion:** None

21 **Vote:** **Approved Unanimously 5-0-0**

22
 23 **Melissa** has continued to research new entrance signage for Piscassic River-Loiselle.
 24 She presented two versions for the members to consider from Timberline Signs. Both
 25 versions are consistent with our other conservation properties which is a goal of the
 26 Commission. The consensus of members was to purchase the larger sign (27"x72")
 27 priced at \$1,845 using 6' x 6' posts. So, including the necessary hardware, the total
 28 could reach \$2,200.

29 **Action**

30 **Motion:** **Melissa Sharples** moved to expend up to \$2,200 to purchase a 27"x
 31 72" size sign, 6'x 6' posts, and necessary hardware from
 32 Timberline Signs.

33 **Second:** **David Bell**

34 **Discussion:** None

35 **Vote:** **Approved Unanimously 5-0-0**

36
 37 A great big thank you to **Melissa!**

38
 39 The Chair spoke again about the footbridge replacement using pressure treated wood.
 40 She priced the supplies and estimates approximately \$220. **Ellen**, her husband, and
 41 **Melissa** will build this in the next few weeks in order get it in place before the snow flies.
 42 Any and all volunteers are welcome to help!

43 **Action**

44 **Motion:** **Ellen Snyder** moved to expend up to \$250 to purchase supplies needed
 45 to rebuild the footbridge at Piscassic River-Loiselle.

46 **Second:** **Melissa Sharples**

1 **Discussion:** None
 2 **Vote:** **Approved Unanimously 5-0-0**

3
 4 The Chair will suggest some times through email. **Jeff** suggested taking before and
 5 after pictures to send along to Jim Bergeron to share with his son. His son built the
 6 current bridge as his Eagle Scout project.

7 **Sliding Rock Conservation Area – LRAC application:** **Bart** and **Ellen** attended the
 8 LRAC meeting on October 18 to discuss a proposal for Sliding Rock. The Chair had
 9 submitted the application to their community grants program prior to the meeting. **Bart**
 10 and **Ellen** discussed the beach and the boat launch with them since the ConCom was
 11 uncertain about a remedy. Grace Levergood, a member of LRAC and a Senior Civil
 12 Engineer with NHDES, came to look at the area with **Ellen**. After discussions about the
 13 site, it was recommended not to do anything immediately. **Ellen** submitted a new grant
 14 proposal for \$6,325:

- 15 - Hazard trees remove/drop ~ 8 hazard trees near boat launch/trailhead \$2,000 Orion
 16 Tree Service
- 17 - Kiosk and trailhead create new interpretive panels for a kiosk and trailhead with
 18 watershed map, trail map, etc \$2,000 Cathy Arekalian-design; Portsmouth Sign Printing
- 19 - Trail Assess the existing 1/4 mile trail for accessibility/improvements \$500 Snowhawk,
 20 LLC, Lew Shelley
- 21 - Kayak space Add one more kayak rack for 6 kayaks and cable locks. Rec Dept says
 22 this is one of their most popular boat sites, and signage \$1,300 Logkayackrack.com
 23 (quote from Aimee Gigandet, Director of the Rec Dept)
- 24 - NH DES permits included in case we need permits for some of the tasks \$425
- 25 - Stakes and fencing to place around eroded area near shore where people have been
 26 storing and dragging boats \$100
- 27 REQUEST TOTAL \$6,325

28 We should hear from LRAC shortly after their grant committee meets.

29 **Wiggin Farm:** The Chair reported that the invasive work has been completed by the
 30 Rockingham County Conservation Commission. The field was mowed in October –
 31 good work and thank you DPW! She proposes a work day in the spring to follow-up with
 32 mechanical work on invasive control and other minor projects.

33 **Schanda Park:** **Sam** recently visited Schanda Park and noticed the unbelievable
 34 number of cigarette butts on the ground. He thought that a cigarette butt disposal
 35 container might be placed at Schanda Park and **Melissa** noted that the Mill has one
 36 such container by their front door that helps keep the area clean. The members agreed
 37 and asked **Sam** if he would be willing to investigate costs and purchase something
 38 appropriate.

39 **Action**

40 **Motion:** **Ellen Snyder** moved to expend up to \$100 to purchase a cigarette butt
 41 disposal container for Schanda Park.

42 **Second:** **Melissa Sharples**

43 **Discussion:** None

44 **Vote:** **Approved Unanimously 5-0-0**

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46 We should also speak to DPW before it is placed on site.

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10. Other

None

11. Adjourn

[time on DCAT 1:13:02]

Action

Motion: Ellen Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Second: Melissa Sharples

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved Unanimously 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

DCAT:

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



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Conservation Commission

December 8, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

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

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

[time on DCAT 4:36]

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

The Chair welcomed two new alternate members appointed at the most recent Town Council Meeting. They have not been sworn in as yet, but will be soon. Welcome and thank you to Tom Jones and Colin Lawson.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

4. Approval of Minutes

November 8, 2022:

[time on DCAT 6:48]

The Chair postponed the approval of the November 8 meeting until the January 12, 2023 meeting.

5. Finance Report

[time on DCAT 6:52]

The Chair reported that the Conservation Fund (CF) balance is currently \$133,991.29 which includes the Richard Schanda Park Fund of \$4,764.46. So the actual balance currently available in the CF is \$129,226.83. She also reported that the ConCom has received \$135.15 in interest this month. We received a small amount of residual land use tax and also the new Sliding Rock LRAC grant (one half has been deposited now - \$3,162.50).

1 **6. Committee/Board Reports**

[time on DCAT 11:23]

2 Planning Board/Town Planner: **Jeff Goldknopf** reported that the final draft of the
3 proposed ordinance changes is getting close to a final vote to move the changes on the
4 to the Town Council. A copy of the draft can be viewed on the Town website.

5
6 Ad-hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee: **Sam Kenney** could not make the meeting this
7 evening. He mentioned to the Chair that there will be a meeting coming up shortly and
8 they are working on ways to fund the living shoreline project at Schanda Park.

9
10 Town Council: **Colin White** could not make the meeting this evening and there was no
11 report.

12
13 Energy and Environment Advisory Committee: **Julianna Tyson** could not make the
14 meeting this evening and there was no report.

15
16 **7. Conservation Easement Monitoring**

[time on DCAT 19:27]

17 **Jeff** and **Julianna** completed the Bald Hill reservation monitoring. **Ellen** completed
18 Silverman, Schneer, and the Gaziano property. **Melissa** and **Jeff** have not done
19 Nostrum Farm, but a firm date will be agreed upon this evening. **David** has completed
20 the Smith Sisters property. It did take three trips to complete the monitoring because of
21 the heavy brush. He said everything is fine, but he did mention some boundary marker
22 issues in his report which should be addressed. **Ellen** mentioned the Hilton Easement
23 which is monitored by SELT and she joined them a few weeks ago to walk the property.
24 There is a boundary issue as several pins could not be located and she asked **Jeff** to
25 try to find them with her with the aid of a metal detector. Wiggin is monitored by State
26 because it is overseen by LCHIP, NHDES, and Fish & Game. Dearborn is another
27 property that is monitored by the State for the Fish & Game easement. Any property
28 purchased with LCHIP funding must be monitored by the State. We continue to have
29 brush being dumped onto both Wiggin and Dearborn, so the Chair will write letters to
30 the abutters. Issues with the Dearborn easement still need to be addressed. Fish &
31 Game would like the 50 ft. easement to be gravel not pavement.

32
33 **8. Land Stewardship/Conservation**

[time on DCAT 37:08]

34 Piscassic River-Loiselle Conservation Area: The Chair reported on the successful
35 completion of the new bridge. It only took 2-3 hours and pictures are posted on the
36 Facebook page of the happy and successful workers! **Melissa** confirmed the new sign
37 with Timberline and the cost is a little higher than previously approved (\$2,200). It is
38 now \$2,375. The ConCom needs to pay a deposit of half of the cost now (\$1,187.50) for
39 Timberline to get started on the project. She will be receiving a proof before they begin
40 to share with members. It will be ready in the spring and we will need the assistance of
41 DPW to install the sign in front of the row of cedars near the entrance.

42
43 **Action**

44 **Motion**: **Ellen Snyder** moved to expend an additional \$300.00 to add to the
45 monies already allocated to purchase the new Piscassic River/ Loiselle
46 sign from the Conservation Fund.

1 **Second:** **Melissa Sharples**
 2 **Discussion:** None
 3 **Vote:** **Approved Unanimously 4-0-0**

4
 5 The Chair reported on the 18" x 24" trail signs for PR/L for the two trail junctions. These
 6 signs will be placed on the posts recently installed on the work day. The hope is to put
 7 them up in the next 2-3 weeks.

8
 9 Sliding Rock Recreation and Conservation Area – LRAC application:

10 **Ellen** reported that we received the grant from LRAC for \$6,325

11

12 **Action**

13 **Motion:** **David Bell** moved to accept the grant from LRAC and to expend those
 14 funds for the proposed projects as specified in the grant application.

15 **Second:** **Melissa Sharples**

16 **Discussion:** None

17 **Vote:** **Approved Unanimously 4-0-0**

18

19 The grant included:

20 - Hazard trees remove/drop ~ 8 hazard trees near boat launch/trailhead \$2,000 Orion
 21 Tree Service

22 - Kiosk and trailhead create new interpretive panels for a kiosk and trailhead with
 23 watershed map, trail map, etc. \$2,000 Cathy Arekalian-design; Portsmouth Sign
 24 Printing

25 - Trail Assess the existing 1/4 mile trail for accessibility/improvements \$500 Snowhawk,
 26 LLC, Lew Shelley

27 - Kayak space Add one more kayak rack for 6 kayaks and cable locks. Rec Dept says
 28 this is one of their most popular boat sites, and signage \$1,300 Logkayakrack.com
 29 (quote from Aimee Gigandet, Director of the Rec Dept)

30 - NH DES permits included in case we need permits for some of the tasks \$425

31 - Stakes and fencing to place around eroded area near shore where people have been
 32 storing and dragging boats \$100

33

34 **Wiggin Farm:** The Chair reported that the ConCom has received a request from a
 35 neighbor near Wiggin Farm to donate a picnic table as a memorial. Right now the Town
 36 is working on a new policy which would include criteria and specifications for accepting
 37 gifts of this kind. The Chair spoke with the potential donor and she understands that the
 38 ConCom must postpone action until a later date.

39

40 **9. Other**

41 The members are very happy to have two new alternate members! Welcome!

42

43 **10. Adjourn**

44

45 **Action**

46 **Motion:** **Ellen Snyder** moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM.

[time on DCAT 1:00:27]

1 **Second:** David Bell
2 **Discussion:** None
3 **Vote:** Approved Unanimously 4-0-0

4
5
6 Respectfully submitted,
7
8 Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

9

10

11 **DCAT:**

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

Town of Newmarket, New Hampshire					
Conservation Commission -- Conservation Fund (5Jan23)					
Items (date of motion)	Date of CC Approval -- Discussion	Date of Debit, Revenue, or Balance	Conservation Commission Fund	Richard Schanda Fund	TOTAL
		8/1/22	\$129,846.64	\$4,764.46	\$134,611.10
		10/5/22	\$129,084.24	\$4,764.46	\$133,848.70
		11/3/22	\$129,233.55	\$4,764.46	\$133,998.01
		12/2/22	\$129,226.83	\$4,764.46	\$133,991.29
		1/5/23	\$128,888.83	\$4,764.46	\$133,653.29
CREDITS					
Interest		7/31/22	\$18.04		
Interest		8/31/22	\$44.56		
Interest		9/30/22	\$80.61		
Interest		10/31/22	\$139.29		
Interest corrections		10/31/22	\$8.80		
Interest corrections		10/31/22	\$29.73		
Interest		11/30/22	\$135.15		
Interest		12/31/22	\$118.46		
Land Use Change Tax (LUCT)					
LUCT - 17A Cushing Rd balance		9/12/22	\$443.84		
Other Contributions					
LRAC Heron Pt Community Grant - final payment		10/18/22	\$639.12		
LRAC Sliding Rock Comm Grant- 1st payment		11/30/22	\$3,162.50		
DEBITS this FY					
Heron Point kiosk trail map (Martin Forestry) LRAC grant	3/10/22	7/21/22	\$690.00		
Heron Point kiosk panel design (Cathy Arakelian) LRAC grant	3/10/22	8/9/22	\$825.00		
Heron Point kiosk panels printing (Portsmouth Sign) LRAC grant	3/10/22	9/14/22	\$581.00		
NHACC annual subscription (\$300 from general fund)	10/13/22	10/20/22	\$150.00		
Oct 15th Conservation Connections event - PR-L workday	9/8/22	11/8/22	\$131.61		
Wiggin Farm invasive plant control RCCD	2/10/22	11/8/22	\$3,190.00		
Piscassic River - Loiselle - bridge materials	11/10/22	11/30/22	\$220.46		

Town of Newmarket, New Hampshire					
Conservation Commission -- Conservation Fund (5Jan23)					
Items (date of motion)	Date of CC Approval -- Discussion	Date of Debit, Revenue, or Balance	Conservation Commission Fund	Richard Schanda Fund	TOTAL
Piscassic River-Loiselle trail signs	11/10/22	12/20/22	\$236.00		
Approved to be spent:					
Piscassic River-Loiselle entrance sign (added \$300 12/8/22)	11/10/22		\$2,500.00		
LRAC Sliding Rock Community Grant - \$6,325:					
Sliding Rock Recr and Consr Area--hazard tree removal	12/8/22		\$2,000.00		
Sliding Rock Recr and Consr Area - -- kayak rack and lock	12/8/22		\$1,300.00		
Sliding Rock Recr and Consr Area - -- assessment of trail	12/8/22		\$500.00		
Sliding Rock Recr and Consr Area - -- kiosk panels/other signs	12/8/22		\$2,000.00		
Sliding Rock Recr and Consr Area - -- fencing	12/8/22		\$100.00		
To be Approved					

Newmarket Conservation Commission Funds						
FY23		General Fund: 014611				
General Fund Budget		\$4,185.00				
	Date of motion or debit	Part-Time Salary	Contracted	Dues/ Subscriptions	General Supplies	Postage
BUDGETED		\$3,335.00	\$300.00	\$350.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
EXPENDED		\$1,289.77	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$69.65	\$0.00
BALANCE (5Jan2023)		\$2,045.23	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$130.35	\$0.00
General Fund total balance (2Dec2022)		\$2,475.58				
Part-time salary, recording secretary	7/14/22	\$137.04				
Part-time salary, recording secretary	7/28/22	\$162.74				
Part-time salary, recording secretary	8/11/22	\$9.87				
Part-time salary, recording secretary	8/25/22	\$218.30				
Recording Secretary - supplies (10/14/21)	8/31/22				\$52.41	
Part-time salary, recording secretary	9/22/22	\$66.83				
Supplies - notebook, files	9/20/22				\$17.24	
NHACC dues	10/20/22			\$350.00		
Part-time salary, recording secretary	10/6/22	\$4.46				
Part-time salary, recording secretary	10/20/22	\$26.73				
Part-time salary, recording secretary	11/3/22	\$427.68				
Part-time salary, recording secretary	11/17/22	\$57.92				
Part-time salary, recording secretary	12/1/22	\$178.20				
Approved to be spent						
Notes:						
NHACC annual subscription is \$500, \$150 of which from Conservation Fund						

Connect to Protect Technical Assistance Request
Submitted by Planning Director Bart McDonough

The Town of Newmarket is in the nascent stages of planning a municipal and regional wide effort to consolidate, expand, and interconnect conservation easements. This initiative, currently called, "Connectivity for Nature and People", has two primary goals designed not to be mutually exclusive: (1) to preserve critical natural resources and the lands they reside on, and (2) to create regional terrestrial and aquatic trail networks for recreation purposes. The Town of Newmarket is seeking guidance and technical assistance from the Connect to Protect Program to create a management plan of its conservation easements and fee own lands; identify properties that would bridge the gap between the Town's conservation easements and fee own lands, creating an interconnected conservation network within and beyond the Town's boundaries; and the identification of resources and strategies to assist in creating a coalition with an assigned charge to create a regional trail network.

The Town of Newmarket is of the opinion that an increase in investments into such a recreation trail network will yield a higher user base thereof, thereby, theoretically, increasing the community's willingness to allocate more funding towards future land preservation and conservation efforts.

Conservation Commission Annual Report

We began 2022 with the following members of the Conservation Commission: Patrick Reynolds (Chair), Melissa Sharples (Vice-Chair), Ellen Snyder (Treasurer), David Bell, Cris Blackstone, Sam Kenney, Melissa Brogle, Julianna Tyson (Alternate), Jeffrey Goldknopf (Planning Board Representative), and Megan Brabec (Town Council Representative). In Spring, we thanked Patrick for his years of service, most recently as Chair, as he moved on to the Planning Board. Ellen was elected Chair. Colin White replaced Megan as the Town Council Representative. We thank both for their community contributions. We welcomed Julianna as a full member and thanked Melissa Brogle as she stepped down after moving from Town. We ended the year by welcoming Tom Jones and Colin Lawson as new Alternate members.

The Conservation Commission is an active town board. We hosted educational programs at our monthly meetings, reviewed wetlands permit applications, monitored conservation easements, and cared for trails, infrastructure, habitats, and other features of town-owned conservation areas. We also worked on providing more information about town conservation areas on the Town Website; visit <https://www.newmarketnh.gov/conservation-commission>.

Cris Backstone was instrumental in arranging guest speakers for our monthly meetings. This year we hosted: Tom Hobbs (Revision Energy) on solar opportunities; Marghi Bean and Evelyn Nathan (Kingston Conservation Commission) on Pollinator Pathways; Josh Megyesy (NH Fish and Game) on turtles and their habitats; Matt Larkin (USDA NRCS) on protecting water quality and soils; Barbara Richter (NHACC) joined to share the many resources available through the NH Association of Conservation Commissions; Emma Tutein (UNH Extension) provided a training on conservation easement monitoring; and Kimberly Arlen (The Nature Conservancy) spoke on the community oyster gardening program. The public was able to join us for these programs, either in person or watching live (or later) on Channel 13.

The Commission was recognized at the Rec Connect/Newmarket Business Association gathering for our 2021 Conservation Connections event that included nature-based educational programs and field trips to four conservation areas. The event was a collaboration with the Newmarket Library and Recreation Department.

Thanks to all the Commission members in helping to conduct the annual monitoring of the conservation easements held by the Town. As the easement holder, the Town is responsible for ensuring that the conditions set forth in the Conservation Easement Deeds are upheld by the landowner with no third-party violations.

In 2022, we focused our land stewardship efforts on several Town conservation areas. Ellen Snyder spearheaded a \$5,000 grant from the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) for improvements to the trails and signs at Heron Point Sanctuary. This included removal of hazard trees, re-routing and creating new trail segments to improve access and reduce erosion and designing and installing new interpretive panels on the kiosk. This was augmented by Amy Benson; she earned her Eagle Scout by working with us on several trail improvements and installing a picnic table. She also donated the extra money that she raised to the Conservation Fund. Congratulations and Thank You Amy! We were also assisted at Heron Point by Newmarket High

School students as part of Newmarket Cares Day, and our DPW rebuilt a section of walkway railing and added a fresh coat of stain to the kiosk. Thanks to all the volunteers and our Town staff.

At the Piscassic River-Loiselle Conservation Area, Commission members and other volunteers helped with several projects: replacing broken fence rails at the parking lot; annual cleaning of the bird houses; installation of two trail signposts; some trail clearing, and construction of a new foot bridge. The Commission is working on improvements to the Sliding Rock Conservation and Recreation Area thanks to another (\$6,325) grant from the LRAC. This includes removal of hazard trees, assessing the trail for accessibility, installation of a second kayak rack, creation of new interpretive panels for the kiosk, and efforts to reduce shoreline erosion.

We greatly appreciate the work by DPW staff at the Wiggin Farm Conservation Area, where they mow the trails and parking area every few weeks and mow the field annually in the Fall. The Commission engaged the Rockingham County Conservation District to treat invasive plants in an area we are focused on restoring to native trees and shrubs. We anticipate more work at Wiggin Farm in 2023, especially since the late December storm blew over the kiosk!

Much more was accomplished in 2022. Melissa Brogle organized a successful Earth Day Roadside Clean-up. Sam Kenney continued to serve as our representative on the Riverfront Advisory Committee, advancing creative ideas and opportunities for shoreline restoration and other improvements around Schanda Park. The Commission contributed \$75,000 from the Conservation Fund to the Southeast Land Trust for the acquisition of land along Class VI Neal Mill Road as part of the Piscassic Greenway. We welcomed the Town Council's decision to reclassify the gated section of the road as a Class A Trail. Jeff Goldknopf and Planning Director Bart McDonough continued to keep the Commission abreast of planning issues. To that end, the Commission reviewed and provided comment to the proposed changes to the Accessory Dwelling Unit zoning.

Respectively Submitted,
Ellen Snyder
Conservation Commission Chair



TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Conservation Commission 2023 Project Priorities – DRAFT 1/4/23

Site	Project/Activity	Cost	Funding Source	Who/What
Sliding Rock Conservation & Recreation Area	Assess trail for accessibility	\$500	LRAC grant	Lead: E. Snyder What: work with trails consultant Lew Shelley
	Kayak rack	\$1,300	LRAC grant	Lead: Recr Dir. Aimee Gigandet What: purchase & install rack
	New interpretive panels for kiosk	\$2,000	LRAC grant	Lead: E. Snyder What: work with graphic designer
	Erosion control – fencing	\$100	LRAC grant	Lead: ? What: erect fencing in spring
Piscassic River-Loiselle Conservation Area	New entrance sign	\$2,500	Conservation Fund	Lead: Melissa Sharples What: coordinate with fabricator
	Annual field mowing	In-kind	In-kind	Lead: Melissa Sharples What: coordinate w/ farmer
	Routine maintenance	In-kind	In-kind	Lead: Melissa Sharples What: birdhouse cleanup, trail, parking area maintenance
Wiggin Farm Conservation Area	New kiosk	???	Apply to LRAC?	Lead: ? What: design and cost estimate
	New interpretive panels	???	Apply to LRAC?	Lead: E. Snyder What: work with graphic designer; need cost estimate
	Rebuild and extend pedestrian bridge	???	Apply to LRAC?	Lead: ? What: need a design, cost estimate, wetlands permit
	Invasive plant control -- mechanical	In-kind	In-kind	Lead: E. Snyder What: coordinate volunteer work days
	Re-set two signposts near pond	In-kind	In-kind	Lead: ? What: move to a drier spot
	Weed trim around interpretive signs	In-kind	In-kind	Lead: ? What: need volunteer to trim around signs each month or so
Schanda Park	Living shoreline initiative	??	multiple	Lead: Sam Kenney What: work w/ Riverfront Adv. Co
	Accessible porta-potty	----	Recreation Dept	Lead: Recreation Dept What: place on south side of Moonlight Brook for the summer
	Community Oyster Garden	In-kind	The Nature Conservancy	Lead: ? What: coordinate install w/ TNC
Dearborn	Create a baseline documentation report	???	Volunteer or contractor	Lead: ? What: document boundaries and key features w/ maps and photos
	Driveway ROW easement to abutter	???	Conservation Fund	Lead: E. Snyder What: Work with State to complete; may require surveyor to reflag/record

Follet's Brook Region: PR-L, Carolyn Drive, Follet's Brook, Leary, Rousseau	Create a baseline documentation report	???	Volunteer or contractor	Lead: E. Snyder What: document boundaries and key features w/ maps and photos; assess trail options; assess need for boundary surveys
Conservation Easement Monitoring	Monitor town-held easements	In-kind	In-kind	Lead: CC members What: Nostrom, Silverman, Schmeer, PG-Gaziano, Bald Hill Reservation, PR-L, Smith Sisters; consider need to contract out any monitoring
	Hilton easement	\$300	CC General Fund	Lead: CC members What: join SELT in their annual monitoring visit
	Wiggin Farm, Dearborn	In-kind	In-kind	Lead: CC members What: join State of NH in their annual monitoring visit
Connect to Protect Coastal Watershed Plan Initiative	Connectivity for nature (protect sensitive areas) and people (trails)	???	Technical asst grant from Coastal Plan Outreach Team	Lead: Bart McDonough What: meet w/ assistance team to brainstorm ideas and next steps
Culverts/Stream Crossings	Improve connectivity and wildlife passage	???	Apply for grants	Lead: ? What: work with Lyndsay Butler, Town Engineer, to assess opps for upgrades
Outreach	Add more info to town website CC pages	In-kind	In-kind	Lead: Ellen Snyder What: add docs/info re: town lands/trails
	Monthly education programs	In-kind	In-kind	Lead: Cris Blackstone What: schedule speakers; notify IT in advance
	Weekly E-News, Social Media	In-kind	In-kind	Lead: Melissa Sharples What: provide weekly item to T. Cremmen; post info on social media



Ellen Snyder

Fishing Derby funding

To: Richard Heidt, Cc: Melissa Sharples, Aimee Gigandet, Bcc: Ellen Snyder

Correspondence December 29, 2022 at 3:33 PM

[Details](#)

Hi Rich,

I wanted to give you a heads up regarding Conservation Commission priorities, budgets, and funding.

As I mentioned to you last year, the Commission is responsible for a growing list of land conservation, stewardship, and monitoring projects and has less money coming to the Conservation Fund than in past years and we don't anticipate large sums going forward. To meet our responsibilities, the Commission has requested more money from the general fund and we are also seeking outside grants to complete a growing list of projects on town conservation lands.

In addition to large conservation projects on the horizon (both land conservation and stewardship of existing town lands), the cost of materials, tree removal, and other expenses is rising. It is therefore imperative that the Commission be prudent in reserving funds for these projects.

Given these financial commitments and constraints, we can't sustain the annual funding of other initiatives, including the Fishing Derby. I know the Commission has been involved for many decades. However, given the interest in the event, I am hopeful that your Team can seek additional funds from other sources to make up for the lack of funds from the Conservation Commission.

With regards,

Ellen

Ellen Snyder
Newmarket Conservation Commission, Chair