



TOWN OF  
**NEWMARKET**  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Conservation Commission

February 8, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

### AGENDA

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Public Comment
- Approve Meeting Minutes: December 14, 2023 and January 11, 2023
- Financial Summary
- Master Plan Update – Natural Resources, Water Resources, Open Space Plan
- Committee/Board Reports
  - Town Council
  - Planning Board/Town Planner
  - Riverfront Advisory Committee/Schanda Park
  - Other Committee Reports
- Conservation Easement Monitoring
- Land Stewardship: Wiggin Farm kiosk panel review; Sliding Rock Assessment proposal, Property Spreadsheets
- Trails
- Other Items: disc golf
- Adjourn



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**NEWMARKET**  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## Conservation Commission

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December 14, 2023 7:00 PM

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Town Hall Auditorium

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### DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

6

**Members Present:** Ellen Snyder (Chair), Melissa Sharples (Vice-Chair), Jessica Cann (Alternate), Jeffrey Goldknopf (Planning Board Rep.), Tom Jones (Alternate), Sam Kenney, Colin Lawson (Alternate), Julianna Tyson, and Brian Ward (Town Council Rep. ex officio)

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**Members Absent:** David Bell and Cris Blackstone

**Town Staff Present:** Bart McDonough, Director of Planning and Community Development, and Autumn Scott (Regional Planner SRPC)

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

[time on DCAT 5:03]

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#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

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#### 2. Roll Call

The Chair welcomed Jessica Cann (Alternate) to her first in-person meeting and asked her to tell the members a little about herself. Welcome Jessica! The Chair appointed Alternates **Colin Lawson** and **Tom Jones** as voting members this evening.

22

The seven voting members this evening include **Ellen Snyder, Melissa Sharples, Jeff Goldknopf, Tom Jones, Sam Kenney, Colin Lawson, and Julianna Tyson.**

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#### 3. Public Comment

There was no one present for public comment.

28

#### 4. Approve Meeting Minutes

[time on DCAT 7:31]

November 9, 2023

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#### Action

**Motion:** **Sam Kenney** moved to approve the Minutes as drafted for November 9, 2023.

**Second:** **Colin Lawson**

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** **Approved 6-0-1 (Jeff Goldknopf abstained)**

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#### 5. Financial Summary

The Chair reported on the current budget. The Conservation Fund balance is currently \$134,536.83 with \$4,621.11 in the Richard Schanda Fund for a total of \$139,157.94. The

39

1 General Fund has a balance of \$3,290.95.

2

3 **6. Master Plan Update – Open Space Chapter** [time on DCAT 9:18 – 1:04:27]

4 **Autumn Scott**, SRPC, and **Bart** have joined the meeting this evening to give the  
5 members an update on the Master Plan and discuss the Open Space Chapter. **Autumn**  
6 handed out material showing Natural Resource Inventories. She also went through the  
7 Task Outline and what has been completed so far: 1) the internal kickoff, 2) the kickoff  
8 with town boards, 3) establishing regular check-ins, and 4) the first community survey. In-  
9 progress items include: 1) a review of current progress, 2) revision of existing plans, and  
10 3) revision of existing maps with new data. Today they are beginning 1) the development  
of h ~~at~~□ ininore exi

1 **Colin** also asked about using the culvert and stream crossing data. The plan is to  
2 incorporate this information and maps as this is a vulnerability issue for wildlife protection.

3 [time on DCAT 43:28]

4 **Autumn** moved on to the survey progress report. The post cards and flyers are being  
5 distributed by various means. So far, there have been 100 responses. 90% of those  
6 responding consider open space extremely or very important. The QR code is very  
7 helpful. Duplicate responses can be identified – they have quality assurance checks.

8 **Autumn** reviewed the current color palette that the Town is using for all documents. They  
9 plan to continue using these colors, but add a warmer color for design elements. She also  
10 showed the members the font/text/style design elements for the project. She briefly  
11 described the preliminary outline for the chapter. She spoke about the quotes taken from  
12 the survey and various charts and graphs will help with the discussion of the ‘themes’. At  
13 the end of each chapter, there will be an implementation and goal section. She followed  
14 this with a few of the preliminary logo designs and **Bart** described his designs and what  
15 the elements convey...using lots of symbology i.e. eels, water, and water wheel (mills).  
16 They want to stay away from lettering and simply use symbols to convey the meaning.  
17 The report and the all marketing materials would use this logo. Bart would like  
18 suggestions from the members of their top five words/symbols which describe  
19 Newmarket. **Melissa** wanted to know when they were planned to have this completed  
20 because the 300<sup>th</sup> Birthday Committee is currently reaching out to the community for the  
21 same kind of information to create their new logo. It would be good to try to coordinate  
22 this process. **Bart** agreed. Autumn gave everyone a little homework for the next meeting:  
23 1) she will send out the maps next week for ‘marking up’ and they will go through  
24 suggestions at the next meeting and 2) please promote the survey – she will send the link  
25 and password to access results! The SRPC will prep for the ConCom goal-setting  
26 workshop, develop a final draft narrative & utilize the draft chapter outline, and monitor  
27 and continue to promote the survey.

## 28 29 7. Committee/Board Reports

[time on DCAT 1:04:34]

30 Town Council: **Brian** reported information from recent meetings of the TC. The parking  
31 study from 2009 was sent to the SRPC. An ARPA Grant was just received for improving  
32 the waste water treatment facility for the septage receiving station near Schanda Park.  
33 They have leased land from the NCDC (Newmarket Community Development Corp) for  
34 Town parking at the corner of Dame Road and Rt. 108. NHDES has provided money to  
35 the Town (\$73,500) to address the bacteria loading in Moonlight Brook and the town’s  
36 infrastructure. NHDES will forgive 100% of the cost.

37 Planning Board: **Bart** spoke about the recent projects before the PB. The 30-unit  
38 affordable elderly housing project at 242 Main Street was approved. The applicant  
39 reduced the # of units, provided an architectural redesign, provided some new  
40 landscaping elements, and voluntarily reduced the age requirements from the previous  
41 meetings. The units meet HUD 62+ housing rules (not 55+ as proposed) – all residents in  
42 the facility must be 62+ years old. The wetlands in the back of the property will not be  
43 disturbed. **Bart** also described the sidewalk connection to S. Main Street and spoke about  
44 Town-planned sidewalk work for Grant Road to S. Main Street. There is also a 41-unit  
45 apartment building with commercial on part of the first floor (mixed use) at 3-5 Railroad  
46 Street has been accepted for review and a TRC was established. A review is scheduled  
47 for January and the proposal will come before the PB in February for public hearing.

1 Riverfront Advisory Committee/Schanda Park: **Sam** reported that they had invited  
 2 NHDES to a meeting to discuss the Great Bay Living Shoreline Project at Scanda Park  
 3 (as proposed some 18 months ago). Now, with new dedicated staff in Town in place, the  
 4 members wanted to let them know that we are still interested in this project. **NHDES** was  
 5 still supportive and they understand how long these projects can take communities. He  
 6 pointed out that the Wagon Hill Project (Phase I) took 10 years to complete and Durham  
 7 plans a Phase II. **Bart** and **Ellen** are still working on the signage language for Schanda  
 8 Park regarding the 'water pollution' safety issues. A draft should be ready for the ConCom  
 9 and RFAC in January.

10 Energy and Environment Advisory Committee: **Julianna** reported that the CPC is working  
 11 on a website for the Town. They have also submitted their recommendations for the  
 12 Master Plan Chapter on Energy. They reviewed a draft letter from CPC which will go out  
 13 in late January to everyone in Newmarket. The new electric rates will be out shortly and a  
 14 community information meeting will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium on Wednesday,  
 15 January 31, 2024.

16 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee: **Melissa** reported on the recent meeting. They completed  
 17 the grant agreement with the Town. They still have an 'open call' for a logo for the event.  
 18 The Historical Society is taking those submissions. They are also establishing a board  
 19 from the volunteers currently interested and they are always open to anyone who wants  
 20 to join in!

21 Other: 1) **Bart** received a letter from Sarah Clark who is interested in researching the  
 22 possibility of a "Green Burial Cemetery" in the seacoast area. **Bart** passed a flyer around.  
 23 He needs to do some research on whether or not this is a permitted use in Newmarket.  
 24 There was a discussion about conserved land. Sarah is working with SELT. 2) **Jeff** asked  
 25 about the culvert on Ash Swamp Road. **Ellen** reported that the culvert is top most in the  
 26 Town and the State right now. In the interim, the DPW will continue to dig the culvert out  
 27 every few days to keep the flooding down. The beavers stand watch, search for new  
 28 materials, and rebuild each time. The beavers are also 'watching' the crews as they work  
 29 on the culvert on Neal Mill Road. **Bart** will speak with Lindsay and DPW about the current  
 30 plans for the culverts on Ash Swamp and Neal Mill. There was a discussion about the  
 31 company Beaver Deceivers and it's founder, Skip Lisle, MSc. The company is dedicated  
 32 to protecting our land and infrastructure, as well as allowing for creative remedies that  
 33 improve habitats and end wasteful killing and spending. Their technology and practices  
 34 are state-of-the-art, and have been employed domestically as well as internationally to  
 35 mitigate the growing problems presented by the beaver population.

### 37 8. Conservation Easement Monitoring

[time on DCAT 1:35:47]

38 **Tom** presented an update on monitoring. **Ellen** will be going out to Smith Sisters with  
 39 Parker Schuerman, Director of Land and Ecological Management from Audubon, to walk  
 40 the boundaries. **Tom** reported that everything will be scanned soon. LCHIP does want  
 41 copies of monitoring reports, but they want you to use an online portal. Once the  
 42 Piscassic River-Loiselle report is sent to LCHIP, then we will be paid the \$400. He  
 43 thanked everyone for submitting their reports. Thank you, **Tom**, for all your coordination  
 44 and efforts in getting the easement monitoring completed this year!

### 46 9. Land Stewardship

[time on DCAT 1:40:38]

1 Wiggin Farm Kiosk and Interpretive Panel: **Ellen** will be working on this over the winter.  
 2 Sliding Rock- phase 2 project ideas: **Ellen** would like to ask Tom Ballestero, a hydrology  
 3 and water resource engineer at UNH, to look at the boat ramp and the erosion issues.  
 4 Folletts Brook Boundary Reconnaissance: This is still planned.

## 6 10. Other Projects

[time on DCAT 1:41:47]

7 Boulder Drive Trail: **Colin** reported that he, **Melissa**, and Paul (another abutter) recently  
 8 walked the trail to evaluate it. **Colin** has met with the new HOA President, Jeff. They are  
 9 supportive of the trail, but it is not clear about who is responsible for any work. The fence  
 10 is an issue for the current land owner. **Bart** confirmed that the HOA/property owner are  
 11 responsible for the fence removal. **Bart** needs to look into the language of the sub-  
 12 division approval that is in the deed. The Town has not approved this as a public trail, so it  
 13 should remain as a neighborhood trail only. The HOA should be made aware that they  
 14 are responsible for the trail and not the Town.

15 Pathways for People and Nature: As mentioned before, **Ellen** and **Bart**, participated in a  
 16 webinar last Friday with the "Connect and Protect" program.

17 Heron Pt. Boardwalk: **Colin** reported that he checked out the boardwalk at Heron Pt. and  
 18 found that leaves and soil have caused rotting. **Melissa** suggested a work day event in  
 19 the spring. DPW could be asked to help evaluate. **Melissa** mentioned that trenches could  
 20 be dug to keep the water off the wood.

21 Piscassic River-Loiselle: **Jeff** mentioned that 'someone' has used a leaf blower to clear all  
 22 the trails at PRL and onto to Audubon a little way. We should consider signage to help.

23 Sliding Rock: **Tom** mentioned that he went out a few weeks ago and 'someone' had  
 24 blown all the pine needles 6-8' wide at Sliding Rock.

## 26 11. Events

[time on DCAT 1:55:21]

27 January 8, 2024: Astronomy Night with the Nature Conservancy

28 Earth Day 2024: Sliding Rock Invasive Removal and Native Planting

29 **Ellen** also spoke about the work at Heron Pt. and the possibility of installing the Wiggin  
 30 Farm Kiosk for Earth Day.

## 32 12. Adjourn

[time on DCAT 1:56:05]

### 33 Action

34 **Motion:** **Melissa Sharples** made a motion to adjourn at 8:52 PM.

35 **Second:** **Tom Jones**

36 **Discussion:** none

37 **Vote:** **Approved 7-0-0**

38  
 39 Respectfully submitted,

40  
 41 Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

42  
 43 DCAT:

44  
 45 [https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekkdEeRsk0JHQVHAVkVka7\\_5VjxKP/](https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekkdEeRsk0JHQVHAVkVka7_5VjxKP/)

<b>Town of Newmarket, New Hampshire</b>					
<b>Conservation Commission -- Conservation Fund FY24 6Feb2024</b>					
<b>Items (date of motion)</b>	<b>Date of CC Approval -- Discussion</b>	<b>Date of Debit, Revenue, or Balance</b>	<b>Conservation Commission Fund</b>	<b>Richard Schanda Fund</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
		8/1/23	\$133,527.18	\$4,621.11	\$138,148.29
		8/28/23	\$132,271.97	\$4,621.11	\$136,893.08
		9/11/23	\$130,265.26	\$4,621.11	\$134,886.37
		10/5/23	\$133,347.19	\$4,621.11	\$137,968.30
		12/6/23	\$134,536.83	\$4,621.11	\$139,157.94
		1/4/24	\$134,710.21	\$4,621.11	\$139,331.32
		2/5/24	\$134,868.84	\$4,621.11	\$139,489.95
<b>CREDITS</b>					
Interest		7/31/23	\$201.29		
Interest		8/31/23	\$375.79		
Interest		9/30/23	\$351.53		
Interest		10/31/23	\$384.88		
Interest		11/30/23	\$260.97		
Interest		12/31/23	\$173.77		
Interest		1/31/24	\$350.50		
<b>Land Use Change Tax (LUCT)</b>					
<b>Other Contributions</b>					
LRAC Sliding Rock grant - second payment		8/15/23	\$3,156.93		
<b>DEBITS THIS FISCAL YEAR</b>					
Piscassic River-Loiselle entrance sign (added \$300 12/8/22; \$150 7/10/23)	11/10/22	7/18/23	\$1,462.50		
Sliding Rock kiosk panels graphic design - Cathy Arakelian	7/10/23	8/15/23	\$877.50		
Sliding Rock kiosk panels printing - Portsmouth Sign	7/11/23	8/15/23	\$1,050.00		
Sliding Rock property map - Greg DiSantos	7/12/23	8/15/23	\$455.00		

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<b>APPROVED TO BE SPENT</b>					
Wiggin Farm kiosk - materials	5/11/23		\$500.00		
Wiggin Farm kiosk - property map - Greg DiSantos	10/12/23		\$700.00		
Wiggin Farm kiosk - panel graphic design - Cathy Arakelian	10/12/23		\$800.00		
Wiggin Farm kiosk panel printing - Portsmouth Sign	10/12/23		\$250.00		
<b>NEW REQUESTS</b>					



Newmarket Conservation Commission Funds						
<b>FY24</b>		<b>General Fund: 014611</b>				
<b>General Fund Budget 6Feb2024</b>		\$4,520.00				
	<b>Date of motion or debit</b>	<b>Part-Time Salary</b>	<b>Contracted</b>	<b>Dues/ Subscriptions</b>	<b>General Supplies</b>	<b>Postage</b>
<b>BUDGETED</b>		\$3,470.00	\$400.00	\$450.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
<b>EXPENDED</b>		\$1,078.41	\$867.64	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>BALANCE</b>		\$2,391.59	-\$467.64	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
<b>General Fund total balance (6Dec23)</b>		\$2,123.95				
Part-time salaries - minute taking	7/13/23	\$142.56				
Part-time salaries - minute taking	7/27/23	\$26.73				
Part-time salaries - minute taking - correction	7/13/23	-\$13.37				
Part-time salaries - minute taking	8/10/23	\$26.73				
Part-time salaries - minute taking	8/24/23	\$166.06				
Part-time salaries - minute taking	9/21/23	\$121.62				
Part-time salaries - minute taking	10/19/23	\$159.04				
NHACC Annual dues	10/19/23			\$450.00		
Part-time salaries - minute taking	11/16/23	\$149.68				
Part-time salaries - minute taking	12/14/23	\$102.91				
Part-time salaries - minute taking	12/28/23	\$51.45				
Part-time salaries - minute taking	1/25/24	\$145.00				
<b>APPROVED -- TO BE PAID</b>						
Contract with SELT for easement monitoring	9/14/2023/ 01/11/2023		\$867.64			
<b>NEW REQUESTS</b>						