DRAFT MINUTES

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
April 10, 2014
7:00 PM Town Hall Auditorium

Members Present: Drew Kiefaber (Chairman), Bruce Fecteau (Vice Chair), Jeff Goldknopf (Treasurer), Eric Wigode, Fred Pearson, Andrea Frey, John Brackett (Planning Board Rep), Stephanie Coster (Alternate), Bob Gazda (Alternate), and Jessica Veysey-Powell (Alternate).

Called to Order: 7:14 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment

A gentleman named Cory from 26 Langs Lane has discovered some old 1980’s snowmobile trails and small bridges damaged by falling trees. He wanted to know if he could restore them for use. The trails were bounded by tags from the Southeast Land Trust. He was encouraged to do a little research to find the owner, find the local snowmobile clubs, and then contact the New Hampshire Southeast Land Trust (NHSELT), based in Exeter, before going forward.

1. Approval of Minutes

No minutes to approve.

1. Treasurer’s Report

**Jeff** **Goldknopf** emailed the monthly accounting report today to members. He noted interest was posted to the account. The check request for the NH Association of Conservation Commissions for our membership was processed. **Fred** **Pearson** added that he had a check for deposit from the sale of one composter and turner. The CC still has a good inventory of composters, turners, and rain barrels available to the public for purchase at cost.

1. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Planning Board: **John** **Brackett** had no report at this time.

Macallen Dam Committee: **Stephanie** **Coster** reported on a recent meeting where a presentation on flood conditions was successfully modeled by the engineers demonstrating both dam-in and dam-out conditions. Flood conditions will not change with the removal of the Dam. Full removal of the Macallen Dam may cost as much as $740,000 – based on an assumption of the discovery of clean sediment and no other environmental issues needing remediation. The Veteran’s Bridge acts as a hydraulic control to the flow and the State has no plans at this time for widening or changing the bridge. More information on the Macallen Dam Committee may be found on the town website: <http://www.newmarketnh.gov/macallen-dam-study-committee>

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1. Chairman’s Report

*Welcome to New Members*: The Chair welcomed two new members to the Commission: **Andrea** **Frey** and **Eric** **Wigode**. He also welcomed **John** **Brackett** as the new representative from the Planning Board. Long-time member George “Win” Hilton decided not to seek re-appointment to the Commission this

year and the entire Commission wished to thank him for his many years of dedicated service to the commission, town and community. The Chair would also like to thank Janice Rosa for her dedicated service as she served as the Planning Board Rep for the past two years.

*NHDOT 108 Bridge Resurfacing*: A letter has been received regarding the resurfacing of the two southern-most bridges over Rt. 108. They seek comments and concerns from the CC about the plan. NHDOT plans to go out to bid in September 2014. The CC should inquire about the planned staging area for the proposed work. The Chair will email the NHDOT with concerns.

*Rockingham County Conservation District:* The Annual Report from the RCCD was received and the Chair believes that it contains some interesting information. The report was distributed to the members.

*NHSELT Regional Conservation Meeting – Reserve Room:* The CC was contacted by the NHSELT requesting a room in Newmarket for their upcoming regional conservation meeting for either April 29 or 30. The Chair and members agreed to offer them a room. The Chair will contact Kathy Castle to reserve the room for the 29th. The auditorium is already booked for April 30.

*Right-To-Know Training:*  The CC received an email regarding a ‘Right-To-Know Law Training’ to be held in the auditorium on April 30 at 6:30 pm. The Town Attorney, John Ratigan, will be reviewing important policies/changes in the NH Right-To-Know Law for all who serve on public bodies. The Chair strongly urges members attend this meeting.

1. Old/New Business

*Scholarship for Graduating High School Senior Resident of Newmarket:* The CC has historically offered a $1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior student who is a resident of Newmarket to help with future educational costs to study environmental/conservation issues. **Bruce** **Fecteau** brought the applications to the High School Guidance Counselor. He also brought one to Kathy Castle so that she could get the information posted on DCAT and have applications available at the Town Hall offices. The deadline is two days before the next meeting of the CC*.* As in previous years, a small group of CC members will review and select the recipient.

**ACTION**

Motion: **Bruce Fecteau** moved the CC authorize the expenditure of $1,000 for the annual Conservation Commission Scholarship to be awarded to a graduating high school senior who is a resident of Newmarket.

 Second: **Fred Pearson**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 7-0

*No Cut Boundary Marking at Rockingham Country Club Development*: The CC has been involved in protecting the wetlands for this 52 lot development. In particular, the northern homes needed no cut boundary markers since they are so close to the wetland buffer. Locations were reviewed and approved by Underwood Engineering. Brown carsonite markers with labels saying “wetland buffer no cut area” have been placed by Doucet Survey of Newmarket anywhere from 10’ to 50’ apart, depending on the requirements. **Drew** **Kiefaber** completed a site walk with Diane Hardy and representatives from Chinburg Builders and reported that the markers were placed properly.

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*Heritage Festival – Lamprey River Boat Tours? May 31:*  In the past, the Heritage Festival has been held over a two day period in September using both Schanda Park and the lot behind the Town Library. It was not held last year and has now been reorganized into a single day event to be held on May 31 inside the Mill building. The CC has traditionally had a booth providing conservation information, a guided trail walk, and have rented a pontoon boat to provide free guided rides on the river. Chinburg Builders has offered the use of their dock facilities for boat rides if we wish. **Bruce** **Fecteau** will be unable to get a pontoon boat from the lake as this is the busiest time of the season. The Chair will contact Dave LeGault to let him know that we will not be providing the pontoon rides or the trail walk this year.

*25th Annual Newmarket Fishing Derby*: The CC has been contacted regarding the annual fishing derby. Historically the CC provides a contribution to help purchase fish for stocking Richmond’s Pond (located at 60 Langs Lane) every year. We have not received a formal request for the money as yet. It is planned for Father’s Day weekend in June. **Fred** **Pearson** will draft a letter of appreciation and thanks to Mr. Richmond on behalf of the Commission thanking him for his great service to the community in providing his pond every year. He will distribute the draft to CC members for comments and final signature by the Chair.

*Election of Officers – Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer:* The CC will be electing a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer this year:

**ACTION**

Motion: **Bruce Fecteau** nominated **Drew Kiefaber as Chair**

 Second: **Fred Pearson**

 Vote: Approved 6-0-1

**ACTION**

Motion: **Bruce** **Fecteau** nominated **Jeff Goldknopf as Vice-Chair**

 Second: **Fred Pearson**

 Vote: Approved 6-0-1

**ACTION**

Motion: **Drew** **Kiefaber** nominated **Eric Wigode as Treasurer**

 Second: **Jeff Goldknopf**

 Vote: Approved 6-0-1

*Invasive Species Removal:* Over the last few years, the CC has removed invasive species on the Wiggin Farm and Folletts Brook. With borrowed weed wrenches and many volunteers, the CC has made piles in the field for burning on the Wiggin Farm (once there is significant snow cover on the ground). The Chair will contact the Discovery Center about borrowing weed wrenches to help with the work this spring while the soil is still moist. The CC is planning at least two days for clearing this springs. Autumn olive, burning bush, buckthorn, vines, multiflora rose, and Japanese barberry are the major objectives. The CC decided on two days for removal work: May 10 and 18 from 9:00 am to noon. Gloves, a shovel, saw, ax, and weed wrenches of various sizes are the tools of preference. The Chair will contact the Boy Scouts once we have the weed wrenches borrowed.

*Turtle Crossing Signs:* **Jessica Veysey-Powell** reported that, from previous discussions, the CC selected two sites for turtle crossing signs and Fish & Game has now chosen two sites they feel are a priority. F&G thought a site near Lubberland Creek on Bay Road would be a more important location rather

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than one the CC chose. Four locations have now been defined, five is we include the other one the CC choose. The signs need to be up by late April or by mid-May for nesting and the peak mobility timeframe for turtles. F&G provided us with some very fancy and somewhat larger signs to use. F&G would like to see the signs folded down, covered or removed each year in order to prevent “sign fatigue” by drivers. DPW has agreed to put the signs in place for us if we provide a map to the sites. With four locations, we will need eight signs which we now have. **Bruce Fecteau** has volunteered to cut and hinge (using stainless steel hardware) the still uncut signs. **Jessica** **Veysey**-**Powell** will contact F&G to let them know that we will be placing the signs on the sites that they have recommended.

The Chair will contact Kathy Castle to create an updated member list of the Conservation Commission.

1. Adjournment

ACTION

Motion: **Fred Pearson** moved that the meeting be3 adjourned.

 Second: **Bruce Fecteau**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick

Recording Secretary