**Approved Minutes**

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
August 28, 2014
7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Drew Kiefaber (Chair), Jeff Goldknopf (Vice Chair), Andrea Frey, Eric Wigode (Treasurer), Bob Gazda (Alternate), and John Brackett (Planning Board Rep)

Members Absent: Fred Pearson *excused*, Bruce Fecteau *excused*, Jessica Veysey-Powell (Alternate) *excused*, and Toni Weinstein (Town Council Rep) *excused*.

Called to Order: 7:03 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call

The Chair appointed **Bob** **Gazda** as a voting member for this meeting.

Because there were guests, the Chair asked for approval to move ahead in the agenda to 8. Old/New Business. There was no objection from the members.

8. Old/New Business

Schanda Park Usage Request – Craft Fair: Etta and John Sanders was seeking approval to use Schanda Park for a local artisan craft fair on Saturday, September 20, 2014. Etta is here to seek permission for the event. She has the support and interest from many local artists including a soap maker, baked goods, herbal items, vegetables, Tupperware, and her own business, Boxes Unlimited. She and John make unique wooden items (jewelry boxes and birdhouses) from recycled wood (Carpenter’s Greenhouse, the old mill, and from a covered bridge, to name a few). The table space would be free in exchange for an item donated for the food pantry. They would like to make this a monthly event when the weather permits, but right now they will start with one date. The vendors would bring their own tables, tents, and must carry their own general liability insurance. The Chair will check on the insurance needed with the Town Administrator and get back in touch with her. The vendors would set up in the park/grassy area – not the parking lot. For the future, she looked into the community space in the Mill, but they have been told that there is something wrong with the space right now.

 **ACTION**

**Motion**: **Jeff Goldknopf** moved to permit the Sanders to use Schanda Park for a craft fair on Saturday, September 20, 2014.

**Second: John Brackett**

**Vote:** Approved unanimously 6-0

The Chair will sign the permit and give a copy to the police department.

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Presentation of Proposed Open Space Development on Bald Hill Road­­: **Jeff** **Goldknopf** recused himself. Matt Asia from Chinburg Properties is attending this evening to make a presentation. They are in receipt of the letter (8/1/14) from the CC regarding the parking and he hopes that this presentation will address the issues raised by the CC.

The property is approximately 36 acres, 21.09 acres of these are proposed for conservation. The remaining acres will become the public road with 10 house lots approximately ½ acres each. Each lot will have separate water and septic systems. The property sits on the town line with Newfields. The property is presently owned by the Hayden family and Chinburg Properties has it under a purchase and sale agreement. Their intention is to preserve the hill which has existing trails. Lovely views would be available in the winter months from the top of the hill. Addressing the parking issues: (A) the plan is to protect the homeowners, protect the hill, and allow emergency vehicles access. Six parking places will be provided on the shoulder in parallel with some signage indicating that the parking is for the trail access. The proposed curbing is an asphalt cape cod berm. The CC is satisfied with the compromise parking to allow the community access. (B) They have proposed to the PB that the conservation land be deeded to the town rather than be placed with an HOA. The CC would only be responsible for maintaining the existing trails. They are currently passable by 4-wheel drive vehicles. All conservation land in the easement is heavily wooded with no open fields and it is to be kept as it is currently. This would require that the CC monitor annually. The project will likely not break ground until spring. They would appreciate a supportive letter before they go before the PB on 9/9/14 for the sub-division review process.

 UNH Forum on Urban Tree Management – Report by attendee **Bob** **Gazda**, registration reimbursement: **Bob** **Gazda** reported on the “Forest Communities in New Hampshire” day-long workshop held at James Hall at UNH on Friday, August 1, 2014. There were many interesting presentations in the am from environmentalists, foresters, and soil scientists followed by lunch and a field trip in the afternoon to the College Woods. The field trip was cut short by a severe thunderstorm. They covered issues of selective and patch cuttings of forest lands in NH in the am, invasive species (particularly Autumn Olive), and the three problem NH bugs: the emerald ash borer, the hemlock wooly adelgid, and the Asian longhorned beetle. These bugs are all heading this way and some are already here. Infested areas are being treated by the state. They also spoke about the rocky soils in the College Woods. Pines will grow on upper slopes in rocky soil and hardwoods will grow in the lower rich soil caused by erosion of slope. The CC thanked Bob Gazda for attending and bringing back valuable information to the CC.

**ACTION**

**Motion**: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the CC reimburse **Bob Gazda** the $60.00 registration fee that he paid out-of-pocket to attend the workshop.

**Second: Eric Wigode**

**Vote:** Approved 5-0-1. **Bob** **Gazda** abstained.

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Discussion of using Metal Detectors on Conserved Properties: The CC should make a recommendation to the TC. **Jeff** **Goldknopf** indicated that at our last meeting that the CC had discussed looking into our easements for policies about metal detectors. **Eric** **Wigode** agree to look into other policies that might already exist in other towns and report back to the CC.

The CC returned to the agenda as published.

1. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

1. Approval of Minutes

*November 14, 2013:*

**ACTION**

**Motion: Drew Kiefaber** moved that the minutes of November 14, 2013 be approved as drafted.

**Second: Jeff Goldknopf**

**Vote:** Approved by 3-0 with 3 abstentions.

*December 12, 2013:*

**ACTION**

**Motion: Drew Kiefaber** moved that the minutes of December 12, 2013 be approved as drafted.

**Second: Jeff Goldknopf**

**Vote:** Approved by 3-0 with 3 abstentions.

*January 8, 2014:*

**ACTION**

**Motion: Drew Kiefaber** moved that the minutes of January 8, 2014 be approved as drafted.

**Second: Jeff Goldknopf**

**Vote:** Approved by 3-0 with 3 abstentions

*June 12, 2014:*

**ACTION**

**Motion: Eric Wigode** moved that the minutes of June 12, 2014 be approved as drafted.

**Second: Andrea Frey**

**Vote:** Approved by 5-0 with 1 abstention (**Drew** **Kiefaber**)

*July 10, 2014:*

**ACTION**

**Motion: Bob Gazda** moved that the minutes of June 12, 2014 be approved as drafted.

**Second: Andrea Frey**

**Vote:** Approved by 4-0 with 2 abstentions (**Eric** **Wigode** and **Drew** **Kiefaber**)

 **Approved Minutes**

1. Treasurer’s Report

**Eric** **Wigode** sent his report out to CC members. He had a meeting with the financial director regarding the year-end figures. The Treasurer will make a presentation at the next meeting on the year-end figures.

1. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

**Andrea** **Frey** mentioned that a turtle sign had been stolen from Grant Road. **Toni** **Weinstein** was going to speak with the Town Administrator and DPW Director after the last meeting about taking the signage down. DPW agreed to take care of this when possible. The CC will discuss the signs again at the next meeting.

1. Chairman’s Report

The Chair received a ‘save-the-date’ card for the 44th Annual Meeting of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions on November 1, 2014, at the Laconia Middle School. This year’s topic is ‘Inspiring Young Conservationists’. The CC will reimburse members who wish to attend. The Chair will send more information once received.

1. Non-Public Session

A motion to go into non-public session to discuss confidential matters related to real estate, pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c), was made by Drew Kiefaber, seconded by Eric Wigode, all voted in favor 6-0, at 8:05 PM

A motion to end the non-public session was made by Drew Kiefaber, seconded by Jeff Goldknopf, all voted in favor 6-0 at 8:30 pm.

A motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session was made by Drew Kiefaber, seconded by Jeff Goldknopf, all voted in favor 6-0.

1. Adjournment

**ACTION**

**Motion: John Brackett** moved that the meeting be adjourned.

**Second: Eric Wigode**

**Vote:** Unanimously approved 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick

Recording Secretary