Approved Minutes

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
December 11, 2014
7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Drew Kiefaber (Chair), Jeff Goldknopf (Vice Chair), Andrea Frey, Bob Gazda (Alternate), Toni Weinstein (Town Council Rep) *excused* for *late arrival at 7:50 PM*, and John Brackett (Planning Board Rep)

Members Absent: Bruce Fecteau *excused*, Eric Wigode (Treasurer) *excused*, Fred Pearson *excused*, and Jessica Veysey-Powell (Alternate) *excused*

Called to Order: 7:11 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call

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

1. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

1. Approval of Minutes

*February 20, 2014*:

**ACTION**

 Motion: **Andrea Frey** moved that the minutes of February 20, 2014

 be approved as drafted.

 Second: **Jeff Goldknopf**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 5-0

 *November 13, 2014*:

**ACTION**

 Motion: **Andrea Frey** moved that the minutes of November 13, 2014

 be approved as drafted.

 Second: **Bob** **Gazda**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 5-0

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1. Treasurer’s Report

The Chair reported that **Eric Wigode,** Treasurer, had forwarded emailed from the Finance Dept. to all members. The members had no comments.

1. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

**John** **Brackett** (Planning Board Rep) had nothing pertinent to report from the Planning Board meetings.

**Bob Gazda** wanted to ask that the CC look at Follett’s Brook for the invasive plants that may have grown back and he would like to take a walk out there. Andrea Frey asked if the CC would be burning the brush pile at the Wiggin Farm. **John** **Brackett** would like the date to be emailed so that everyone could monitor the burn. The pile is roughly 10 feet in diameter now. **Bob** **Gazda** has access to some free black tarps that are 8’ x 10’ and can be used to cover the pile until a mid-winter burn time is set. **Bob Gazda** and **Drew Kiefaber** will go out to cover the pile.

**Toni** **Weinstein** (Town Council Rep) reported on the recent town council meeting where changes to the water meter regulation were discussed. They have postponed this matter to the next meeting in order to get more information on the previous water meter regulations.

The TC also discussed a grant to study building resilience to flooding and climate change in the Moonlight Brook watershed. This brook goes behind the elementary school, high school, then underground, under the rail road, onto Gerry Ave, and comes out at Schanda Park. The Piscassic River has been known to rise significantly during heavy rainfall and overflow into the Moonlight Brook watershed. The grant is $58,793 from the NH Coastal Program of the NHDES and would be completed by Dr. Robert Roseen from Geosyntec Consultants in Portsmouth NH: <http://www.geosyntec.com/UI/Default.aspx?m=ViewPerson&p=171>

The Public Hearing on the final Town Budget will be held on December 15 in the Council Chambers.

The Town Council also discussed illegal dumping that has been occurring on the Carpenter property across from the Jr/Sr High School. They have put up barriers and the school district plans to do some demolition. The police are monitoring the issue. The town also plans to use the building for fire training.

1. Chairman’s Report

*Nature Conservancy/Moose Plate Grant Update*: The Town has heard back from the State and we will not receive funding for the $25,000 grant that we submitted. The Nature Conservancy did, however, receive funding for $32,000 from DES. The grant must now be approved by the

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Governor and NH Executive Council and the Nature Conservancy should receive notification in late February or early March. With the $10,000 from the CC (voted in September), the Nature Conservancy hopes to raise the remaining funds necessary for the project from private donors to reach the required $64,000.

1. Old/New Business

*Shoreland Impact Permit Issued, Redevelop Home - 6 Great Cove Drive*: **Jeff** **Goldknopf** researched why we did not see the permit request. Any shoreland application is required to be forwarded to the municipality, but not specifically the conservation commission. However, any wetland permit is required to be seen by the CC with expedited applications requiring action by the CC. It was suggested that we ask the Planning Department and the Town Clerk to forward or notify the CC of any shoreland permits to the CC so that the members could have the opportunity to review, comment, and have a copy for our files. **Jeff** **Goldknopf** agreed to draft a letter to the Planning Department with this request in an attempt to establish a better protocol.

*Wetlands Permit – Shed Rebuild at 17 Moody Point Drive – Letter Sent*: **Jeff** **Goldknopf** has completed the letter to Dave Price and Mark West (he would forward the letter to the applicant, Mr. Prostokoff).

*Composters and Rain Barrels*: Pauline and **Fred** **Pearson** have given the CC information. The Chair will scan the material and forward to the members. The CC must make a decision by March 13, 2015. The cost: composters ($50.00), turners ($20.00), and rain barrels ($20.00). Minimum orders for composters is 20, for turners is 35, and for rain barrels is 15. The Chair would like everyone to review the information and the members will discuss at the next meeting.

*Conservation Commission Hats and Shirts*: Hat and shirt reorders will also be discussed at the next meeting.

*Easement Monitoring Update*:

*Silverman-Schneer* –Completed

*Piscassic River/Loiselle* – Completed by **Bruce** **Fecteau** on Oct. 18 and he could report later.

*Audubon/Smith Sisters­ –* **Drew** **Kiefaber** completed on Oct. 25.

*Wiggin Farm* – Completed on Nov. 3 by **Toni** **Weinstein**, **Drew** **Kiefaber**, and Tracey Boisvert, the NH Conservation Land Stewardship Program Director. Everything seemed fine. There was some recent beaver activity noted.

*New Roots Farm* – **Drew** **Kiefaber** has set the date with the owner for December 14 at noon. It will take approximately 1.5 hours to survey. It is located at the end of Doe Farm Lane.

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**Jeff** **Goldknopf** commented on a seminar he attended on ‘Forest Health’ focusing on the emerald ash borer. Rockingham County is currently a quarantined area for both forest products and fire wood. No products may be moved out of the county. The group at the seminar went to look at infested trees in Concord. It is only ash trees. Hillsborough and Merrimack counties and Massachusetts are within the quarantine area. The seminar also covered blister rust, spruce bud, and wooley adelgid. The Asian longhorned beetle is not currently an issue in NH. More information is available at: <http://nhbugs.org/>

1. Adjournment

**ACTION**

 Motion: **Bob Gazda** moved that the meeting be adjourned.

 Second: **Jeff Goldknopf**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick
Recording Secretary