**Approved Minutes**

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
July 10, 2014  
7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Jeff Goldknopf (Vice Chair), Andrea Frey, Bob Gazda (Alternate), Fred Pearson, John Brackett (Planning Board Rep) excused at 7:30 PM, and Toni Weinstein (Town Council Rep)

Members Absent: Drew Kiefaber (Chair) *excused*, Bruce Fecteau *excused*, Eric Wigode (Treasurer) *excused,* Stephanie Coster (Alternate) *excused* Jessica, Veysey-Powell (Alternate) *excused*

Called to Order: 7:05 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call

**Jeff** **Goldknopf** appointed **Bob** **Gazda** as a voting member for this meeting.

1. Public Comment

There were no public comments

**Jeff Goldknopf** asked to move the agenda forward to hear the PB report from **John** **Brackett** as he will need to be excused from the meeting early for a prior engagement. The CC agreed.

1. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Planning Board: **John** **Brackett** reported on a proposed development of the Bald Hill area by Chinburg Builders. **Jeff Goldknopf** recused himself from the conversation, but pointed out that there are two plans for the property. One is the “yield” plan which is the maximum number of lots that they could get out of the property for a conventional subdivision. It is not the alternative, but a plan that is required to be produced under the ordinance. **John** **Brackett** reported that the plan may include land for conservation. Should access be allowed to this land to the town, he believes that there should be wider gravel shoulders for parking and other members felt that the developer might be willing to widen the access to the conservation land and create several parking spaces for the public. There will be a PB site walk on Monday, July 21, 2014 at 6:00 PM at 74 Bald Hill Road and the public is invited to attend. **John** **Brackett** would like the CC to be proactive with this proposal, attend the site walk, and write a letter to the PB expressing any concerns. **Andrea** **Frey** agreed to work on a draft letter and email the draft to all members for comment. The next meeting of the PB is August 2, 2014.

**John** **Brackett** was excused from the meeting. The CC returned to the agenda as planned.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for November 14, 2013 and June 10, 2014 were moved to the next meeting for approval.

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1. Treasurer’s Report

There was no report from the finance department this month. **Fred** **Pearson** received two checks from the sale of one rain barrel and one compost bin. The CC sells them at cost for $40.00 each. We currently have six barrels and six compost bins in our inventory and do not need to re-order.

1. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Town Council: **Toni** **Weinstein** reported that the paving project on Ash Swamp Road has begun and that she had passed along the CC concerns about withdrawing water for use in the project.

1. Chairman’s Report

**Drew** **Kiefaber** sent two emails:

- The New Hampshire Association of Natural Resources in partnership with several groups will present a workshop on “Forest Communities in New Hampshire”, Friday, August 1, 2014. This day-long workshop will also include 6 contact hours for professionals. The CC will pay the fee of $60.00 for any commission members who would like to participate. **Toni Weinstein** will pass the information along to Steve Fournier and Rick Malasky to see if they have anyone interested in attending.

- The Great Bay Nitrogen Non-point Source Study has been completed and is now available at the NH DES website: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/great-bay-estuary.htm#pub> .

1. Old/New Business
2. *Discuss draft letter for wetland permit waiting period waiver:* **Drew** **Kiefaber** received an email from Allen Folsom from Riverside & Pickering Marine Contractors regarding the dock permit for Melvin Prostkoff, 17 Moody Point Drive. They would like us to review and consider signing a waiver letter for the purposes of speeding up the 30 day waiting period. There was some concern expressed that the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) had not yet seen the permit request. **Andrea** **Frey** agreed to contact Dick Lord, the current Chair of LRAC, with a copy to the CC Chair. The CC had several concerns and decided to pass this request back to theChair. **Jeff** **Goldknopf** agreed contact the Chair with these concerns and will contact Allen Folsom about the CC concerns.
3. *Discuss use of metal detectors on Town owned conservation properties:* There were many questions raised about this request and **Toni** **Weinstein** agreed to follow up with Steve Fournier to see if there was already an ordinance against this practice. **Jeff** **Goldknopf** will check all the files and review the terms of the easements to see if any of the agreements mention ‘removal of items’ from the properties, disturbance of the land, and ownership of any items if found.
4. *Park usage request for Olde Home Day and Oyster Festival:* The event is planned for August 9. The CC typically approves this request with the stipulation if the property is free and that any petting zoo or farm animals be kept out of the parking lot. There were no other objections. A question was raised regarding who keeps the calendar for scheduled events at Schanda Park. Discussion will follow at the next meeting about the calendar of events.

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1. **Stephanie** **Coster** sent an email to all members discussing her thoughts on several ongoing items as she plans to relocate shortly. In a response to her comments on the Macallen Dam Feasibility Study, **Toni** **Wienstein** reported that a new committee will possibility be formed under direction of the Town Council and the old committee has requested that a member of the CC be appointed to that committee. **Stephanie** **Coster** also included a list of action items from April (many have been completed) and the Conservation

Commission Annual Responsibilities Chart. The CC updated the Chart with the new turtle sign responsibilities.

1. **Bob** **Gazda** asked a question about trees that have fallen into the Piscassic River that cause passage by canoe and kayak to be difficult. **Andrea** **Frey** referred to the information provided by the State on removing materials from rivers. It is not prohibited by the State unless using a vehicle. Removal by hand is fine with no permit required. The great concern is that doing this removal may cause unforeseen environmental impacts.

1. We currently have eight turtle signs posted. Fish & Game recommends that the signs put up by late May and closed, covered, or taken down in early to mid-July after the adults have completed nesting. The hatchlings emerge in late September. We do not have an arrangement with DPW, but we would like to request that they put the signs up, take them down each year, and store them at their facility. For safety reasons, reflectors should be positioned on the posts for the remainder of the year. **Toni** **Weinstein** will contact Steve Fournier and Rick Malasky from DPW to discuss this request as DPW has the ability and equipment to do this annually.
2. Adjournment

**ACTION**

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

**Second: Andrea Frey**

**Vote:** Approved unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 14, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick

Recording Secretary