Approved Minutes

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**June 11, 2015
7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Jeff Goldknopf (Chair), Bruce Fecteau, Andrea Frey, Fred Pearson, Bob Gazda (Alternate), Amy Burns (Town Council Rep - Ex-Officio), and Ezra Temko (Planning Board Rep)

Member Absent: Drew Kiefaber (Vice Chair) *excused*

Called to Order: 7:07 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
**Drew** **Kiefaber** is excused this evening as he is presenting the Conservation Commission Scholarship at the Newmarket HS awards night. **Jeff** **Goldknopf** appointed **Bob** **Gazda** as a voting member for this meeting.
3. Public Comment
There were no public comments.

With a number of speakers present in the audience, the Chair asked the members to approve moving to item one under Old/New Business. There was no objection. For this discussion, **Jeff** **Goldknopf** recused himself as he works for Doucet Survey and his company has done work for Mr. Cheney. **Andrea** **Frey**, Treasurer, will serve as the temporary Chair.

8. Old/New Business

*Shoreland Permit Application – Walter Cheney, 19 Osprey Lane, Moody Point*: The CC received a copy of the Shoreland Permit Application 2015-1128 provided to the town from the NHDES. The CC is not required to sign off on shoreland permits. They may, however, make comments.

Trish Simon, 510 Cushing Road, provided a packet of information and pertinent emails sent to Craig Day at NHDES outlining her concerns as well as those of other members of the Moody Point Condominium Association about the proposed permit application. These concerns included: 1) incomplete notification of abutters for this permit application, 2) drainage issue concerns of the road way and the swale located directly next to this lot, and 3) protecting the shoreland and wetlands from any future run-off. Apparently, the builders on site told her that they rely on neighbors to check to see if the silt socks are kept in place. The Town Building Safety Officer, Michael Hoffman, has visited the site, but she would like to see more over site on this project because of the serious and continuing drainage issues in this area.

John Badger, 508 Cushing Road, provided a packet as well. He believes that the ‘clock should stop’ on this permit since the correct abutters were not notified properly. Mr. Cheney’s project includes both pervious and impervious surfaces and it is important that the pervious surface, whether it be the side walk or the driveway, be maintained at all times and that this be a condition of any permit approval and enforced by the Town Building Safety Officer.

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The correct list of abutters was provided to Gove Engineering and Mr. Cheney over a year ago. Other members present where David Sapsin (15 Osprey Lane), Elizabeth Dechard (203 Cushing Road), and Annamarie Lightfoot (368 Cushing Road). The MPCA made it very clear that Mr. Cheney has every right to develop his property that has been approved for building, however, they would like to see it done correctly.

The CC discussed this issue at length. After several options were considered, **Andrea** **Frey** agreed to draft a letter, email it to members for comments/changes, and email it to NHDES as quickly as possible. Her draft letter will mention the completeness of the application as well as the CC’s concern for the resource (Great Bay). **Jeff** **Goldknopf** agreed to send an email immediately to let NHDES know that we have just reviewed the application are preparing to comment.

If the NHDES does agree to grant us more time, the CC will plan a site walk with proper notification to all parties concerned.

The Chair returned to the original agenda.

1. Approval of Minutes

*May 14, 2015*:

**ACTION**

Motion: **Jeff Goldknopf** moved that the minutes of May 14, 2015 be approved as drafted.

 Second: **Fred Pearson**

Vote: Approved 5-0-1

1. Treasurer’s Report

**Andrea** **Frey** reported that she deposited the checks from last month. **Fred** **Pearson** sold one more rain barrel and gave the check to the Treasurer. There are now six rain barrels remaining for sale.

1. Committees and Subcommittee Reports

*Planning Board:* **Ezra** **Temko** reported that the PB had a workshop on the housing chapter draft of the Master Plan. If you make energy improvements to your property, there will be no increased tax assessment. A public hearing will be held on the housing chapter at some future date. The Community Forum will be held on June 16, 6:30-8:30 pm in the Town Auditorium. All are welcome to attend.

*Town Council:* **Amy** **Burns** confirmed with the Town Administrator that the signs regarding the new ordinance about feeding of aquatic animals will be updated with the ordinance number and applicable fine amounts. No additional signs will be placed. The water emergency in Town is at level 2 and the Town is monitoring the wells.

**Fred** **Pearson** mentioned that one of the two picnic benches at Schanda Park had been vandalized. There is a large depression smashed into the middle of the seat. **Fred** **Pearson** will contact Rick Malasky at DPW about repairing the bench. The bench is still usable.

**Bruce** **Fecteau** would like to purchase new signs this year for the prevention of water withdrawal from rivers, stream, and bogs made by New England Barricade. We need twelve replacement signs. The ink faded when the RSA was printed in red.

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**ACTION**

Motion: **Jeff Goldknopf** moved that the CC approve the expenditure of funds not to exceed $1,000 for the replacement of signage regarding the withdrawal of water.

 Second: **Fred Pearson**

Vote: Unanimously Approved 6-0-0

**Jeff** **Goldknopf** will get the correct RSA # for the signs and **Bruce Fecteau** agreed to get the quote and then agreed to post the new signs once they are ready.

1. Chairman’s Report

*2015 Newmarket Fishing Derby Sponsorship Check Request:* The check request has been submitted and been picked up. More information on the Fishing Derby may be found at:<http://www.newmarketrec.org/newmarket-annual-fishing-derby/> **Protective gear is recommended!**

*2015 Scholarship Check Request*: **Drew** **Kiefaber** is making the presentation of the 2015 Conservation Commission Scholarship Check for $1,000 this evening at the Newmarket HS awards ceremony.

*Newmarket Solutions Roadside Cleanup*: The roadside clean-up event was a great success this year. Sixty four bags of trash were collected and there was wonderful community participation. Information about the event may be seen at: <http://newmarketsolutions.org/> They are planning this event for next year. **Ezra** **Temko** will send an email to the TA about the success of the clean-up and ask that a note of thanks be put in the Friday e-newsletter. He will also cc Nicole Benson and Toni Weinstein.

*NH Chapter of the Sierra Club* sent the CC a letter inviting members to a meeting to be held on Monday, June 15 at the Portsmouth Library, 175 Parrott Avenue, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Pre-registration is required before June 15 at 12:00 noon. If anyone is interested in attending the meeting, please contact Amanda Gourgue at (603) 224-8222.

1. Old/New Business

*Piscassic/Loiselle Invasive Species Removal and Fence Rehabilitation*: **Drew** **Kiefaber**, **Jeff** **Goldknopf** and his son went to clear the large ash tree that had fallen down on the trail. They also cleared barberry from two large areas. **Jeff** **Goldknopf** got some cost estimates for the twelve new rails for the fence around the parking area. Fences Unlimited in Epping (who made the original fence) has replacements for $14.90/ea. We can pick them up and it should take only 30 minutes to complete the repair.

**ACTION**

Motion: **Bruce Fecteau** moved that the CC approve the expenditure of funds not to exceed $200 for the replacement of 12 fence rails for the Piscassic-Loiselle parking area.

 Second: **Andrea Frey**

Vote: Unanimously Approved 6-0-0

There is a need for the clearing of the trail on River Bend Road that goes down to the river. It is completely overgrown and has not been maintained for years. The CC felt that this could make a great project for the next Eagle Scout in town!

**Bob** **Gazda** is concerned with the lack of garden maintenance on the front of the Newmarket Post Office. It was suggested that he contact the TA as a concerned citizen.

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**Jeff Goldknopf** delivered the remaining turtle signs to the DPW for future placement.

**Andrea Frey** mentioned that the 2015 Lamprey River Watershed Association Water Quality Sampler Training is still going on through August and anyone who still might be interested should contact her immediately.

*Salon Realty at 438 Wadleigh Falls Road (Rt. 152) Site Walk*: Diane Hardy, Town Planner, has asked the CC to plan a site walk to make an inspection of the property to assure wetlands planting and slope stabilization had occurred at the site. 75% of the site must be deemed thriving. This is related to a Planning Board condition of use from an earlier site plan approval, which required periodic inspections. The property should be checked every year, but has not been checked in four years. Mr. Mike Coumo of the Rockingham County Conservation District will represent the Town. **Jeff** **Goldknopf**, **Andrea** **Frey**, **Bob** **Gazda**, **Amy** **Burns,** and **Ezra Temko** all expressed interest in taking the walk once scheduled. **Jeff** **Goldknopf** will email Diane Hardy with two possible dates (Mondays at 5 PM). If work is necessary on the site, Lenny Lord complete this for the Town.

*Lubberland Creek Culvert Restoration Project Kickoff Meeting***: Andrea Frey, Fred Pearson,** and **Jeff Goldknopf** all attended. The meeting was nearly two hours of very good ‘technical culvert talk’. Another meeting will be scheduled for July to go into further detail. The culvert has a projected life of 50-75 years. Wright-Pierce made a very thorough research presentation. The culvert will protect the American eel and significantly reduce flooding.

*Letter from Wiggin Family Member:* The Chair received a wonderful letter from the husband of a woman who grew up on the Wiggin Farm, Dorothy Knowles, daughter of Malcom and Ruth Knowles. The letter contains a lot of information as well as photos. It was suggested that a copy of the letter go to the New Market Historical Society. Jeff Goldknopf will send a thank you letter to the family and scan the letter for members of the CC.

*Gate Still Locked at the Mill for Fishing:* The sign on the gate clearly states that the public may fish from May 1 to July 31, but it continues to be locked. **Ezra** **Temko** lives in the Mill and will check on the gate. In addition, **Jeff Goldknopf** agreed to contact the Town Administrator and the Town Planner on this matter.

*Repairs to Schanda Park:* **Bruce** **Fecteau** and **Fred** **Pearson** are planning an inventory of repairs needed. The flag light continues to short out because it is pointing upward. Part of the rock wall is being thrown into the River and portions of the wall are caving inward. They will do the inventory to discuss repairs at the next meeting. **Jeff** **Goldknopf** will review the report prepared by Jessica Vesey-Powell in the past.

9. Adjournment

 **ACTION**

Motion: **Bruce Fecteau** moved to adjourn the meeting.

 Second: **Andrea Frey**

Vote: Unanimously Approved 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.
The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording SecretaryAttendance at the Conservation Celebration is $10 per adult, $5 per child 7 and over (children under 6 are free). Includes lunch. Please reserve your spot by Wednesday, June 3th by calling 603-778-6088, emailing register@seltnh.org or completing [**this online form**](http://weblink.donorperfect.com/2015annualmeeting)**.** Please specify which field trips you will attend and whether you would like a vegetarian meal.