Approved Minutes

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**March 12, 2015
7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Drew Kiefaber (Chair), Jeff Goldknopf (Vice Chair), Bruce Fecteau, Andrea Frey, Fred Pearson, Eric Salovitch, and Toni Weinstein (Town Council Rep)

Members Absent: Bob Gazda (Alternate) *excused*.

Called to Order: 7:07 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comments
 There were no public comment.

The Chair asked to move the agenda forward to Old/New Business because we had two guest speakers to present items. There was no objection by the members.

1. Old/New Business

*Alteration of Terrain (AOT) Permit – 5 Young Lane:* Ross Tsantoulis, Project Engineer for Wright-Pierce, returned to the CC with a progress report on the Newmarket Waste-Water Treatment Plant plans. He thanked the CC for their previous letter to DES. Both the shoreland and wetlands permits have been approved leaving the AOT permit outstanding. Comments have been received by both LRAC and DES. The project went out to bid two weeks ago. Mr. Tsantoulis would like to issue an addendum to DES with any new comments from the CC. He discussed the 3,000 sq ft of impervious surface which will be buildings and structures. The treatment swale is designed to hold all runoff for 10 minutes before releasing. The swale is designed for a 10 year storm and will hold 4 inches of water. The carefully chosen plant species for the swale are low maintenance. The swale has a liner topped with 6 inches of sand and 6 inches of loam and seed. Mr. Tsantoulis must report back to Gloria Andrews (Design Review, WWTT’s & Sewer Systems at DES) with any comments or concerns from the Commission. The CC had no further questions.

**ACTION**

Motion: **Bruce Fecteau** moved the CC write a letter to DES indicating that Wright-Pierce has answered all of our questions and we approve of the plans.

 Second: **Fred Pearson**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 6-0-0

**Drew** **Kiefaber** will draft a letter to the members for comments and then send the final copy to Wright-Pierce.

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**Eric Salovitch** and **Jeff** **Goldknopf** recused themselves from discussion of the following presentation.

*Bald Hill Development Open Space Land – SELT of NH:* David Viale, Land Protection and Stewardship Specialist with SELT of NH, made a presentation on the 21.091 acres of forested upland open space (Bald Hill) associated with the 10 lot development (~8 acres) located at 74 Bald Hill Road. Mr. Viale is before the CC to seek a vote to approve expenditure of up to $4,000 toward the transaction costs associated with the transfer fees of the 21.091 acre parcel of land to the SELT of NH.

The Chair outlined the four possible scenarios for holding the property: 1) the HOA, 2) the developer, 3) the Town, or 4) a suitable conservation organization. The HOA and the developer were not appropriate. The Town was concerned because the property is isolated from other conserved properties we control and may become a liability. The SELT of NH was approached for the best possible conservation outcome. They are currently in the process of drafting MOU’s with Chinburg Properties regarding the startup land management monies ($3000) and the land management fund ($10,000). The startup includes a kiosk, gate, trail work and SELT stakes set around the perimeter. Reasonable hours will be posted for public access, which is guaranteed. **Bruce** **Fecteau** asked if hunting and fishing could be addressed by SELT with the land protection director and the board. Drew Kiefaber will ask the town planner if it is important that the Town have interest in the property. Final approval will require 1) a public hearing, 2) a discussion of what would satisfy legal interest, and 3) the TC and TA would need to approve the plan. As expenditure is proposed and time is not an issue, the CC decided to table a vote until further information is gathered.

1. Approval of Minutes

 *January 8, 2015:*

**ACTION**

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved to approved the minutes of January 8, 2015 as drafted

 Second: **Andrea Frey**

 Vote: Approved 4-0-2

*February 12, 2015:*

**ACTION**

Motion: **Bruce Fecteau** moved to approved the minutes of February 12, 2015 as drafted

 Second: **Jeff Goldknopf**

 Vote: Approved 4-0-2

1. Treasurer’s Report

The Chair emailed copies of the most recent account information to the members. There were no comments. At the next meeting, a new Treasurer will be elected.

1. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

**Toni** **Weinstein (Town Council Rep)**: 1) Elections have been held and three new councilors will be sworn into office on Monday, March 16. The proposed budget and warrant articles passed.

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2) Mr. Bill Arcieri has been appointed to the NH Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission. In August of 2013, the Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission was established by legislation to help coastal communities and the state prepare for projected sea level rise and other coastal watershed hazards. He is the first person to represent Newmarket. 3) She would like to bring attention to the new Code Red Alert System in Newmarket. More information is available at: <http://www.newmarketnh.gov/home/news/the-town-of-newmarket-to-introduce-codered-to-provide-emergency-notification-services-to-t> 4) Portsmouth is currently having conversations with Newmarket about the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the possibility that efforts might be shared at a site at Pease. Wright-Pierce will make a presentation to the TC.

1. Chairman’s Report

*Mills Scenic Byway Corridor Advisory Committee – SRPC:* The Mills Scenic Byway was recently designated as a NH Scenic Cultural Byway in May 2014 under RSA 238:10. This 12-mile scenic byway is one of three of the most recently designated in the state and runs through Newmarket, Durham, Madbury, and Rollinsford. They are seeking recommendations for potential Corridor Advisory Committee members. If anyone is interested, they are encouraged to speak with the Chair.

1. Old/New Business
(cont)

*Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC):*  The Chair received a copy of a letter from LRAC to DES about the expedited Wetlands Application for the Newmarket Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade. Among other comments, LRAC stated: “The plans were not detailed enough to evaluate drainage routing. We recommend that the permit, if granted, required that all stormwater drain through catch basins with sumps and oil separators, and then to the vegetated treatment swale shown along the project’s northeasterly edge. In no case should stormwater be directed untreated to the wetland.”

*Saving Special Places Annual Land Conservation Conference:*  The conference this year will be held on April 11, 2015 at John Stark Regional High School in Weare, NH. More information may be found at: [*http://savingspecialplaces.org/*](http://savingspecialplaces.org/)If any member of the CC would like to attend the conference, the registration fee will be reimbursed by the CC.

*Composters and Rain Barrels****:* Fred** **Pearson** reported that all the composters and turners have been sold! We currently have 13 rain barrels in inventory and no more need to be ordered. The barrels sell at cost for $65.00. The composters (Earth Machines) are purchased in 20 units at $50.00/each. The turners are purchased in 35 units at $@20,00/each. The Chair would like to discuss with the TA about the circumstances of our order and storage options.

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**ACTION**

Motion: **Eric Salovitch** moved that we conditionally approve the expenditure of approximately $1700 for composters and turners awaiting final approval by the Town Administrator on our storage issues.

 Second: **Fred Pearson**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 6-0-0

*Loco Sports Great Bay Half Marathon:* The Chair was reminded to send the letter of approval to Loco Sports and he agreed. The police are automatically notified by the town of the event.

*Conservation Commission Scholarship*: **Bruce** **Fecteau** will email the 2014 application to all members for any comments/updates that might be appropriate. **Drew** **Kiefaber** will also contact the Elementary and Jr./Sr. High Schools about funds available for environmentally related field trips.

*Spring Roadside Clean-Up*: **Toni** **Weinstein** announced that the Newmarket Solutions Group will have another roadside clean-up day this year on May 16, 2015. They have not yet selected the roads that may need the most effort. The DPW was a great help last year – they provided bags and pick-up. If anyone knows of groups in town who might wish to participate, please contact her.

The Conservation Commission would like to thank **Jessica Veysey-Powell** for her many years of invaluable service to the Commission and the Town. We would also like to thank **John Brackett** **(Planning Board Rep)** for keeping us well informed on issues facing the Planning Board and helping the community with his service on the Conservation Commission. The Commission looks forward to having another Planning Board Rep appointed soon.

1. Adjournment

**ACTION**

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved to adjourn the meeting.

 Second: **Fred Pearson**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick
Recording Secretary