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TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
May 8, 2014
7:00PM Council Chambers

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

Members Absent: Eric Wigode (Treasurer) *excused,* Stephanie Coster (Alternate) *excused*, Jessica Veysey-Powell (Alternate) *excused*, Fred Pearson, Bob Gazda (Alternate), and John Brackett (Planning Board Rep)

Called to Order: 7:07PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

1. Approval of Minutes

There are no minutes to approve. The Commission is still seeking for a Recording Secretary.

1. Treasurer’s Report

**Eric** **Wigode** emailed the monthly report from the Finance Office to everyone two days prior to the meeting. There were no comments.

1. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Town Council: **Toni** **Weinstein** reported that there was nothing happening at the Town Council meetings that would pertain to the Conservation Commission at this time.

Planning Board: No report from **John** **Brackett** (absent from the meeting)

Trails Maintenance: **Jeff** **Goldknopf** reported that the connector trail at the Piscassic River-Loiselle Conservation Area is seeing lots of use. Many people are going from this property to the Audubon property. It would be useful to have some additional signage to mark the way. **Drew** **Keifaber** has more arrows that could be used. There is also a tree down – 15” oak tree which will require a chain saw. Rails on the fence should be replaced as many are missing and broken. This work will be done on May 18 during the invasive species removal at Piscassic River-Loiselle Conservation Area. **Jeff** **Goldknopf** also went to the vernal pool and found an abundance of egg masses.

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1. Chairman’s Report

We received a thank you letter from Loco Sports for the permission granted to use Schanda Park for the Great Bay Half Marathon. It was scanned and sent to all members. They enclosed a donation check to the Conservation Commission. **Drew** **Kiefaber** remarked many people felt that it was a beautiful location for gathering after the run.

There will be an Oil Spill Response 101 Open House on Saturday, May 31 from 9:00AM-12:00 noon at the Pease International Tradeport. There will be many presentations by State agencies and others about an oil spill response in Great Bay and special equipment used for clean-up will be on site for review and evaluation. Information on the open house will be posted on the board outside of the Council Chambers.

The Conservation Commission has been contacted by approximately 20 families who wish to organize a roadside clean-up effort. **Toni** **Weinstein**, one of the organizers, contacted the DPW who agreed to provide bags and return to pick them up on Monday. The event is scheduled for Sunday, June 8 from 1:00-3:00PM. For more information and volunteering, please contact ToniWeinstein@gmail.com. Specific roads have not yet been chosen. Drew encouraged her to contact the Boy Scouts for assistance. Boots, gloves, and wearing bright colors are encouraged.

The Town may have signs and cones to help.

1. Old/New Business

Scholarship for Graduating Senior Resident – **Bruce** **Fecteau** dropped off the applications at the school and town office five weeks ago. We have received three applicants. Awards night is usually on our meeting night, so the Guidance Counselor may be asked to present the award.

Turtle Crossing Signs – **Bruce** **Fecteau** has found the correct hinges (stainless steel) and completed the signs. He delivered them almost two weeks ago to DPW. **Bruce** **Fecteau** contacted **Jessica** **Veysey-Powell** to let her know that the signs were ready and she and Rick Malasky were going to place the signs. Bruce turned his receipts into the Chair for the hinges and rivets totaling $77.56. The State has agreed to cut any uncut signs for us.

**ACTION**

**Motion: Drew Kiefaber** moved that the Conservation Commission expend

 $77.56 to reimburse **Bruce** **Fecteau** for the hardware necessary to hinge

 turtle crossing signs.

**Second**: **Andrea Frey**

 **Vote:**  Unanimous approval 4-0

Annual Fishing Derby– The event is scheduled for June 14. In the past, the Conservation Commission has partnered with the Newmarket Recreation Department and the Boy Scout Troup #200. We have donated $1500.00 for the purchase of different trout species for the pond.

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Although the official request has not been received as yet, we need to be prepared for an immediate response as time is drawing near.

**ACTION**

**Motion: Bruce Fecteau** moved that the Conservation Commission expend

 $1500.00 to assist in the cost to purchase the fish for the annual derby.

**Second: Drew Kiefaber**

 **Vote:**  Unanimous approval 4-0

Invasive Species Removal – Two days have been scheduled: May 10 at the Wiggin Farm Conservation Area and on May 18 at Piscassic River-Loiselle Conservation Area between

9:00AM – noon. **Drew** **Kiefaber** has contacted the Great Bay Discovery Center and they have loaned us weed wrenches to use and he will bring them along. The Boy Scouts have just been contacted, but all the public is encouraged to come and help. Please wear gloves, eye protection, and boots. We do not use herbicides as the areas are too close to wetlands. At the Wiggan Farm Conservation Area, we will continue to work the far side of the field. The invasive species collected can be dragged out onto the field to making a pile for burning in the winter.

**Andrea** **Frey** said that the Lamprey River Watershed Association will be conducting water testing along the Piscassic River. One of the sites cuts across one of our trails on River Bend Road. She has been given permission to clear some of the trail to access the river. She indicated that mostly the tests are conducted from bridges. The Commission gave her several ideas for good access to the river.

**Bruce Fecteau** was walking down by the Mills in the area that was made available to all Newmarket fishermen when the Chinburg development was approved. There was a sign posted that the site is only open from May 1 to June 30 and then the gate is locked. He believed that the approval was granted on the basis that the site be open year round. He will check with Diane Hardy, Town Planner, to determine the exact terms in the agreement with Chinburg. He will email the Commission with any updates from his conversation with Diane.

**Bruce** **Fecteau** wanted clarification on who is responsible to inspect the approved wetland buffers for ongoing construction projects. Most thought it was the Town Building Inspector. He will clarify this with Diane Hardy as well.

**Jeff** **Goldknopf** said that he spoke to someone at NHDES recently regarding the marking of prime wetlands on plans for proposed land development. There is no state law requiring that prime wetlands be delineated in the field and subsequently shown on said plans. Our current ordinance does not indicate that developers use anything other than the broad maps. The state has no buffer restricting areas around designated prime wetlands in Newmarket, but the town does. He was interested in the thoughts of other commissioners as to whether these delineations should be

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checked in a few locations at the place of proposed development. He suggested that perhaps we may wish to look more closely at our ordinance and he will speak with Diane Hardy. The Commission will discuss this further.

1. Adjournment

**ACTION**

**Motion: Jeff Goldknopf** moved that the meeting be adjourned.

**Second: Drew Keifaber**

**Vote:** All in favor 4-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick

Recording Secretary

Approved as amended 6/12/2014