DRAFT MINUTES

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
November 13, 2014
7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Jeff Goldknopf (Vice Chair), Eric Wigode (Treasurer), Fred Pearson, Andrea Frey,
Toni Weinstein (Town Council Rep), and John Brackett (Planning Board Rep) *arrived at 7:15 pm.*

Members Absent: Drew Kiefaber (Chair) *excused*, Bruce Fecteau *excused*, Bob Gazda (Alternate) *excused*, and Jessica Veysey-Powell (Alternate) *excused*

Called to Order: 7:04 PM

Agenda Items:

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

There were no public comments.

The Vice-Chair moved the agenda forward to an item under Old/New Business regarding the Wetlands Permit- Shed Rebuild at 17 Moody Point Drive to accommodate a guest speaker. There was no objection by the members.

1. Old/New Business

Wetlands Permit-Shed Rebuild at 17 Moody Point Drive:

Mr. Melvin Prostkoff of 17 Moody Point attended the meeting to discuss the ‘reconstruction in kind’ of a shed on his property that is collapsing on three sides because of the original cinder block construction without rebar reinforcement and answer any questions from the CC may. Mark West of West Environmental, Inc. is contracted to perform the wetlands engineering work and has created the zone and protection areas described in the DES application. The CC received copies of the proposal and maps for discussion at the meeting. A ten foot temporary area of impact is planned for total removal of the old foundation and pouring a new one. They intend to jack up the building (saving that portion which is still good) and replace the foundation. The CC recommended that the silt sock be set out to protect the area and the river from the excavator and other equipment as required. All materials from the excavation will be removed from the site immediately. Mr. Prostkoff does not expect the project to begin until spring. The CC reached consensus on approval of the project and authorize signing the DES proposal. The CC will also send a brief letter to DES indicating the CC support and seeking assurance from DES that no work will be done outside of the silt sock border. A copy of all correspondence will be send to Mr. Prostkoff.

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1. Approval of Minutes

**ACTION**

Motion: **Andrea Frey** moved that the minutes of October 9, 2014

 be approved as drafted.

 Second: **John Brackett**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 5-0

1. Treasurer’s Report

**Eric** **Wigode** reported that we have received some interest in our account and made routine payments to the recording secretary. **Fred** **Pearson** reported that he has sold all the composters and we still have eight rain barrels for sale. Pauline Brisson spoke to the CC and indicated that it took 2 ½ years to sell the last composters possibly because the area was oversupplied. Durham offered to put a sample in their Town Hall for us….within one month she was able to sell $1300 in composters and rain barrels to Durham residents. Other communities in the area (Durham, Stratham, and Portsmouth) do not sell these items on their own anymore. They traditionally come 20 to a pallet. The CC sells them at cost and they are called the Earth Machine. **Fred** **Pearson** will bring in the checks that he has for the sales and the cost of replacing our supply to the next meeting. The CC will put the possible reorder of composters with turners on the agenda for December and strategize ideas for boosting sales. **Eric** **Wigode** will contact the NHACC to see if other towns may be doing this and what their success might be. **John** **Brackett** will borrow a demo to show to a friend on the Greenland CC to determine their interest. The CC thanked Pauline and Fred for their hard work toward this beneficial project.

1. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

**Toni** **Weinstein** (Town Council Rep)reported that the turtle signs are now down. In the future, the CC should give the DPW about six weeks advance notice to have the signs put up and taken down. The CC should discuss beginning this process at the March 2015 meeting and it should be added to the calendar of action items.

The budget has been approved by the Town Council. The Budget Committee will now review the budget on November 17 and 24. The public hearing is scheduled for December 15 at 7:00 pm. Info can be found at: <http://www.newmarketnh.gov/home/events/8091>

The EDC and the Town Council have approved the hiring of a new consultant, Connery Associates, for development opportunities. A previous consultant identified *recreation* and *senior housing* and Connery Associates intend to really “dig in” and look at parcels of land.

1. Chairman’s Report

River Herring Study Grant Proposal Information

The CC had no response on this issue and the deadline has passed.

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Shoreland Impact Permit Issued, Redevelopment of Home at 6 Great Cove Drive

The CC did not receive the application, but did receive a letter from LRAC (Lamprey River Advisory Committee). A permit was issued at 6 Great Cove Drive. The CC will ask the Chair to look into this issue,

retrieve a copy for the CC and add it to the agenda for next meeting. The CC was in agreement that they would like an opportunity to review what is occurring at the property even though any possibility of appeal may have passed.

1. Old/New Business (cont.)

NH Association of Conservation Commissions Membership Dues

The NHACC dues have been increased by 10% to $330.00 per year. They are making serious efforts to reduce their costs and raise money. The NHACC has been of great resource to Newmarket this year.

**ACTION**

 Motion: **Eric Wigode** moved the approval of the expenditure of $330.00 for

 renewal of membership in the NHACC.

 Second: **Fred Pearson**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 5-0

The Vice-Chair will return the bill to **Drew** **Kiefaber** to process the check request.

Easement Monitoring Update

*Silverman-Schneer* – Submitted

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

*Audubon/Smith Sisters­ –* **Drew** **Kiefaber** completed on Oct. 25. He will discuss the details at the next meeting.

*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** is still trying to contact the owners. The owners would like the CC to survey and mark the boundaries of the conservation area. The report must be completed by January 30.

Pauline Brisson brought the CC shirts and hats that she orders. She handed out several to new members and there are only a few shirts and one hat remaining. The CC may need to reorder a supply. A discussion of a reorder will be on the agenda for December.

**Jeff** **Goldknopf** asked **John** **Brackett** who will be responsible for placing the conservation easement tags on the Bald Hill property once it is transferred. **John** **Brackett** agreed to ask the PB and see if it could be made a condition and responsibility of the developer.

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1. Adjournment

**ACTION**

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

 Second: **Eric Wigode**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick
Recording Secretary