ApprovedMinutes

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
October 10, 2013
7:00PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Bruce Fecteau (Vice Chair), Jeff Goldknopf (Treasurer), George Hilton, Fred Pearson, Stephanie Coster (Alternate), Bob Gazda (Alternate), Jessica Veysey Powell (Alternate), Janice Rosa (Planning Board Rep), and Dale Pike (Town Council Rep)

Members Absent: Drew Kiefaber (Chairman) excused

Called to Order: 7:00PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call

**Bruce Fecteau** will act as Chair for this meeting and appointed **Bob** **Gazda** as the voting member in the absence of **Drew** **Kiefaber**.

1. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

1. Approval of the Minutes

September 12, 2013: **Jessica Veysey Powell** suggested that the wording on page 3 lines 11-12 (of the draft copy) could be made clearer by changing the wording to: “At the Planning Board meeting, the plan was accepted as presented and there will still be further discussion at the Planning Board.” There were no other changes or comments.

**ACTION**

**Motion: Janice Rosa** made a motion to approve the minutes of

September 12, 2013 with the recommended changes.

**Second: Fred Pearson**

**Vote:** All in favor. **George** **Hilton** and **Dale** **Pike** abstained due to absence.

1. Treasurer’s Report

The monthly treasurer’s report was distributed with no discussion. **Jeff Goldknopf** asked if everyone wanted printed copies of the report or if the current email distribution method was okay. The Commission agreed that email was fine. It was decided that 4-5 copies should still be available at the

ApprovedMinutes

meetings.  **Jeff Goldknopf** reported that he deposited $65.00 for a rain barrel that will appear on the next monthly report. The Commission discussed the possibility that a few barrels should be available to the public at the town hall just in case someone is interested.

1. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Planning Board Report - **Janice Rose** reported on several items from recent Planning Board meetings. 1) The Chinburg project received a continuance until the November meeting of the Planning Board. 2) There will be Planning Board Workshop to discuss the landscape regulations for future developments on October 29, 2013. 3) There is a new RSA regarding wetlands coming out in January 2014. Diane Hardy will get the information to the Conservation Commission once it is issued. 4) Although no date is certain, an application will be coming to the Planning Board for a project for 11 units on the old Blanchett property across from the Town Library. 5) The independent wildlife report on the Rockingham Golf course will be paid by Chinburg. Mr. Mark West of West Environmental Inc. is currently on vacation, so progress on his report is unknown. Once complete, Diane Hardy will see that 10 copies are given to the Conservation Commission.

Town Council Report - **Dale Pike** reported several items from recent Town Council meetings. 1) The Macallen Dam is still being discussed. 2) The School Department has proposed compressed natural gas be brought into town which would involve piping through the town. No action was taken until the Town Administrator gets further into the budget process.

Scholarship Committee – The Commission had a brief discussion about eligibility requirements for receiving this award from the Commission i.e. only high school students in school in Newmarket or possibly students who are residents, but don’t go to school here (St. Thomas Aquinas or Philips Exeter) might be considered. There was also discussion about college undergraduates who received the award before and have continued in the field. The discussion will continue to future meetings.

Dam Removal Subcommittee - . **Stephanie Coster** pointed out that there are still two more public hearings on the Dam. DES considers the dam to be a “high hazard” and the town will be fined if it is not resolved. DES, however, is still letting the town explore options and the Commission should be more closely involved. The engineering firms doing the feasibility studies are completing them now. The spillway must be increased in order to keep the dam at the same height. There are people in town who would like to see the economic and recreational impacts on the dam removal studied. The first report is due in February with a hearing of the Macallen Dam Study Committee.

Policy and Process – Nothing to report.
Land Protection – Nothing to report.
Trail Maintenance – Nothing to report.
Education and Outreach – Nothing to report.

ApprovedMinutes

1. Chairman’s Report (presented by **Bruce Fecteau**, ViceChair)

**Drew Kiefaber’s** took notes at the DOT meeting on September 19 at 7:00 PM regarding the widening of Rt. 108: 1) The project will be completed in two stages. Stage One: The middle section between Durham and Newmarket will begin in 2014. They expect to raise the road approximately 4 inches or so and install large culverts. Stage Two: Proceeding from the middle section to both Durham and Newmarket will begin in 2015. The manager of the project has agreed to come to the Conservation Commission to speak. 2) The Lamprey River Watershed Association Meeting will be held at the Lee Grange on October 18 from 6:00-9:00PM. Registration is suggested for those interested in attending. 3) Fish and Game has sent a survey they wish the Commission to complete. Everyone has received a copy in email. 4) The NH Association of Conservation Commissioners Annual Meeting will be held on November 2 in Concord. There will be 30 workshops and 30 field trips. Two people may sign up if they wish to attend.
2. Old/New Business

**Jessica Veysey Powell** brought a new turtle crossing sign to show everyone.

Schanda Park Improvements – **Fred Pearson** and **Bruce Fecteau** have determined that the park needs some improvements. The sod needs some attention, but the ducks may simply continue to rip it up and it will remain a cosmetic issue. **Stephanie Coster** mentioned the granite wall damage needs to be addressed and repaired. The Commission made a priority list for the repairs so that costs could be determined incrementally. 1) Fix the wall below and the rocks that have fallen. 2) Replace the pavers and wall by the flag pole. 3a) Reset the posts along the boat ramp as they are loose and 3b) get a new estimate for this extra work and get appropriate permits from DES. **Stephanie** **Coster** believes that we should get general bids for this work so that there are options. **Bruce** **Fecteau** will check with the Town Administrator about this process as well as the maintenance and a dedicated funding source for the work this is necessary,

Easement Stewardship Monitoring: **Drew Keifaber** completed the monitoring of the New Roots Farm last week and they are doing a great job. The New Roots Farm is located at 31 Doe Farm Road.

**Jeff** **Goldknopf** completed the Piscassic River-Loiselle Conservation Area and found one minor problem. We need to look at dead trees against the stone wall. This may require that we remove them and we will get in touch with the abutters. **Janice** **Rosa** mentioned that there were no clear trail signs at Piscassic River-Loiselle Conservation Area and **Stephanie** **Coster** agreed to look into this issue. The Audubon/Smith Sisters will be monitored by **Drew** **Kiefaber**, **Bruce** **Fecteau**, and possibly **Jeff** **Goldknopf** on October 26 at 8:30AM. Silverman-Schneer will be done at a later time in mid-December by **Jeff** **Goldknopf** and **Bruce** **Feateau**.

List of Conservation Committee Activities/Actions – Not completed as yet: 1) Refurbishing the water

 ApprovedMinutes

removal signs. 2) Add links to the website on invasive plants and nitrogen talks. 3) Planned nitrogen mailer. 4) Curbsides on Ash Swamp Road have knotweed growing up again after the first cut by the

Town crew. The Town will not cut it again this year. 5) The Macellan Dam information session. 6) Pontoon boat rental for May. 7) Privacy signs must be posted for the wedding in May. 8) Post turtle crossing signs in May. Others action items include: 1) review the amended application in Concord, 2) develop a process to identify land changes from current use, and 3) finish the connector trail at

Piscassic River-Loiselle Conservation Area.

**Bruce** **Fecteau** will make an appointment with the Town Administrator as soon as possible to discuss several of these issues.

1. Adjournment

**ACTION**

**Motion: Janice Rosa** made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Second: Fred Pearson**

**Vote:** Passed unanimously 7-0

 Meeting adjourned at 9:04PM

 The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 14, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Frick

Recording Secretary

Approved June 12, 2014