APPROVED MINUTES

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
October 9, 2014
7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Drew Kiefaber (Chair), Jeff Goldknopf (Vice Chair), Eric Wigode (Treasurer),
 Bruce Fecteau, Andrea Frey, Bob Gazda (Alternate), and Toni Weinstein (Town Council Rep)

Members Absent: Fred Pearson *excused*, Jessica Veysey-Powell (Alternate) *excused*, and John Brackett (Planning Board Rep)

Called to Order: 7:03 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call

The Chair appointed **Bob** **Gazda** as a voting member for this meeting.

1. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

1. Approval of Minutes

**ACTION**

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the minutes of September 11, 2014

be approved as drafted.

 Second: **Jeff Goldknopf**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 6-0

1. Treasurer’s Report

**Eric** **Wigode** mentioned that the CC budget will likely exceed the budget of $1,000.00 for the recording secretary this year because of the unusual circumstances. The CC agreed not to seek an increase. **Bruce** **Fecteau** wanted the Treasurer to make a note on the balance sheets indicating the $10,000 authorized for the culvert upgrade project at Lubberland Creek/Bay Road.

1. Committee and Subcommittee Report

**Toni** **Weinstein** reported that the Town Council was updated by the Town Administrator about the culvert upgrade project and the grant application. The Chair reminded members that the CC applied for the Moose Plate Grant that was prepared by the Nature Conservancy. Steve Fournier signed the grant for the town and the grant was submitted. **Eric** **Wigode** asked if the town checks the culverts annually. The Chair knows that the town has a plan for roads and there is an assumption that the culverts and catch basins are checked as well.

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1. Chairman’s Report

UNH and Cooperative Extension are planning two seminars on ‘Forest Laws for Municipal Officials’: Nov.6 in Enfield and Nov. 18 in Chesterfield. Additional information may be found at: <http://extension.unh.edu/events/?e=app.home&calendar_id=976>. The CC will pay registration fees for any member who wishes to attend.

NH Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting – Nov. 1: More information on the meeting schedule and workshops may be found at: <http://www.nhacc.org/annualmeeting44/> .The CC will pay registration fees for any member who wishes to attend.

State of NH Wetlands Council Appeal Letter Related to the 108 Shoulder Widening: The Durham Boat Company requested an appeal related to the 108 shoulder widening project that was accepted by the council. No action required by the CC.

Newmarket Sewer Tidal Zone Excavation Near 8 Bay Road: Newmarket Environmental Services wishes to inform the CC that they will be performing a sewer line check near 8 Bay Road. They will be digging for two days sometime between the dates of Oct. 12 and Nov. 14. Once completed, the excavation will backfilled per regulations.

Lamprey River Advisory Committee Letter: The CC received a copy of the letter LRAC sent to DES regarding shore land protection during construction at 6 Great Cove Road in Newmarket. No action required by the CC.

Two Letters Received From the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire: The CC was sent a copy of the Southeast Land Trust Newsletter: <http://seltnh.org/index.php/news-and-events/newsletter> and the Oct. 24 Fall Foliage Fund Raiser in Portsmouth:

<http://seltnh.org/index.php/news-and-events/events/icalrepeat.detail/2014/10/24/112/30/a-watershed-moment-2014-fall-foliage-fundraiser>. This event will also be celebrating the official merger of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy (a land trust based in Dover) and the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire.

Wedding Thank You: Sarah and Bryce Caron sent a thank note and several beautiful pictures of their wedding held on May 25th in Schanda Park.

1. Old/New Business

Update on the Grant Application for the Culvert Upgrade Study at Lubberland Creek/Bay Road:

The Chair reported that the grant was submitted and it may be six months before we hear anything from the Moose Plate Granting agency.

Easement Monitoring:

Silverman-Schneer was completed October 5. **Jeff** **Goldknopf** and **Eric** and **Lu Wigode** completed the monitoring. **Jeff** **Goldknopf** reported that the blow down is rotting nicely on the westerly side and

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that, unfortunately, there is some glossy buckthorn growing along the northerly boundary toward the horse farm. The cemetery is looking more run down than in the past. He wondered if we should contact the people with burial rights (the deed shows that the heirs of James Bennett and Paschal Hall have rights) to see if they might be concerned. **Bob** **Gazda** believes that the Veteran’s Association might be interested in looking at the names on the stones. **Andrea** **Frey** will be attending the Oct. 27 meeting of the New Market Historical Society and she will mention our concerns for general discussion. The topic of the meeting is scheduled to be:

*“Reclaiming Our Veteran’s Gravesites: Each year before Memorial Day the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) decorate veteran’s graves with flags in some 50 smaller family plot cemeteries around and in the outskirts of town. With the approval of landowners, they have restored our older cemeteries that have been overgrown and neglected over the years. The town has many veterans buried in these old, hidden and out-of-the-way graveyards dating back to the Revolutionary War! The SAL upright headstones and makes these forgotten gravesites visible and accessible by cutting down trees, removing brush, and creating pathways. They will be discussing those sites which they have restored, our veterans buried there, and those which they plan to restore in the future.”*

Piscassic River/Loiselle: **Bruce** **Fecteau** says the monitoring will begin at 9:00 am on Saturday October 18 if others wish to join him.

Audubon/Smith Sisters: **Drew Kiefaber, Andrea Frey,** and **Bruce Fecteau** will monitor this property on Sat. Oct. 25 at 9:00 am. Parking is available at the old driving range. **Bruce** **Fecteau** reported that last year some trees had been girdled in the stand toward the middle of the field. It is unknown who did this to the trees. The trees will be assessed again this year.

New Roots Farm: **Drew** **Kiefaber** reported that this monitoring is “in process”. He has contacted the Cantera family and is waiting to hear from them to specify a convenient time.

Wiggin Farm: **Drew** **Kiefaber** has contact the Fish & Game and is waiting to hear back about completing the joint monitoring. **Bruce Fecteau** would like to be part of this walk if it is scheduled in late November. **Jeff** **Goldknopf** would also like to go even if it is scheduled during a week day. **Bruce** **Fecteau** thinks we should cover the burn pile with a tarp (he has one to use) so that it could be burned in the winter months.

**Jeff** **Goldknopf** asked **Toni** **Weinstein** about the turtle signs and she reported that they are on Rick’s to do list. The signs are supposed to go up in late April-early May and come down early in August to avoid ‘signage fatigue’.

**Jeff** **Goldknopf** discussed the use of storm water drains that have a sewer barrier seal. **Toni** **Weinstein** will convey a concern from the CC to Sean Greig, Water & Wastewater Superintendent.

**Bruce** **Fecteau** reported that they have put a square culvert with a live bottom on Rt. 33 near the new

development being built. It appears to be very similar to the proposed new culvert for Bay Road/Lubberland Creek. The culvert on Rt. 33 was completed in a few days.

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1. Adjournment

ACTION

Motion: **Bruce** **Fecteau** moved that the meeting be adjourned.

 Second: **Drew** **Kiefaber**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick

Recording Secretary