

CONSERVATION COMMISSION**June 10, 2021****7:00 PM****Virtual Meeting Called to Order: 7:02 PM**

Members Present: Patrick Reynolds (Chair), David Bell, Megan Brabec (Town Council Rep), Melissa Brogle (Alternate), Jeff Goldknopf (Planning Board Rep), and Sam Kenney.

Members Absent: Melissa Sharples (Vice Chair), Ellen Snyder (Treasurer), and Cris Blackstone.

1. Pledge of Allegiance**2. Roll Call**

The Chair appointed **Melissa Brogle** as a voting member this evening.

3. Public Comments

No comments this evening from the public.

4. June Events

a) The joint ConCom and Library program with Kevin Martin called “Big Trees of New Hampshire” was zoomed last week. The Chair wanted to thank Laurie McLaughlin from the Newmarket Public Library for all of her help to make this talk a success and Kevin Martin for his great talk, slides, and willingness to answer questions. The Chair noted that it was great fun and that it is amazing to discover that there are trees in NH as old as 600 years! His book is a great reference and may be purchased at:

https://www.amazon.com/Big-Trees-New-Hampshire-Seacoast/dp/1937721183/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=Big+Trees+of+NH&qid=1625514901&sr=8-3

b) Matt Tarr, from UNH Extension, has agreed to lead a walk and speak with anyone interested about open-field habitat and birds at the Wiggin Farm on Thursday, June 17, at 4:30 PM. The gathering spot is the parking lot off of Grant Road. We will post information on our social media. Matt was our guest speaker at the February ConCom meeting.

c) The 31st Annual Newmarket Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, June 19th. Get there early to secure your fishing spot! <https://www.newmarketrec.org/newmarket-annual-fishing-derby/>

d) The 2021 Newmarket Conservation Commission Scholarship has been awarded to Caden Corben a graduating senior at Newmarket High School. **Melissa Sharples** and **Cris Blackstone** reviewed all of the applications for the ConCom. We want to thank all the applicants for taking the time to apply and wish them success in their future endeavors. Caden hopes to study planning in the future. Congratulations and good luck Caden!

5. Approval of Minutes

May 13, 2021

Action

Motion: **Sam Kenney** moved to approve the minutes of May 13, 2021 as written.

Second: **Melissa Brogle**

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

6. Chair's Report

The Chair received the official documents exercised for the Clarke Farm project thereby completing the easement.

7. Treasurer's Report

With the absence of the Treasurer this evening, the Chair presented the report. The current balance of the Conservation Fund is \$169,222.38 and the Schanda Park Fund is \$4,764.46. There are no new revenues as of this report.

8. Committee and Sub-Committee Reports

Riverfront Committee: **Sam Kenney** reported that the committee just met on Tuesday. They have prepared a draft RFQ for professional planning of the area. The Committee still plans to apply for the Coastal Resiliency Grant from NHDES that is due at the end of July. This State money is a 4:1 grant from the State...the Town would need to come up with 20%. The 20% could be as much as \$5,000 or \$6,000. When possible, the Chair would like the rough dollar amount to be brought to the ConCom and TC for discussion. **Melissa Brogle** asked if volunteer help could be used or in-kind services to help with the cost.

Town Council: **Megan Brabec** reported that the solar array garden on 210 New Road is moving forward. The System Impact Statement is required next and will be conducted by Eversource. Eversource will evaluate the impact of a proposed interconnection or transmission service request on the safety and reliability of the transmission system. Legal Counsel is reviewing it for the Town.

Energy and Environment Committee Information: **Megan Brabec** reported that this committee met with Revision Energy and 603 Solar on two RFPs regarding discount solar panels for Newmarket residents. This is very exciting news!

More Riverfront Information: **Megan Brabec** reported that Mike Hoffman is working with Arts & Tourism about the possibility of working with the facilities on a lighting installation for the Dam waterfall. She mentioned that the ConCom should be consulted regarding this matter. **Jeff Goldknopf** mentioned that several years ago night time lighting of the flag pole at Schanda Park required some discussion, before final approval, about the effects of night lighting on aquatic species.

75 Neal Mill Road: **Megan Brabec** reported that no request has come forward to the Town Council from the applicant.

Planning Board: **Jeff Goldknopf** reported on the recent meeting. **Patrick Reynolds** has been appointed to the Lamprey River Advisory Committee! Congratulations Patrick and thank you for serving!

401 Wadleigh Falls: A public hearing was held for an application for subdivision, to permit a two lot subdivision consisting of one 3 acre lot and one 57.88 acre lot. The lot is located at 401 Wadleigh Falls Road, Tax Map R6, Lot 1, B3 Zone and is owned by Kevin Bevins. NRCS has an easement on this property. The PB did not take up the giant pile of tires which remains off the back of the 3 acre parcel. It was a matter of concern to the Chair who made a sight walk with NRCS when they were purchasing the easement. There was an agreement in place at that time that the tire pile would be removed. The PB did approve the plans for the frontage sub-development. NHDES must still approve the septic systems. These lots will be on Town water.

258 Wadleigh Falls: There was a continuation of a public hearing for an application for subdivision at 258 Wadleigh Falls Road A & B, Tax Map U4, Lot 68, R2 Zone. The proposal is to convert the existing apartment units into condominiums by Northpoint Realty Inc. They have a minor shoreland impact within the 250' buffer. The issue involves a deck around the side of the house and a corner on the driveway. They must now go through a formal application with NHDES to keep these changes to the original plan.

The Chair announced that next month the Conservation Commission will be meeting in the **Town Council Chamber**.

Jeff Goldknopf wanted to give a turtle activity report near his home on Ash Swamp Road. He has counted four Blanding's turtles (non-nesting) passing through, three large Snapping turtles (nesting), and one Painted turtle (nesting) along Ash Swamp Road. The Town has also cleaned the mud out of the culvert on Ash Swamp Road. The water level is fluctuating because of the mud and this may cause a disruption in turtle activity. Please be careful while driving on the roads in Newmarket!

Jeff Goldknopf along with all the members of the Conservation Commission wanted to send out well wishes to Richie Shelton and his wife who were involved in a minor car accident. Richie has done so much for this community and toward conservation in this town and we wish them both a speedy recovery.

9. Adjourn

Action

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

Second **Sam Kenney**

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

**The next meeting will be held July 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM
Town Council Chambers**

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary