



TOWN OF **NEWMARKET** NEW HAMPSHIRE

Conservation Commission

July 11, 2024, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Ellen Snyder (Chair), David Bell, Cris Blackstone, Jessica Cann (Alternate), Jeffrey Goldknopf (Planning Board Rep.), Tom Jones, Colin Lawson (Alternate), Julianna Tyson, Brian Ward (Town Council Rep. ex officio), and Emma Fortin (School Liaison)

Members Absent: Melissa Sharples (Vice-Chair)

Guest: Katrie Hillman, The Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GBNERR)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

The Chair appointed Alternate **Colin Lawson** as a voting member this evening. The seven voting members include **Ellen Snyder, David Bell, Cris Blackstone, Jeff Goldknopf, Tom Jones, Colin Lawson, and Julianna Tyson.**

3. Public Comment

Zachary Angelini introduced himself to the members. He has a background in environmental engineering. **Zach** has just completed the required paperwork with the Town for an Alternate position with the ConCom. We are so pleased he could join us!

4. Guest Speaker

Katrie Hillman, Great Bay Changemaker Program, GBNERR

<https://greatbay.org/great-bay-changemakers/> Katrie started with the Changemaker program two months ago as the new program director. The goals of the program are to educate, train, and inspire individuals to become healthy water champions. In 2024, the Changemaker program is excited to offer a four-session Bootcamp focusing on communities connected to the Lamprey River. You will learn about the threats facing the Lamprey and other rivers flowing into Great Bay and how you can help influence community decisions to address these challenges. These sessions will be held in the evening and include a mix of activities. You'll hear from guest speakers from local governments and environmental organizations, practice advocacy skills through fun

skill-building exercises, and enjoy optional watershed walks. Each session will be hosted in a town within the Lamprey's watershed and will begin with a complimentary dinner. The four sessions are:

- September 19th, 5 – 7:30 pm, Epping Library
- October 3rd, 5 – 7:30 pm, Newmarket Town Hall, optional walk prior
- October 17th, 5 – 7:30 pm, Epping Library, optional walk prior
- November 7, 5 – 7:30 pm, Great Bay Discovery Center, optional walk prior

She is working as team along with Lynn Vaccaro and Melissa Brogle. Please apply by August 25, 2024 for priority consideration. Applicants will be accepted on a rolling basis until the program is filled. We anticipate recruiting a diverse group of 15 – 25 people for the 2024 program.

Participants joining at least 3 of the 4 sessions will be offered a \$150 stipend at the end of the program to offset the cost of participation and transportation.

Thank you Katrie!

5. Approve Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2024

Action

Motion: **Colin Lawson** made a motion to approved the Minutes of March 14, 2024 as drafted.

Second: **Tom Jones**

Discussion: none

Vote: **Unanimously Approved 7-0-0**

6. Financial Summary & FY26 Budget Request

No financial summary available from the Finance Office because of the end-of-the-fiscal year work load. To review, the 2023 budget was \$4,520 and the proposed 2024 budget is \$5,343. The 2024 budget includes the contracted services from SELT for \$1,000.

Action

Motion: **Tom Jones** made a motion to forward this 2024 budget to **Bart** who will forward it to the Town Manager in a memo.

Second: **Cris Blackstone**

Discussion: **Cris** would like the ConCom budget to include honorariums for our speakers or 'treats' for planned events or property walks. **Cris** agreed to seek clarification from the Town Manager if the line items are fixed or is there some flexibility.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved 7-0-0**

7. Committee/Board Reports

Town Council: **Brian** reported on the recent meeting of June 26, [06262024 approved minutes.pdf \(newmarketnh.gov\)](#). The Mitchell Land Conservation project (with the ConCom) had a first reading. Second reading is set for the next meeting.

Planning Board/Town Planner: **Jeff** reported about the recent meeting.

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[approved minutes pb july 09 2024.pdf \(newmarketnh.gov\)](#). They had their first ADU application to consider! **Ellen** reported for **Bart** this evening about the Master Plan Subcommittee progress. The Open Space Plan is currently with SRPC staff for minor edits to some maps and wording. The Housing Chapter is still in process. They would like to put these up online to get further comments, The MPSubCom is working on a build-out plan for Newmarket.

Riverfront Advisory Committee/Schanda Park: The Chair did not receive any update from **Sam**. She reported, however, that the Moonlight Brook caution sign is up, but the duck feeding warning sign is still being evaluated.

Energy and Environment Advisory Committee: **Julianna** received an email from Joe Lamattina, Chair of EEAC. The EEAC is tasked with finding qualified vendors, while DPW is looking into three Town well sites to determine suitable spaces for solar (Sewell, Tucker, & Bennett wells). Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) just released their price for kw/hour for August 2024-January 25...they have come in well below Eversource!

School Liaison: **Emma** is out! The trees in front of the school have been straightened up and are being watered for the summer. **Cris** would like to discuss TurtleFest at the next meeting so that **Emma** can get some volunteers to help and determine how the HS clubs might participate.

8. Easement Monitoring – SELT Contract

Tom reported that the easement monitoring performed by contract with SELT last year was perfect and he would like to see this continue for 2024.

Action

Motion: **Tom Jones** made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$1,000 for the contract with SELT for easement monitoring in 2024.

Second: **Julianna Tyson**

Discussion: none

Vote: **Unanimously Approved 7-0-0**

The Chair will send the contract to Wendy for the Town Manager's signature before being returned to SELT.

Boulder Creek Trail: **Colin** reported on his recent interactions with the Boulder Creek HOA. Ten yards of wood chips were provided by the HOA and they have been spread along 50 yards of the trail. He will bring pictures to the next meeting. Everyone seems happy with the outcome so far. **Colin** would like a confirmation on potential liability issues. Thank you **Colin**!

9. Projects

Mitchell Land Conservation Project: The Town Council has completed the first public hearing with the second hearing set for next week. Duane Hyde is expected to give a presentation to the TC. This project is a collaborative effort between amongst SELT, F&G, and the Town of Newmarket to purchase and conserve the property on Bald Hill Road.

Prime Wetlands Mapping Update: PREPA Grant: The grant submitted was approved! **Bart** is overseeing the project. Mark West is doing the mapping for us and he will attend

the September meeting to discuss his process. He will likely begin the project very soon.

Old Lee Class A Trail: LRAC Grant: The Chair announced that the LRAC grant was approved! DPW put a second railing on the bridge – which is still kittywampus! Thank you DPW! The cost for materials will be paid from the grant. She is working on an informational sign for the bridge about the Piscassic River with Cathy Arkelian at Independent Graphic Design. The trail work will be done in the fall by Greg DiSanto. DPW plans to mow the trail edge for us.

The Chair is a volunteer for SELT and she informed the members that SELT is nearly done with the update to the Piscassic Greenway Management Plan. She will ask Drew Kiefaber back in September to provide an update. SELT does plan to do some logging pretty soon. **Jeff** is concerned about the large American Elm on the property. We will ask Drew!!

Wiggin Farm: Boardwalk Replacement LRAC Grant: Mark West is still working on the permits for the project. Work will be done with volunteers from a design by Greg DiSanto.

Ash Swamp Road Turtle Crossing/Aquatic Passage Grant Application: Lindsay submitted a proposed grant for consideration from the TC. They approved the application. A letter of support from the TC along with our letter of support have gone forward to Fish & Game.

ConCom Member Notebooks: The Conservation Commission Member Notebooks were passed out by the Chair! She went through all the sections and she suggested that everyone bring them along to the meetings! Thank you so much **Ellen**!

10. Events, Outreach, and Education

Newmarket Backyard Bash: Aug 2 5-8 PM; CC Display Table: **Bart** is providing the tent. **Ellen** bought some pinwheels for use on the display rather than balloons. She will be in touch to get member help with the event.

Watershed Walks and Fall Bootcamp: Fall Bootcamp was discussed previously by Katrie. The Chair gave the links to members in her first email about the watershed walks. The first walk is set for next Wednesday at Heron Point from 4-6 PM.

TurtleFest 2025, May 10; Fundraising Ideas: Date set! The TurtleFest Committee will be: **Cris Blackstone (Chair), Tom Jones, Emma Fortin, and Jeff Goldknopf.**

Lots of great ideas from Chair Cris! Thank you!

Bookmarks and Postcards for Backyard Bash: **Jess**, along with **Cris** and **Ellen** have created 4 bookmarks covering agreed upon topics. **Cris** reported that Staples is up for the printing challenge – for sure, dude!

Given there are no pressing concerns, the Chair suggested that the ConCom take the month of August off...all members agreed!

11. Adjourn**Action**

Motion: **Julianna Tyson** made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 PM.

Second: **David Bell**

Discussion: none

Vote: **Unanimously Approved 7-0-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

DCAT:

https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekdEeRsk0JHQVHAvKJVka7_5VjxKP/videos