



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Conservation Commission

October 10, 2024 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Ellen Snyder (Chair), Emma Fortin (School Liaison), Jeffrey Goldknopf (Planning Board Rep.), Tom Jones, Colin Lawson (Alternate), Julianna Tyson.

Members Absent: Melissa Sharples (Vice-Chair), Zachary Angelini (Alternate), Cris Blackstone, David Bell, Jessica Cann (Alternate), and Brian Ward (Town Council Rep. ex officio)

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

The Chair appointed **Colin Lawson** as a voting member this evening. The five voting members include **Ellen Snyder, Jeff Goldknopf, Tom Jones, Colin Lawson, and Julianna Tyson.**

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approve Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2024

The Chair asked for one change to the minutes.

Action

Motion: **Tom Jones** made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 12, 2024 as amended.

Second: **Colin Lawson**

Discussion: none

Vote: **Unanimously Approved 4-0-1 (Jeff Goldknopf abstained)**

5. Financial Summary

The Chair reported that, as of October 3, the Conservation Fund has a balance of \$136,183.24 and the Schanda Park Fund balance is \$4,621.11. Together they total \$140,804.35. We received some interest and the 2nd LRAC payment for the Old Lee Trail

Grant was received on 9/24/2024. Everything for that Grant has been paid out. The replacement rails for PR-L cost a little more than allocated, but the members approved the \$35.00 unanimously. The General Fund is currently \$4,873.49.

6. Committee/Board Reports

Town Council: No report this evening. For more information watch the meeting at:

https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekkdEeRsk0JHQVHAvKJVka7_5VjxKP/media/901454

Planning Board/Town Planner: **Jeff** reported on the meeting this Tuesday. The discussion of the proposed zoning changes was tabled until the next meeting. Specific concerns had to do with single family home lots being divided into smaller lots and the possibility that the smaller lot could then accommodate 6 units. For more information watch the meeting at: https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekkdEeRsk0JHQVHAvKJVka7_5VjxKP/media/905433

Riverfront Advisory Committee/Schanda Park: No report this evening. There will be a special two-session charrette on Friday and Saturday, October 18 and 19. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this informational presentation and workshop with the community.

Energy and Environment Advisory Committee: **Julianna** reported on the issue that **Melissa** mentioned at the last meeting...a representative from CPCNH

(<https://www.cpcnh.org>) was knocking on doors and pressuring folks to change their power provider. **Julianna** spoke with the Chair of the EEAC who was unaware of representatives in town and he will contact CPCNH. Others also reported this issue. **Julianna** mentioned the competition going on right now between seacoast towns for customers who choose to upgrade their service (for more \$\$) to include a greater percentage of renewable power sources. FYI: <https://www.nhpr.org/environment/2024-08-01/seacoast-communities-compete-to-see-who-can-support-the-most-clean-energy>. Having rain barrels available to the community to purchase was considered and they discussed the previous sales program by the ConCom. **Julianna** will let the EEAC know about the interest by the ConCom for both rain barrels and composters. Lyndsay Butler, the Town Engineer, is very excited about the opportunity to help residents conserve water and help work on issues with storage and distribution of the barrels. There is a hope that this offering could be timed for spring when folks begin gardening again!

School Liaison: **Emma** reported that Dale Pike had been in touch with the Principal over the summer about his interest in collaborating with several environmental clubs which she is involved with. Dale would like to have conversations with the students about issues and was particularly keen about the upcoming charrette and possible student participation in the Heron Point trail network and extending trails at Schanda Park. She mentioned that the rain barrel at the High School is used for watering the trees that were planted by the club out front during the summer when they did not have access to hoses, etc. The founders of the environmental club at the HS decoratively painted the rain barrel!

7. Conservation Easement Monitoring

Tom reported that the Smith Sister Audubon property still needs to be monitored. Both **Julianna** and **Ellen** offered to help get that done with **Tom** around the middle of November? The Chair also mentioned that New Roots/Nostrum is pending sale. She has spoken with the realtor, so that any potential buyer is aware of the easement. She also

informed SELT about the sale. The Chair asked for a quote from SELT to produce an evaluation of the baseline/current condition of the farm. With a new owner soon, it would be a good thing to do this.

8. Conservation Land Stewardship

Heron Point Sanctuary: Hazzard Tree Removal and Boundary Survey: The boundary survey and tree removal are on target to be completed by November or December.

Piscassic River – Loiselle: Fence Rails: DPW has agreed to mow the paths for us going forward. The new fence rails have been ordered.

Wiggin Farm: Boardwalk Replacement: The Chair announced the permit was received today and it was the 'notification only' permit for \$25! The project is being funded by a \$7,500 grant from LRAC and a \$3,200 grant from Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership. Mark West submitted an invoice today for \$1,148.10.

Action

Motion: **Julianna Tyson** made a motion to pay Mark West \$1,148 for the Wiggin Farm boardwalk replacement project from the grant funds.

Second: **Colin Lawson**

Discussion: none

Vote: **Unanimously Approved 5-0-0**

Thank you so much Mark West! Greg DiSanto will be designing/constructing the new boardwalk for us in November (most likely during the week). The Chair will send out an email for possible volunteers!

Colin reported on the Boulder Hill Trail. He is still waiting an answer on the possible liability issues from **Bart**. **Colin** is looking for additional wood chips and the Chair suggested that Jon Roy at Orion Tree Service might be willing to dump a truck load at the site for spreading. More updates later.

9. Projects and Events

Old Lee Class A Trail Improvements: Ash Swamp Road Turtle Crossing/Aquatic : The project is complete and it looks great!

TurtleFest 2025, May 10th: **Cris** couldn't make the meeting tonight, but told the Chair that there is lots of planning under way. More news later.

Newmarket Library: The Chair had a meeting with the Library staff who are very exciting about TurtleFest and possible ways to collaborate. She will be meeting about another Storybook Trail at Piscassic-Loiselle as well.

Ash Swamp Road Turtle Crossing/Aquatic Passage: The grant applications are still out awaiting approval. Fingers crossed!

Prime Wetlands Mapping: No news.

Mitchelle Land Conservation Project: No news.

Salamander Brigade, Vernal Pool Survey: **Zach** will discuss these topics at the next meeting.

Heron Point Wet Leaf Clean-up: **Colin** and **Emma** will get together and organize a student work party. They will wait until 90% of the leaves are down.

Just another reminder to the community, **please do not use a leaf blower on any of the conservation trails.**

**10. Non-Public Session to Discuss Land Conservation,
per RSA 93-A-3,ii(d) -**

(d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are averse to those of the general community.

Action

Motion: Tom Jones made a motion to go into a Non-Public Session at 7:48 PM.

Second: Julianna Tyson

Discussion: none

Vote: Unanimously Approved 5-0-0

Action

Motion: Julianna Tyson made a motion to close the Non-Public Session at 8:10 PM.

Second: Colin Lawson

Discussion: none

Vote: Unanimously Approved 5-0-0

The meeting was reopened.

Action

Motion: Tom Jones made a motion to seal the Non-Public Notes.

Second: Julianna Tyson

Discussion: none

Vote: Unanimously Approved 5-0-0

11. Adjourn

Action

Motion: Colin Lawson made a motion to adjourn at 8:11 PM.

Second: Julianna Tyson

Discussion: none

Vote: Unanimously Approved 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

DCAT:

https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekdEeRsk0JHqVHAvKJVka7_5VjxKP/videos