



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Conservation Commission

May 8, 2025 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Present: Cris Blackstone (Chair), Juli Tyson (Vice Chair), Ellen Snyder (Treasurer), Tom Jones, Jeff Goldknopf, Jessica Cann, Zack Angelini (Alternate), Brian Ward (Town Council Rep. ex officio)

Absent: Colin Lawson, Emma Fortin (School Liaison)

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

The voting members include **Cris Blackstone, Juli Tyson, Ellen Snyder, Tom Jones, Jeff Goldknopf, Jess Cann, and Zack Angelini.**

3. Public Comment (None)

4. Approve Meeting Minutes

- April 10, 2025

Action:

Motion: Tom Jones made a motion to approve the April 10, 2025 minutes.

Second: Ellen Snyder

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 7-0-0

5. Financial Summary

Ellen reported the latest financial summary, as available in the meeting materials document:

<https://newmarketnh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2260/files/attachment/6204>. It was highlighted that there was land use change tax received for property at R6-1-1.

6. Master Plan – Land & Water Conservation Chapter

Ellen reported that they are meeting next week, and are close to a final review of Transportation, Arts and Culture, and Energy chapters. There is also a Recreation team and a Land Use team that she is helping with as part of the Master Plan Subcommittee

7. Committee/Board Reports

Town Council: Brian reported he was reelected as Vice-Chair for Town Council, and Katanna Conley was reelected as Chair at the April 16 meeting. Also, committee and board assignments for the councilors largely stayed the same, except for Councilor Glazebok becoming the representative for the CIP Committee.

Planning Board/Planning Department: **Jeff** reported a brief overview of the zoning amendments that will be discussed at a public hearing at the next Planning Board meeting, focused along the Route 108 corridor. There are also neighborhood input sessions that are taking place this week and next week, to gain feedback for further future zoning amendments in other areas of town. Further discussion ensued regarding these exercised and discussions. **Jeff** also added that there are three newly elected members, and that the board is looking to schedule workshop meetings specifically for Master Plan chapter review.

School Liaison: It was noted that **Emma** could not attend tonight, but to check with her to discuss the future of the position as the school year comes to an end.

8. Land Conservation

- **Rosa - Budget and Next Steps**

Ellen reported that the LCHIP funding request has to be adjusted to \$75,000, previously \$80,000, as the request is only to be for the Durham part of the property, and not the easement on the Newmarket land. Since that amount is being reduced, more will be needed potentially from the town conservation fund, and it is important to show that commitment.

Action:

Motion: **Tom Jones** moved to approve an additional \$5,000 financial commitment from the Conservation Fund for the Rosa-Folletts Brook Land Conservation Project, to be in addition to the \$150,580 approved at the April 10, 2025 meeting to be raised from a warrant article request and the Conservation Fund.

Second: **Juli Tyson**

Discussion: **Juli** noted that projects for Bear-Paw have seen towns contributing upwards of \$20,000 at times, so \$15,480 is a comparable figure.

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

Ellen continued that she and **Bart** are presenting to LRAC on May 20 to ask for \$100,000 of funding, and believes that they will make their decision that same meeting.

- **Mitchell**

Ellen reported that they are reviewing the conservation easement deed with NHF&G.

Cris asked **Brian** to check what the timeline for warrant article requests is, and the budget timeline.

9. Turtlefest Planning

It was reviewed that **Ellen** is going to pick up snacks and refreshments.

Ellen added she and **Bart** met to go over the set up at the high school with **David Reilly**, the Facilities Maintenance Director, and everything should be ready for Saturday thanks to him and his team's help.

The board continued to review the schedule for the day, bird walk, event speakers, displays to be set up, the rain forecasted, coordination between event locations, and the t-shirts for sale.

10. Projects/Land Stewardship

- **Prime Wetlands Mapping**

Ellen noted that there will still be a walk at some point, and that letters will be sent to abutters for the next step at Planning Board.

- **Wiggin Farm:** boardwalk replacement/next steps

Cris asked regarding mowing on the property by DPW; **Ellen** agreed that the trail should remain where it currently is, and that they typically mow late fall. It was confirmed that the boardwalk is completed.

- **UNH Capstone:** vernal pool mapping and salamander brigades

Zack reported that the UNH students presented in the past few weeks. The mapping team's findings were that there were a lot of vernal pools in conservation areas already, and there were a few locations outside of that that were identified as potential crossing areas. The other team was focused on putting together a strategy for organizing volunteers and educating the public, creating a volunteer database and building out a community guide with resources. The hope is to have students next year that can help continue the work.

Juli noted that she saw signs on Route 152 to motivate people to keep an eye out for crossings.

- **Ash Swamp Road:** turtle crossing/aquatic passage

Jeff noted that he has seen painted turtles in the area as they are leaving their nests, and reported that he saw two that were hit recently and only a few larger turtles, also thanking DPW for putting up the signage in the area.

11. Events, Outreach, and Education

- **Heron Point Sanctuary Clean-up**

Ellen noted that they are planning to join efforts with Newmarket Cares Day on May 23, as they had to cancel the April clean up due to rain.

It was also noted that during the discussions regarding the survey of the property, that they are allowing the community to keep the shed on the conservation land until the time comes to replace it in the future, as they mow and store their mower there. There was some other junk items that were found on the conservation land, which DPW is helping to remove. A lot of the other clean up has already occurred as well.

Discussion ensued on the gate and that there is not a plan to open it currently, and how to communicate with the public trying to gain entrance to the property and how to balance that with the intention of the sanctuary.

- **Newmarket Cares Day**

It was reiterated that this is on May 23 at Heron Point Sanctuary.

- **TurtleFest 2025**

It was reiterated that this was discussed earlier in the meeting

- **Newmarket Library**

Cris reported that the book club is continuing this month and is going well, with the next book by Amy Tan. The display is also being worked on and will use pictures from Turtlefest after the event.

12. Closing Comments & Adjournment

Brian noted that the Newmarket Cemetery Day is on May 17, helping with cleanup at the Pickering Cemetery, with pizza afterwards and a historical presentation at the mill space.

Discussion ensued regarding knotweed as an invasive plant, and how aggressively it spreads and how hard it is to get rid of.

Juli noted that she would be attending the New Hampshire Coverts training next week.

Jeff noted to remind people to not bag up dog waste and leave the bag in a wetland, as he has witnessed multiple bags left in the wetland by the elementary school, and to urge proper disposal. He also thanked whomever helped with the roadside cleanup on Ash Swamp Road.

Tom noted that he will be resigning due to medical issues and needing to cut back on activities. The board thanked **Tom** greatly for his time serving on the board; **Tom** thanked the board as well.

Action:

Motion: **Ellen Snyder** made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 PM.

Second: **Tom Jones**

Discussion: None

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

Respectfully submitted,
Bridgette Grotheer

DCAT:

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