



# TOWN OF NEWMARKET NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Conservation Commission

April 10, 2025 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

### APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

**Present:** Cris Blackstone (Chair), Juli Tyson (Vice Chair), Ellen Snyder (Treasurer), Tom Jones, Jeff Goldknopf, Colin Lawson, Zack Angelini (Alternate), Brian Ward (Town Council Rep. ex officio), Emma Fortin (School Liaison)

**Absent:** Jessica Cann

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

[time on DCAT 02:13]

#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

#### 2. Roll Call

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

#### 3. Elect Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Committee Reps

##### Action:

**Motion:** **Tom Jones** made a motion to appoint **Cris Blackstone** as Chair, and **Juli Tyson** as Vice Chair.

**Second:** **Colin Lawson**

**Discussion:** None

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

##### Action:

**Motion:** **Cris Blackstone** made a motion to appoint **Ellen Snyder** as Treasurer.

**Second:** **Juli Tyson**

**Discussion:** None

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

**Cris** thanked **Ellen** greatly for her time serving as Chair.

##### Action:

**Motion:** **Tom Jones** made a motion to appoint **Sam Kenney** as the representative to the Ad Hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee.

**Second:** **Zack Angelini**

**Discussion:** None

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

Discussion ensued regarding the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee; **Zack** expressed interest and it was decided to think about it and vote at a later date.

**Brian** stated that he is on the Newmarket 300th Anniversary Committee and can therefore provide updates on that group moving forward.

#### **4. Public Comment** (None)

[time on DCAT 10:01]

#### **5. Approve Meeting Minutes**

[time on DCAT 10:06]

- March 13, 2025

##### **Action:**

**Motion:** **Tom Jones** made a motion to approve the March 13, 2025 minutes.

**Second:** **Ellen Snyder**

**Discussion:** None

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

#### **6. Financial Summary**

[time on DCAT 11:38]

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

<https://newmarketnh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2251/files/attachment/6188>.

#### **7. Master Plan – Land & Water Conservation Chapter**

[time on DCAT 13:42]

**Ellen** provided an update that the chapter will be going to the Planning Board for their review, and that the implementation matrix will come back to the Conservation Commission to review once ready.

#### **8. Committee/Board Reports**

[time on DCAT 14:37]

**Town Council:** **Brian** reported that at the last meeting on 4/2, they had a workshop on the Water Master Plan and discussed how there is a need to double the amount of water storage but 90% of pipes are at low-risk. Other updates from the regular meeting included that the railroad closing was delayed but will be upcoming in the next few weeks, and the Town Council signed a letter opposing NH Senate Bill 297 regarding changes to risk pools related to insurance.

**300th Anniversary Committee:** **Brian** reported that they met yesterday. A member from Dover's 400th Anniversary Committee attended and shared suggestions. They have started separating into groups to handle the various tasks. Events will be throughout the anniversary year.

**Planning Board/Planning Department:** **Jeff** shared that they are planning to start meeting twice a month to dedicate a workshop meeting to Master Plan review. The discussions for rezoning are continuing with focus on lot sizes and densities. The updated prime wetland maps will go out to abutters for notification before adoption. They did not vote on a Planning Board representative yet but will be at the next meeting in May.

**Riverfront Advisory Committee:** **Ellen** reported that they are wrapping up the Master Plan chapter and will then decide if they are continuing the committee or not.

**School Liaison:** **Emma** reported that the Environmental Club is growing seeds for Mother's Day, and that Newmarket Cares Day is coming up as well as additional roadside cleanups.

#### **9. Land Conservation**

[time on DCAT 27:07]

- Rosa

**Ellen** referred to the handout regarding the project summary and estimated budget:

<https://newmarketnh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2251/files/attachment/6189>.

SELT has been helping to draft the budget and assist with grant applications. The proposal is to purchase the Durham portion of land, and hold a conservation easement on the Newmarket portion. The commission continued to review the proposed estimated budget in detail. There was clarification that the easement stewardship/land management funds would be a line item in the Conservation Fund, and that town money cannot be used to buy land in another town, therefore needing grant

funding for the Durham portion. The plan is to have a warrant article for remaining funds that are not grant funded. Next steps include **Bart** speaking with the Town Manager, and drafting a PoS agreement for review by the town attorney.

Discussion ensued on the contribution from the Conservation Fund, and if that could be less with more requested in a warrant article. There was consensus that \$25,480 would be the maximum to be taken out of the Conservation Fund, with the hope that that could be lowered, such as the recommendation to match the contribution to the Mitchell project.

**Action:**

**Motion:** **Juli Tyson** made a motion to recommend funding of \$150,480 total to be from warrant article request and from the Conservation Fund for the Rosa-Folletts Brook Land Conservation Project, with the least amount to be from the Conservation Fund.

**Second:** **Tom Jones**

**Discussion:** None

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

- Mitchell

**Ellen** noted that this is still a work in process with the federal funds and review of the appraisal.

**10. Turtlefest Planning**

[time on DCAT 48:17]

Discussion included updates on marketing, the map of event locations, sponsors and restaurants involved (Riverworks, Jonny Boston's, and Kume are currently definite for a 15% off offer), day-of details and organization/review, as well as the t-shirts ready for sale in the Town Clerk/Tax Office and at the Public Library, and an overview of the event schedule.

**11. Projects/Land Stewardship**

[time on DCAT 1:13:34]

- **Prime Wetlands Mapping**

Discussion included that the abutter letters are the next step for a public hearing with the Planning Board. There will also be a site visit conducted in the future.

- **Wiggin Farm:** boardwalk replacement

The commission thanked **Colin** and Martin Forestry for their work.

**Ellen** reported that more materials were needed than originally anticipated as a railing was needed, being \$99.09 over budget than what is covered by the grants.

**Action:**

**Motion:** **Tom Jones** made a motion to approve \$10.99 from the Conservation Fund for reimbursement to **Colin Lawson** for supplies for miscellaneous hardware for the Wiggin Farm boardwalk replacement.

**Discussion:** **Cris Blackstone**

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

**Action:**

**Motion:** **Ellen Snyder** made a motion to approve \$99.09 from the Conservation Fund, to cover expenses from the Wiggin Farm boardwalk replacement.

**Discussion:** **Juli Tyson**

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

**Action:**

**Motion:** **Colin Lawson** made a motion to approve \$6,460 to Martin Forestry for the work completed for the Wiggin Farm boardwalk replacement.

**Discussion:** Tom Jones

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

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

**Zack** and **Ellen** provided an update, including that the students are working on building the community guide, and that there will be a test run of the project on Sunday, 4/13. The GIS group is also working with Pete Steckler as approved. NH Fish and Game are also working on a similar project, which can be used to verify the work. The presentations will be on 4/23.

**Action:**

**Motion:** **Tom Jones** made a motion to approve \$405 from the Conservation Fund to Pete Steckler for his time and services helping the UNH students.

**Discussion:** **Zack Angelini**

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

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

Updates included that there are two potential grants that are being explored, and that the design is being worked on with the funding from The Nature Conservancy.

## **12. Events, Outreach, and Education**

[time on DCAT 1:26:35]

- **Heron Point Sanctuary Clean-up:** April 26

**Ellen** provided an overview of the clean-up project for focus on the area by the access road.

- **Roadside Clean-up:** April 27

Bags were distributed for trash collection.

- **TurtleFest 2025** – May 10 (*This was covered earlier in the meeting*).
- **Newmarket Cares Day** – May 23

It was reported that they will also be focusing on Heron Point for Newmarket Cares Day, with more of a focus on cleanup of the trail and parking area.

- **Newmarket Library:** CC display and book club

**Cris** reported that the display is featuring Turtlefest and highlighting **Bart** and **Lyndsay**.

The book club will also be continuing past April, with a new schedule of a book one month, and then a general discussion the next month, and back and forth. The book list will be solidified next month.

## **13. Adjourn**

[time on DCAT 1:34:00]

**Cris** suggested that there could be a new business section added, or also a closing comments section added to the agenda for the future, similar to Town Council.

**Action:**

**Motion:** **Colin Lawson** made a motion to adjourn at 8:34 PM.

**Second:** **Tom Jones**

**Discussion:** None

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Bridgette Grotheer

DCAT:

[https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekkdEeRsk0JHQVHAvKJVka7\\_5VjxKP/videos](https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekkdEeRsk0JHQVHAvKJVka7_5VjxKP/videos)