



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Conservation Commission

June 12, 2025 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Present: Cris Blackstone (Chair), Juli Tyson (Vice Chair), Ellen Snyder (Treasurer), Jeff Goldknopf (Planning Board Representative), Brian Ward (Town Council Rep. ex officio), Emma Fortin (School Liaison)

Absent: Jessica Cann, Zack Angelini (Alternate), Colin Lawson

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

3. Public Comment (None)

4. Approve Meeting Minutes

- May 8, 2025

Action:

Motion: Ellen Snyder made a motion to approve the May 8, 2025 minutes as amended.

Second: Juli Tyson

Discussion: Amendments to include line 102 "locations outside of that which were identified;" line 119 "there were some other junk items;" line 138 to capitalize Mill Space.

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

5. Correspondence for Commission's Consideration

- Turtle Crossing

Cris referred to correspondence received from **Susan Gionet** regarding a turtle laying eggs on Ladyslipper Drive that has been doing so for over 20 years, with a request for turtle crossing signs and signage as many of the babies do not successfully make it across the road after they hatch. It was discussed that the signs may not be possible, but suggested exploring placing a sign in the area for awareness. DPW typically install and remove them seasonally each year, typically up May through November. The signs were originally supplied by NH Fish & Game, as well as the Conservation Commission purchasing additional ones.

There was consensus to speak with DPW to see if they have posts, and to have the Conservation Commission purchase a sign for Ladyslipper Drive. Locations of other turtle crossing signs were discussed as well, with the suggestion to purchase five total.

Cris confirmed that she will follow up to let **Ms. Gionet** know.

Action:

Motion: Juli Tyson made a motion to approve the spending of up to \$200 for the purchase of turtle crossing signs.

Second: Ellen Snyder
Discussion: None
Vote: Approved 5-0-0

- Camp Scholarship Funding

Cris referred to communication received from **Lizzy Franceschini** which asked if the Conservation Commission would provide a \$275 scholarship for a Newmarket child to attend [Camp ATLAS](#) at SELT. The email received was read into the record.

Cris commended the program and recommended providing the scholarship funds; **Ellen** also praised to the program and SELT as a partner.

Action:

Motion: Ellen Snyder made a motion to approve the funding from the Conservation fund for \$275 for the Camp ATLAS scholarship.

Second: Juli Tyson

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

6. Financial Summary

Ellen reported the latest financial summary, as available in the meeting materials document: <https://newmarketnh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2275/files/attachment/6295>.

The [Turtlefest 2025 Recap, Income/Expenses, and Proposed Expenditures](#) document was also reviewed, highlighting the total t-shirt sales at \$2,859, and local business sponsors donating a total of \$1,750. The event at the Stone Church also raised \$1,342 for the NH Turtle Rescue. It was discussed to have an additional \$658 donated to the NH Turtle Rescue from the funds raised to reach the total donation goal of \$2,000. Additionally, the idea is to use some of the income to purchase binoculars and birding supplies to put together a rental backpack for children through the library, for an estimated total of \$550. With those requests, there will still be over \$1,300 in the net income from the event to be saved and used for next year's event. As there are additional t-shirt requests, it is proposed to have 24 more printed and offered for sale through the library.

Action:

Motion: Ellen Snyder made a motion to donate \$658 to the NH Turtle Rescue.

Second: Juli Tyson

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

Action:

Motion: Juli Tyson made a motion to approve the spending of up to \$550 for two pairs of binoculars and other birding supplies for the library.

Second: Ellen Snyder

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

Action:

Motion: Juli Tyson made a motion to purchase and order 24 Turtlefest t-shirts through Lamprey River Screenprint.

Second: Ellen Snyder

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 5-0-0

95
96 **7. Master Plan**

97 **Ellen** reported that they are working on the Recreation chapter and are not meeting this month.
98

99 **8. Committee/Board Reports**

100 Town Council: **Brian** reported at the meeting on June 4, the library feasibility study was passed, so
101 they will be looking at opportunities to expand and better utilize the space with \$35,000 funded
102 through their capital reserve fund. The 300th Committee met yesterday as well. At the June 18 Town
103 Council meeting, the declaration about the founding of the town will be presented.

104 **Cris** thanked **Brian** for the information regarding the budget deadlines, and asked members to
105 confirm attendance for July as they would be looking to approve the budget then in order to have no
106 meeting in August.

107 Planning Board/Planning Department: **Jeff** reported that they met on Tuesday and had a workshop
108 for the Energy chapter before the regular meeting to discuss and review, with few changes. At the
109 regular meeting, a special use permit was conditionally approved for minor wetland buffer impact
110 related to a sewer connection. Instead of tying in directly, the line will be connected to the adjacent
111 lot's sewer line, owned by the same property owner. It did not have to come to Conservation
112 Commission as it was not over 12,000 SF of impact.

113 Discussion ensued on exploring possible changes to the Wetland Overlay District portion of the
114 zoning ordinance. There was consensus that the Conservation Commission supports further review
115 of recommended changes.

116 **Jeff** also added that the prime wetlands update was also discussed to move forward for next steps
117 and further discussion at a future Planning Board meeting.

118 **Action:**

119 **Motion:** **Ellen Snyder** made a motion to affirm the support of Jeff Goldknopf as the Planning
120 Board representative to further review of the Wetland Overlay District and make any
121 recommendations back to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board.

122 **Second:** **Jeff Goldknopf**

123 **Discussion:** None

124 **Vote:** **Approved 5-0-0**
125

126 Riverfront Advisory Committee: It was suggested to have an email with a report/updates for
127 discussion if they cannot attend in person.

128 School Liaison: **Emma** reported that tomorrow is the last day of school. They had been growing
129 seeds in the school as a green initiative, and all of the seedlings have been distributed to school club
130 members. Over the summer, they are hoping to continue a watering schedule of the seeds that were
131 planted last year, and to correct their growing as some were growing crooked. They have also been
132 discussing ideas for next year to reconvene at the start of next school year, such as a fall road clean
133 up, raising the water barrel as it is currently sinking into the ground a bit, and focus on the garden.
134 The club membership is 50 out of 250 total students at the school, which was commended. The board
135 thanked **Emma** for her work as the student liaison and for continuing to do it this next year.
136

137 **9. Treasurer's Updates**

- Rosa Property update

139 **Ellen** reported that \$100,000 was requested and received from the Lamprey River Advisory
140 Committee, which shows the importance of the preservation of the property. For LCHIP, they are
141 requesting \$75,000, and from Fields Pond Foundation for \$20,000-30,000. The application for Moose
142 Plate will be in the fall, and GBRRP will also have another grant round that they will apply for. They
143 are also working on the purchase and sale agreement with the Rosas as well.

- Proposed Stewardship projects factoring in Conservation Commission outreach and goals <https://newmarketnh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2275/files/attachment/6294>

Ellen referred to two maps provided in the meeting materials, first highlighting that with the Rosa property acquisition there are more opportunities for trail connectivity can be explored. Proposed next steps would be a NRI, Natural Resource Inventory, and a trails analysis of the Folletts Brook Conservation Area (to include the Rosa property once conserved) and the Piscassic River-Loiselle Area. A first step would be to present to Town Council to ask for their approval to merge the Carolyn Drive open space, Waterworks land, and Leary/Rousseau into a Folletts Brook Conservation Area with stewardship by the Conservation Commission. There may be some additional boundary survey work needed, which would come out of town funds. For the NRI and trails analysis, grant funding would be explored. It would connect to the downtown area, as well as with Durham. There was consensus to pursue this further.

Discussion then continued to the Riverbend neighborhood near the school property, and the potential for trail connectivity in that area. They would need to speak with the school and if they would like to collaborate, then they can work on searching for grant opportunities to construct a boardwalk and apply for a wetlands permit to create the trail. **Emma** added that she knows of students who use the current existing informal trail to get to school, and suggested speaking with the Facilities Director. There was consensus to pursue this further as well.

- Land and Water Conservation Grants

Ellen summarized that the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a federal state grant program that Newmarket has received funding from in the past, such as for acquiring Schanda Park. They would not be looking at applying this year, but in upcoming years they could apply and it ranges from \$0,000 - \$500,000 in a grant round.

The program director also provided three signs to be places, which were placed today. It was also discussed to have neighborhood outreach regarding management of the parks.

Ellen proposed bike racks for increased accessibility to trail heads, so that visitors are able to bike to the trail and then walk the actual trails themselves instead of having to drive to get there. To purchase them, it would likely come out of the conservation fund, or they could speak with the Recreation Department. There was consensus to speak with the Recreation Department and the school district

At Heron Point, it was also suggested to place more permanent survey markers so that the monuments that are flush with the ground are not lost. It was proposed to have fiberglass boundary posts placed for visibility, and are roughly \$50 per post. It was also suggested to have those places soon as the grade stakes currently out there are starting to disappear.

Discussion ensued on the specifics of what type of survey marker would be best/appropriate for the area with the proximity to the surrounding neighborhood. There was consensus for 4"x4" cedar posts.

Action:

Motion: **Ellen Snyder** made a motion to approve up to \$300 for the purchasing of posts for Heron Point boundary markers.

Second: **Jeff Goldknopf**

Discussion: None

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

10. New Business

Cris reiterated that the budget request for next fiscal year will be discussed in July and attendance is important.

11. Closing Comments

It was reminded to be alert of turtles crossing the road.

Jeff mentioned that there were two turtles laying eggs at his property.

12. Looking Forward

Cris mentioned that 7 Rivers to the Coast will be presenting at the July meeting. Also for the July meeting, to plan to discuss cleaning the bird houses at Piscassic River-Loiselle.

13. Adjournment

Action:

Motion: **Ellen Snyder** made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 PM.

Second: **Jeff Goldknopf**

Discussion: None

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

Respectfully submitted,
Bridgette Grotheer

DCAT:

https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekkdEeRsk0JHQVHAvKJVka7_5VjxKP/videos