



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Conservation Commission

June 12, 2025 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Present: Cris Blackstone (Chair), Ellen Snyder (Treasurer), Colin Lawson, Zack Angelini (Alternate), Elizabeth Dudley (Alternate), George Anderson (Alternate), Emma Fortin (School Liaison)

Absent: Juli Tyson (Vice Chair), Jessica Cann, Brian Ward (Town Council Rep. ex officio), Jeff Goldknopf (Planning Board Representative)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

The voting members will be Cris Blackstone, Ellen Snyder, Colin Lawson, Zack Angelini, Elizabeth Dudley, and George Anderson.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

3. Public Comment (None)

4. Approve Meeting Minutes

- June 12, 2025

Action:

Motion: Ellen Snyder made a motion to approve the June 12, 2025 minutes as written.

Second: Colin Lawson

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 5-0-1

5. Regular Business

a. Interest form for members and alternates (*This was passed out to members.*)

b. Packers Falls Rd Drainage Replacement Presentation by Lyndsay Butler, Town Engineer

Lyndsay Butler, Town Engineer, referred to the project narrative document included in the packet:

<https://newmarketnh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2296/files/attachment/6330>.

An overview of the project discussed that DPW will be replacing drainage in preparation for when the town is going to be accepting the road. This will address failing drainage in coordination with NHDOT, as NHDOT will be funding project while DPW staff is completing the work/labor. The pipe is buried in lawn, and it will need to be cleaned and replaced. The work is exempt from local permitting but it is within the buffer of wetland. They will be ensuring proper erosion control. The existing pipes range from 15-18". Some of them are rotted out in bottom and plugged. It will be a replacement in kind but some will be upsized slightly with all of the pipe sizes reevaluated. The pipe networks are fairly small.

There are two catch basins to north, and seven catch basins towards Riverbend Road. It is constrained by the system on Main Street. The lifespan of the replacement is expected to be about 75 years. They will be pre-cast catch basins.

It was clarified that it is adjacent to the wetland in the buffer, not in the wetland itself. They will not be introducing new water into the system or adding new storm water treatment but they will have sumps. The project is anticipated to start in August.

- c. Great Bay 2030 Initiative, including signage, 7 Rivers to the Coast and Board Empowerment, Presentation by Lynn Vaccaro, Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR); Claudia Reuss, UNH and Great Bay NERR; Owen Corcoran, Strafford Regional Planning Commission

Lynn Vaccaro and **Claudia Reuss** introduced themselves from Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GBNERR). **Lynn** continued to introduce the presentation as found in the meeting materials: <https://newmarketnh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2296/files/agenda/6337>.

The three topics covered included 7 Rivers to the Coast, Great Bay signage, and board empowerment.

For 7 Rivers to the Coast, it was discussed how the approach is to reach as broad as possible through the watershed and the area to have it serve as a regional communication platform. The partners involved were reviewed. It was presented that the website launched within the past year including an interactive mapping tool, resources and further information on how to help, a calendar of events, a blog and place to add content. Email updates can be signed up for as well, as well as a quarterly e-newsletter available.

For the Great Bay signage, it was presented that the goal of the signage is to increase awareness and appreciation for the water resources, with recommended locations of Schanda Park and Schoppmeyer Park. They are hoping to install the signs in the fall. The presentation showcased the proposed design, imagined to be a smaller (8 1/2 x 11). They would raise awareness of shellfish farming, and highlight the indigenous names in area, and connection to other water sources. There was discussion about how only some of the sections of the Lamprey River are wild and scenic river designated. There was further discussion about the design of signs and to have consistency with them. It was also suggested that instead of Schoppmeyer Park, that a sign could be located at either Heron Point or Sliding Rock. Sliding Rock was discussed as a better option as there is more boater traffic at this location.

For board empowerment, it was discussed how they are working on strengthening work with coastal Conservation Commissions in the area. Related programs that are currently ongoing include coastal Conservation Commission roundtables for peer learning, help with PREPA grants, and 7 Rivers to the Coast as discussed earlier. They also have the Great Bay Changemaker Program with conservation area walks and advocacy training. It was discussed that in 2016-17, there was a board empowerment workshop series with an array content experts. They are currently conducting a survey being conducted to gain feedback for potentially having another workshop series in the near future in 2026. The survey is an e-survey, and they hope to wrap up and go through the responses by the end of summer. Workshop suggestions included one on mapping/GIS, one with NHMA for staff communication with Conservation Commission and other boards, and one focused on language that can be used writing for what works and sticks out and to help relate to the community, and ways in general to get across to the community.

- d. Review of Budget for 2026/27 FY

Ellen introduced the budget proposal request. It was reviewed that this general fund is used for the line items of part-time salaries, contracted services, dues and subscriptions, and general supplies.

It was suggested to adjust the following: part-time salaries to \$1,500; contracted services to \$1,800; supplies to \$1,500. It was discussed to add a training and workshops line to the budget, to have \$700 allocated.

Action:

Motion: **Colin Lawson** made a motion to approve the proposed FY27 general fund budget request.

Second: **George Anderson**

Discussion: None

Vote: **Approved 6-0-0**

e. Rosa Property

Ellen introduced and reviewed the project history and grant received this far. It was mentioned that the funds from the Conservation fund may need to be increased, as well as the warrant article request depending on the funds that can be through grants. The P&S agreement is to be discussed at the July 16 Town Council meeting for their approval.

As the site walk was cancelled, it was decided to have it rescheduled in place of the regular meeting for August 14 at 4:30 PM, and to communicate that with other boards and members interested in attending.

f. Bicycle Racks

It was discussed that the Uline brand has a good option to order from. For locations, it was noted that since Heron Point does not allow vehicle access maybe near the gate would be a location. There was consensus that they would need to speak with community there first before placing it, but that there could be sign at gate for pedestrian and non-motorized bicycles access.

After further discussion, the consensus was to purchase two and have them placed at the initial locations of Sliding Rock and Wiggin Farm.

Sliding Rock as another location, area by kiosk. Pilot of location to see if they are used.

Access to Heron Point discussed.

Idea to try first at Sliding Rock.

Vote to buy two but start with one, approval in place to buy a second.

Action:

Motion: **Colin Lawson** made a motion to approve the purchase up to \$1,000 for two bicycle racks.

Second: **George Anderson**

Discussion: It was reiterated that one will be placed at Sliding Rock, and the second will wait to either be placed at Heron Point or Wiggin Farm. Another location idea is to partner with NH Audobon for one to be placed at Piscassic-Loiselle Conservation Area.

Vote: **Approved 6-0-0**

g. Turtlefest

It was confirmed that as discussed at the previous meeting, two pairs of binoculars were purchased for the library.

The final financials were reviewed reviewed document as provided in meeting materials

<https://newmarketnh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2296/files/attachment/6340>.

The remaining \$778.31 will roll into next year's event. The idea is to keep a similar format, but possibly to expand the focus. Ideas included to have more water focus, birds, to highlight Rosa property species, oysters, to continue to build on turtles but connect to other topics, connection to big

night with frogs, and/or insects. It was also discussed to partner with others for next year's event as well, such as Seven Rivers to the Coast. There was consensus to discuss more ideas in September.

6. Financial Summary

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

<https://newmarketnh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2296/files/attachment/6339>.

It was discussed that the annual contract with SELT for easement monitoring is renewing this month.

The cost did increase slightly with the addition of a new property.

Action:

Motion: **Colin Lawson** made a motion to approve payment for the 2025 Contract for Services with SELT easement monitoring.

Second: **George Anderson**

Discussion: None

Vote: **Approved 6-0-0**

7. Committee/Board Reports

Town Council: (None)

Riverfront Advisory Committee: (None)

Planning Board/Planning Department: It was reported that the Downtown Riverfront chapter for the Master Plan was discussed at the workshop, and there was a design review for the 200 New Road proposal for a 55+ age-restricted development during the regular meeting.

School Liaison: **Emma** reported that they are planning for clean ups in the fall, and refurbishing of the rain barrel.

8. Old Business

Zack noted how he lives in the Lamprey River neighborhood, and asked whether anyone knew the cause of the recent oily white film over the river, with noted concern and question of who could be contacted. It was discussed to contact **Lyndsay Butler** and/or **Sean Greig**.

9. New Business

a. NHDES Wetland Permit Application – 21 Moody Point Drive, Map R2 Lot 43-2

Eric Weinrieb with Altus Engineering introduced himself along with **Alesia Damiani**, one of the owners. The wetland permit has been filed and the project will go before the ZBA on Monday. It is a proposed expansion/addition, and they are seeking the Conservation Commission's support for the ZBA and for the application to the state. It is for a small addition to create an entryway to improve access, and a covered area to get into the garage. They are already disturbed areas, with no increase in run off by actually decreasing amount of the impervious surface as the walkway will be built out of permeable materials.

It was suggested to show the detail of the permeable pavers with a profile of what it will look like, along with a commitment to vacuum the materials. It was also commented that in the the past they have done a site visit. It was reiterated that the project area is already disturbed.

The Conservation Commission expressed no reservations or concerns of the project as they are not increasing any runoff in the water, with no further comments.

10. Looking Forward

It was confirmed that the August meeting will be the site walk only, and September will be a regular meeting.

191 **11. Closing Comments**

192 **Cris** thanked **Ellen** for working on notebooks.

193 It was noted that easement monitoring will be discussed in September.

194 **Colin** noted concerns of the boardwalk rotting at Heron Point.

195
196 **12. Adjournment**

197 **Action:**

199 **Motion:** **Ellen Snyder** made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 PM.

200 **Second:** **George Anderson**

201 **Discussion:** None

202 **Vote:** **Approved 6-0-0**

203
204
205 Respectfully submitted,
206 Bridgette Grotheer

207 **DCAT:**

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