



TOWN OF NEWMARKET NEW HAMPSHIRE

Conservation Commission

September 11, 2025 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Present: Cris Blackstone (Chair), Colin Lawson (Vice-Chair), Ellen Snyder (Treasurer), Zack Angelini, Elizabeth Dudley (Alternate), George Anderson (Alternate), Luke Fromm (Alternate), Brian Ward (Town Council Rep. ex officio), Jeff Goldknopf (Planning Board Representative), Emma Fortin (School Liaison)

Absent: Jessica Cann

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

The voting members will be **Cris Blackstone, Ellen Snyder, Colin Lawson, Zack Angelini, George Anderson, Luke Fromm, and Jeff Goldknopf.**

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

3. Public Comment (None)

4. Approve Meeting Minutes

- July 10, 2025

Action:

Motion: Jeff Goldknopf made a motion to approve the July 10, 2025, minutes as written.

Second: Colin Lawson

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 7-0-0

5. Regular Business

- Juli Tyson Resignation & process to move from Alternate Member to Full Member

Cris reported that **Juli** resigned as she is moving out of town, and that **Luke** is interested and will be applying to become a member.

Action:

Motion: Jeff Goldknopf nominated Colin Lawson to serve as Vice-Chair.

Second: Zack Angelini

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 7-0-0

- Picnic Table (Purchase Approval)

Ellen explained that they recently purchased two bike racks that were installed by DPW at Wiggin Farm and Sliding Rock. To go along with that, it was thought that picnic tables would be a good idea

for both of those areas. Where there is \$4,621 in the Richard Schanda Fund that can only be used for Schanda Park, the idea is to purchase new picnic tables for Schanda Park using those funds, and move the tables that are currently there to Wiggin Farm and Sliding Rock. They are accessible and metal material with holes to allow for rain to fall through.

Action:

Motion: **Colin Lawson** moved to purchase two picnic tables for up to \$2,500, from the Richard Schanda Fund

Second: **George Anderson**

Discussion: None

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

Ellen thanked DPW for their help.

c. Feather Flag (Purchase Approval)

Cris explained that as they host more events out at the different conservation properties, or for events such as Turtlefest, that feather flags would be useful to help with that visibility. The type that can be stabilized with water or sandbags was discussed as more practical in case there is not an area to push stakes into. The proposal would be to purchase two, and get ones that are more durable to last longer that are about \$250 each and 7' tall. It was discussed to include the town seal for validity and consistency, and that it could simply state "Newmarket Conservation," or also "Newmarket Conservation Event." In terms of color, it was discussed that green would blend in with trees and vegetation if it is out in the field. Overall, there was consensus to have it be consistent with fonts and colors that the town uses.

There was consensus to create some mockups to discuss and look at further at the next meeting.

d. Schanda Park Usage Application, Jerry Collins

Cris explained that Jerry Collins requests to store Chick's Weir every year, from October to June, before reinstalling it in the water for the summer and fall. It is regularly monitored by him throughout those months. It was discussed whether it is only Jerry Collins that is allowed to have the weir, or if he can pass it along to someone else in the future, and to double check. It was also discussed that he stores it there at his own risk and that the Conservation Commission is not responsible in case anything happens.

Action:

Motion: **Colin Lawson** moved to grant permission for the storing of Chick's Weir at Schanda Park from October 2025 – June 2026.

Second: **George Anderson**

Discussion: None

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

e. Review of Budget for 2026/27 FY

Ellen reviewed that in July they did take a vote on the proposed budget, but that there were items that needed to be changed and that are now addressed and corrected in this revision. In this version, the Part-time Salaries budget line was restored as the minute taker position is currently advertised, as well as increasing the Contracted Services budget line in order to have additional consulting help to create consistency.

Cris thanked **Ellen** for her work. Discussion ensued on if the General Supplies line was sufficient at \$200, with it explained that the amount is an estimate and that it comes out of the bottom line.

Action:

Motion: **Zack Angelini** moved to approve the proposed FY27 general fund budget request for a

total of \$17,100.

Second: George Anderson

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 7-0-0

f. Rosa Property (Review of Draft Warrant Article)

Ellen explained that the warrant article will be for \$145,000, which would go before the Budget Committee and the Town Council for their support, to then be voted on. This would be for the acquisition of the easement in Newmarket, and not for the part of the land in Durham. This far, secured funding includes \$100,000 from Lamprey River Advisory Committee and \$20,000 from Fields Pond Foundation, and they have submitted for \$75,000 from LCHIP which would be determined in November or December, and \$30,000 from Moose Plate grant which would also be notified by December. The next round for GBRPP grant funding will be in April with a request for \$20,000, which would be determined in June. It was highlighted that town money can only go toward the acquisition of the easement in Newmarket.

It was also noted that the site walk will still need to be rescheduled since it had to be cancelled in August. The project also includes the establishment of a land management fund and an easement stewardship fund, that people can donate to in the future as well.

Ellen read the language of the proposed warrant article, as in the meeting materials:

<https://newmarketnh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2337/files/attachment/6417>.

It was noted that a factsheet would also be put together for the project to go along with the warrant article, as well as having a site walk and further publicity to make the public aware

Action:

Motion: **Zack Angelini** moved to accept the draft warrant article language for the Rosa Property at the March 2026 Town Meeting

Second: George Anderson

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 7-0-0

g. Turtlefest

Cris discussed how they had a steering committee last year, which involved other community members and organizations, and suggested that members keep that in mind if they would like to be more involved in Turtlefest for next year. **Zack** and **George** expressed interest.

Cris also noted and thanked **Juli** for helping with Turtlefest this past year.

Discussion ensued on keeping the name of the event Turtlefest, with a slogan that encompasses more wildlife as "A shell-ibration of Newmarket wildlife" so that there can be additional speakers and topics.

h. Review of Conservation Commission Notebooks

Ellen gave an overview of the notebook contents the different sections of meeting information and contacts, budget and fund information, conservation lands, conservation easement monitoring information, trails, project documents, town resolutions/ordinances/warrant article information, and relevant maps. Review of each of the documents ensued to help members gain familiarity with the information included in the notebooks.

6. Financial Summary

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

<https://newmarketnh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2337/files/attachment/6418>. It was noted that a

property at 35 Neal Mill Road sold, which resulted in \$11,875 to Conservation for Current Use tax when it was taken out of current use.

7. Committee/Board Reports

Town Council: **Brian** reported that Chase Eagleson is now on the Town Council, filling Colin White's spot after he moved away and resigned. It was also noted that the county is currently experiencing a moderate drought, but that Newmarket's water supply is in good shape with the town wells and therefore not being impacted currently by the drought.

Planning Board: **Jeff** noted that the Land and Water Conservation chapter was reviewed at Tuesday's workshop, and that the board was supportive of the chapter. It was discussed whether or not the Open Space Plan would be updated in the future moving forward separately, or just the Master Plan chapter. Additionally, Mark West is anticipated to be presenting to the Planning Board at their next meeting.

Energy & Environment: **George** noted that he was not present but that the committee is aware that he will be the liaison with Energy & Environment

Riverfront Advisory Committee: (None)

School Liaison: **Emma** noted that the school year just started, and that the school clubs want to be more involved with the town for projects and are getting organized for the school year.

8. Old Business (None)

9. New Business

a. Ideas to Connect with Energy and Environment Committee
It was noted that this will be discussed further at the next meeting.

b. Notice to invite people to be on the steering committee for Turtlefest
It was noted that this was discussed earlier in the meeting, under meeting item 5.g.

10. Looking Forward

11. Closing Comments

Colin asked what the status of the Ash Swamp Road project is. **Ellen** commented that the state received the American the Beautiful grant, which is partially going toward this project. The ARM funding did not go through though, but they are also working on an application to a grant with the Nature Conservancy.

Ellen noted that the Southeast Land Trust is starting a timber harvest on the Piscassic Greenway, which they will access through Neal Mill Road. It could go into November, and the trail will be closed until they are complete.

Cris commented that the feather flag color could be orange to stand out and as a safety color for being out in nature.

a. Blackstone Article to share
Cris handed out an article from last year in the Concord Monitor that she wrote.

12. Adjournment

Action:

Motion: **Jeff Goldknopf** made a motion to adjourn at 9:07 PM.

Second: **George Anderson**

Discussion: None

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

Respectfully submitted,
Bridgette Grotheer

DCAT:

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