



TOWN OF  
**NEWMARKET**  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Conservation Commission

October 9, 2025 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

### DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

**Present:** Cris Blackstone (Chair), Ellen Snyder (Treasurer), Jessica Cann, Zack Angelini, Luke Fromm, Elizabeth Dudley (Alternate), Jeff Goldknopf (Planning Board Representative)

**Absent:** Colin Lawson (Vice-Chair), George Anderson (Alternate), Brian Ward (Town Council Rep. ex officio), Emma Fortin (School Liaison)

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

The voting members will be **Cris Blackstone, Ellen Snyder, Jessica Cann, Zack Angelini, Luke Fromm, Elizabeth Dudley, and Jeff Goldknopf.**

#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

#### 2. Roll Call

#### 3. Public Comment (None)

#### 4. Approve Meeting Minutes

- September 11, 2025

##### Action:

**Motion:** Ellen Snyder made a motion to approve the September 11, 2025, minutes as written.

**Second:** Jess Cann

**Discussion:** None

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

#### 5. Regular Business

##### a. Rosa Property

**Ellen** reported that there was a site walk for the LCHIP grant, with Planning Office staff and LCHIP review panelists. The decision should be made regarding the funding in the first week of November. It was also noted that the warrant article for \$145,000 has also been submitted to be on the warrant in March, and there is also one more grant application in the spring that will be submitted.

##### b. Turtlefest

**Cris** noted that the steering committee is planning to meet on October 21 at noon to begin planning and discussions, if any other members are interested and able to attend. **Zack** expressed interest.

**Cris** continued to note that Dick Lutz will lead a bird walk and also offered to give a presentation. Discussion ensued on the structure of Turtlefest, such as having a keynote speaker and breakout sessions, and different presentation topics to incorporate for next year, such as geology.

**Elizabeth** brought up the target audience for the event, with discussion of having it appeal to all different age groups.

**Ellen** also spoke to how last year they had the book club at the library and smaller events leading up to it, noting how it does not all have to occur on the same day.

Discussion continued to what entities donations could benefit with last year benefitting NH Turtle Rescue, and what other items could be sold to raise those donations, such as gaiters.

**Cris** mentioned that she spoke with Gary S. from WUNH to see if he would be interested to be a performer or as a lecturer, but he asked that they reach back out in a few months.

It was also discussed to have the event afterwards at the Stone Church again, with **Zack** and **Jess** offering to look into it. For the t-shirt design, it was discussed to have a new design from last year's. The date is planned for May 9, 2026.

c. LRAC - Special Permit Appl. 25-318

**Cris** discussed that they do not have the original permit information, but that the document included in the packet (<https://newmarketnh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2351/files/attachment/6453>) is LRAC's response to the permit, which was sent to other towns as well. Discussion ensued on the letter.

It was noted that the picnic tables were moved from Schanda Park, and that the new picnic tables are in place now. The commission thanked DPW.

## **6. Financial Summary**

**Ellen** reported on the latest financial summary, as available in the meeting materials document: <https://newmarketnh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2351/files/attachment/6454>.

**Ellen** noted that when meeting with LCHIP for the Rosa property site walk, it was stressed how hard it is for towns to raise money for projects, as they had asked what the commission will do if they do not receive the LCHIP grant funds.

## **7. Committee/Board Reports**

Planning Board: **Jeff** noted that the Planning Board meeting is not until next week.

## **8. Old Business**

**Cris** explained that the application for the Schanda Park usage concerning the weir as approved in September is only for the storage of the weir, bringing up the history and research of the weir. It was recommended to have a subcommittee to research the weir further to fully understand it better. Further discussion ensued regarding the weir and the possible future expansion of Schanda Park, as well as the previous discussions of having a different committee or department steward the park. It was also highlighted of the historical significance of the tradition of the weir.

## **9. New Business**

**Cris** brought up how they have received two applications for alternate positions, but that there is currently only one open position, therefore asking if the commission wishes to increase the total number of alternate positions. Discussion ensued on the number of alternate positions.

### **Action:**

**Motion:** **Jess Cann** made a motion to increase the number of alternate positions on the Conservation Commission from three to four.

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

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** **Approved 6-0-1**

**Cris** also noted that the new minute taker, Ellen Biegert, a landscape architect, will start in November.

a. Ideas to Connect with Energy and Environment Committee

**Cris** noted that the Energy and Environment Committee are looking at more environmental pieces which will overlap and see collaboration with Conservation Commission.

b. NHACC Annual Conference – Saturday, 11/1 (Registration reimbursement through Planning Office)

**Cris** noted that the conference is coming up on November 1.

**Ellen** noted that the monitoring by the state for Dearborn Conservation Area and Wiggin Farm will be October 28 at 9 AM, if anyone is interested in joining.

There is an ongoing timber harvest currently on the Piscassic Greenway, so that monitoring will be in November. It was also noted that it is in the contract for the loggers to repair any trails that are damaged by the logging.

**Ellen** also noted that on Neal Mill Road, there was a prime wetland and buffer violation at both the state and local level.

**Elizabeth** brought up a Zoom session that she attended by the DPW Director in Gilford regarding foam recycling, highlighting that a lot of people don't realize all of the foam products that can be recycled. They have begun condensing it from a volume of 90 to 1, with a hub in Gilford and another hub opening soon in Exeter, as foam products take up a lot of space. It is owned by the towns, and the condensed material can also be sold.

Further discussion ensued on possibilities for foam recycling in Newmarket, with **Elizabeth** offering to connect further and see if Exeter would be opening to receiving items from Newmarket.

**Luke** asked regarding invasive species removal and management, expressing interest in helping with those efforts. It was mentioned to focus on the pocket parks on Riverbend Road and Mastin Drive, and planning on November 15.

**Ellen** noted that she is leading a walk for the Sunrise Sunset Center on Tuesday, October 14, at 10:30 AM at Heron Point.

## **10. Looking Forward**

## **11. Closing Comments**

**Cris** noted that she is being filmed for WMUR for garden and landscape photography at the Audubon Massabesic Center.

## **12. Adjournment**

### **Action:**

**Motion:** **Ellen Snyder** made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM.

**Second:** **Jess Cann**

**Discussion:** None

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

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Respectfully submitted,  
Bridgette Grotheer

DCAT:

[https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekdEeRsk0JHQVHAvKJVka7\\_5VjxKP/videos](https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekdEeRsk0JHQVHAvKJVka7_5VjxKP/videos)