

Draft Minutes

**Exeter Conservation Commission
January 12, 2010**

Introduction: *Don Briselden, Bobby Aldrich, Selectmen's rep., Kevin Keaveney, Sean Lyons, Carlos Guindon, Tom Gregory, Michelle Newman, Ginny Raub, Kristin Murphy, Natural Resource Planner and Peter Richardson, Chairman.*

New Business:

1, The commission's newest member, Michelle Newman narrated a prepared PowerPoint presentation giving the Commission an outline for achieving a public garden space within the Town. The presentation was entitled OutGrowing in Exeter and highlighted the Objective, Proposal, Interest, Community Benefit, Input, Properties, and Target Dates for the project to come to fruition.

Following the presentation discussion ensued on the two properties being considered at this time: the Raynes Farm and the playing fields of the former Exeter High School. Each had their advantages and disadvantage but the playing fields' easement has not been finalized between the Town and the SAU 16 and when that might occur is unknown at this time. The need for funds and costs to the ECC was discussed and it was determined there presently did not appear to be any up significant up front costs.

Mr. Lyons moved to approve the request to charter a Gardening Committee as a sub-committee of the ConCom. Mr. Aldrich seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Old Business:

2. The postponed agenda item for the nomination of the entire Exeter River from Great Brook to the Great Dam and the Squamscott to the Great Bay to the State's River Management and Protection Program (RMPP) was opened for discussion. It would mean including the portion of the River from the Great Brook down to the Great Dam that had been excluded when participation in the plan was first adopted in 1995 because of the concern that portion of the River was being used to supplement the Town's drinking water supply. Mr. Aldrich felt the concern was still present in spite of the correspondence directed his way to further clarify the nomination and inclusion. It was not just the Town's drawing off the River but management issues that might impact the other parties i.e. The Mill apartments and the Academy relying on the River for a portion of their needs. After discussion of the workings of the program, Mr. Aldrich made the motion that the ECC support the nomination of the Squamscott to the Great Bay be included in the RMPP. There being no second, the Chair asked for any other motion. Mr. Lyons speaking from an ecological position and recognizing the plan would be reviewed by other committees, moved to nominate the fresh water portion of the River (Great Brook to the Great Dam) and the tidal portion of the Squamscott River (Great Dam to Great Bay) into the River Management and Protection Plan. Mr. Aldrich voted to oppose but motion carried.

3. On December 22, members of the ECC accompanied Mr. Charles Moreno on a field tour of an existing property as an example of forest management practices. They returned to the H-S forest to review areas managed approximately ten years ago. At the February meeting of the Commission a forest representative will be present to talk about management, goals

and objectives of a plan and process of implementing. There will be public outreach programs to advise and educate the citizens as to any actions occurring within the Forest. Ms. Murphy is in the process of scanning the original Forest Management plans prepared for both the H-S Forest and the Oaklands and will make them available to members before February meeting.

4. The minutes of the December 8, 2009 meeting were approved.

5. The minutes of the meeting for the forest trail walk on December 12 were approved. Although the actual walk did not occur, there was a quorum of members present to vote on the Trail Management Plan: the vote was to *accept* the plan and submit final invoice for payment and *adopt* the plan at a later date after some adjustments have been added.

6. Treasurer's report was presented with the caveat that as we go into the new fiscal year it is imperative to meet with Finance Department to coordinate financial accounting procedures that would be acceptable for both parties. The report as presented was approved

Natural Planners Report:

7. Ms. Murphy in her report as Natural Planner stated the revised wetland buffers zones as outlined by the Zoning Ordinance Review committee (ZORC) will be presented as well as all the proposed revised zoning ordinances to the Planning Board on January 14.

Ms. Murphy had certificates from the Town acknowledging with appreciation the community service of the Commission members that served during the year 2009.

The handbooks from the N H Association of Conservation Commissions have arrived and members were asked to pick them up at end of meeting.

Ms. Murphy stated she met recently with Mr. Jonathan Ring, the engineer for the proposed driveway at 110 Linden Street to review the letters of concern written by the Planning Board and the ECC to DES. Dr. Frank Richardson of DES had agreed to a second site walk of the area to review the application and the concerns of the proposed driveway crossing the prime wetlands. The initial evaluation was done when snow covered the site and the scheduled January 22 site walk appears to present the same conditions. Members were asked if available to attend. This was not an ECC scheduled walk, but one with the applicant and DES. There may be a re-design for the driveway presented at that time.

A reminder of the Snow Shoe race set for February 6 in the Henderson-Swasey forest as formerly approved by the ECC.

Mr. David O'Hearn, a member of the Trail Plan, has agreed to lead a snow shoe walk to view animal tracks. A date of Feb. 13 appeared to be the best date. More information will be posted on wiki site, the Town web site and Channel 22.

The newly revised Trails maps for the Oaklands and Henderson-Swasey forest are now available on-line under the Parks and Trails section of the Town web site.

The ECC contribution to the Town report is being prepared: any comments or suggestions are to be forwarded to Ms. Murphy.

Other Business:

8. Mr. Aldrich reported the ECC proposed warrant article for \$40,000 for land acquisition was not supported by the Selectmen and will not appear in the Town warrant list. However, the Selectmen did approve an increase in the Natural Planners hours and that increase is reflected in the General Fund budget to be presented at the Deliberative Session on January 30.

Motion to Adjourn:

So moved and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Raub, Secretary