

These minutes are subject to possible corrections/revisions at a subsequent
Exeter Conservation Commission meeting.

Exeter Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes

Nowak Room, Exeter Town Offices

October 11, 2011

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Robert Aldrich called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices. Members present were Margaret Matick, Peter Richardson, Virginia Raub, Russell Kaplan, Kevin Keaveney, Carlos Guindon, Chairman Robert Aldrich, and Kristen Murphy, Natural Resources Planner.

Action Items

1. Henderson Swasey Draft Timber Management Plan.

Charlie Moreno presented the Commission with the Management Plan's table of contents and 4 maps. He thanked the Commission for their feedback to the questionnaire from the September meeting, which he has woven into the current management plan draft. Charlie's goal for this meeting was to update the Commission on the progress of the Management Plan and to address any last minute feedback. Since there is no survey that covers the entire perimeter, he researched and combined several surveys which are noted in the Plan.

He proceeded to explain that the Management Plan was divided into 5 sections: Maps; Introduction; Objectives, Recommendations and Management; Natural Resources in general; and Natural Resources with a focus on the details of the forest. The Plan is 80%-85% complete with sections 1, 2, 3, and most of 4 being done. He is currently working on the Habitat section. Section 5 is partially written as well.

Map #1 consists of the natural physical features and is a detailed map of what is going on within the property both from the physical features and natural standpoint. This includes the stone walls, trails, footpaths, streams, wetlands, large marshlands, shrub lands, forestry wetlands, list of significant trees, etc.

Map #2 focuses on the detail of the cover types (changes of composition) within the forest. This includes data, value, what steps should be taken in the future, disturbance history (natural and logging), types of soil, etc. Then within those cover types are many variants, which the final report will closely describe. This map will relate to Section 5 of report.

The Wildlife Habitat Map is of the upland hardwood area. This covers the hard mast or fruits of the forest, the heavy hemlock cover which serve as shelter for animals, etc. Within these different habitats there are features that enhance them such as pools and rocky areas.

The Recommendations Map includes management zones: approximately 120 acres of managed area (harvesting, invasives, etc) and 120 acres of reserve areas (wetlands, etc). This is a key piece of overall management and will include land history and long range planning. Charlie will create a strategy to address the invasives to include volunteers to manually remove the invasives by pulling which would be easier on the land or the use of

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herbicides by licensed contractor. The cost to address the severe infestation of invasives would be about \$1000 an acre for a total of 20 acres.

Addressing the question of what would it take to maintain the woods road, Charlie responded by suggesting it be mowed every 3-5 years. In regards to harvesting, he recommended a 15 year cycle. This would involve 90-100 acres of established forest with 20-40 trees per acre. Potential income from the harvest could reap \$15,000 but would depend on market needs and how the wood was sold such as furniture, pulp, firewood, or chip wood.

The last managed harvest was in 1991 of about 25 acres and generated about \$2000, the signs of which were visible for about 2-3 years. Charlie reminded the Commission that harvesting is not only good for the forest but it also raises funds for continued management and encourages community education as well.

Charlie will have the final plan to the Commission by the end of this month so that it will be ready for review at the November meeting.

2. Oaklands Town Forest Management Plan.

Sarah Demers, a student at Antioch, addressed her desire to do her masters project on the Oaklands Town Forest with the focus being wise management practices and water quality issues. She is eager for the opportunity to contribute to her community while building upon her resume. Sarah asked for the Commission's approval, which was granted, and what they would want from a management plan. She will provide a list of 8 questions to Kristen Murphy for distribution which she'll then incorporate into the management plan. The original forest plan done in 1986 will be used as a baseline. Sarah plans on starting the project mid December and will present the final report to the Commission in June.

Sarah is currently taking a wild life and forestry class and is working with Kristen Murphy to develop a management plan for the Smith Page Conservation Area as part of her semester project. That final report will be presented to the Commission in January or February.

3. "Cold Crank Challenge" Bike event December 10, 2011.

Lis Bailey was not present. Kristen Murphy, Natural Resources Planner, presented on her behalf. Lis sent a map of the loop which is the same route as last year. This is a 2 hour mountain bike race scheduled on December 10th and she anticipates 20 participants. The goal is to cover the loop as many times as possible in the time allotted. There will be a pre-run inspection on the 9th and a post-run inspection on the 11th. Carlos Guindon will conduct those inspections and will be the one to make the decision to call off the race in the event of severe weather conditions.

The Commission approved the concept but they need more details before final approval of the event. Issues of concern: 1) staggered start and time, 2) private access, 3) contacting Jay Perkins at DPW for parking, and 4) contacting the Police Department for traffic control. Kristen Murphy will contact Lis Bailey with the Commissions questions and will present the answers at the November meeting for final approval.

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Follow-Up Items

1. Raynes Farm Management Plan and CIP Update

The Raynes Farm Stewardship Committee met a couple weeks back to review the Raynes Farm Management Plan. For this second revision, their goal was to have the list of projects identified and up to date, determine long and short range goals, as well as explain how the Stewardship Committee and the Conservation Commission work together. Kristen Murphy, Natural Resources Planner, outlined the changes in the document for the Board.

Page 1 - removed the abandoned farm machinery.

Page 2 – clarified representatives of oversight committee by including the tenant farmer.

Page 3 – elaborated on the annual inspection process to include the stewardship committee and clarified that the Conservation Commission is the responsible party for monitoring the farm to be in compliance with LCHIP regulations.

Page 7-8 – project priorities were updated:

- Annually mow and clear brush around the barn

- Add \$500 to Conservation Commission budget to address annual minor repairs

- Repair or replace roof

- Prepare draft budget plan with cost analysis

- Drainage maintenance and improvements

- Survey and remove invasive plants throughout the property

- Remove and repair the silo connector

- Replace sill at northwest gable end

- Repair and repaint the barn exterior

- Conduct invasive plant monitoring every 2 years

- Rebuild the milk room

Page 8-9 – update completed projects

The rest of the changes to the document were updating and grammatical corrections.

The Board will review this latest revision and will either submit their feedback to Kristen ahead of time or come to the November meeting with comments and changes.

Regular Business

1. Treasurers Report

Virginia Raub reported that the Commission figures and the Town figures seem to be a dollar or so off. Robert Aldrich stated the Town would only recognize their own figures. There was discussion about consolidating the 3 accounts. The Treasurer was thanked for her efforts.

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2. Approval of Minutes: April 5, May 10, June 14, September 13, August 9, 18, 30, 2011

April 5, 2011 – Minutes approved as amended. Vote was unanimous.

May 10, 2011 – Minutes approved as amended. Vote was unanimous.

June 14, 2011 – Minutes approved as amended. Vote was unanimous.

Sept 13, 2011 – Minutes approved. Vote was unanimous.

Aug 9, 2011 – Minutes approved. Vote was unanimous.

Aug 18, 2011 – Site walk minutes approved. Vote was unanimous.

Aug 30, 2011 – Minutes approved. Vote was unanimous.

3. Natural Resources Planner's Report

Kristen Murphy reported that the Town had applied for a Watershed Assistance Grant for work at West Side Drive neighborhood to do some storm water improvements. The Town was not awarded the grant, but she will continue to look at other funding sources. Peter Richardson helped along with RCCD and DES.

The Raynes Farm kiosk went up, the trail is complete, and the brochures were printed for distribution. It was also posted on the Town website and Face Book page, as well as an article appeared in the Exeter Newsletter.

River Cleanup Day was a success with people from as far away as Vermont participating. It was a joint effort between Brentwood, Kensington, and Exeter. 20 bags of garbage were pulled from the river. The goal is to make this an annual event.

4. Other Business

Peter Richardson reported that he has been working with 3 students from Phillips Exeter Academy every Wednesday afternoon working on the Raynes Farm trail.

Kristen Murphy reported that 2 benches have been erected and installed in the back field of the Raynes Farm. Don Briselden will be drafting an interpretive sign for the site.

Kristen Murphy and Peter Richardson have been working on the Linden Commons Trail.

A trail head post has been installed on Linden Street and one where the trail comes out of the development on Squire Way.

5. Next Meeting: Date and Agenda Items

The next Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2011 at 7:00pm in the Nowak Room. Agenda to follow.

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Other Business

1. Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II

Chairman Robert Aldrich motioned that the Board move into a non-public session.
Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Robert Aldrich adjourned the meeting at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Delaney
Recording Secretary