

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

November 8, 2011

Call Meeting to Order

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

Action Items

1. “Cold Crank Challenge” and Orienteering Event December 10, 2011.

Kristen Murphy, Natural Resource Planner, stated that the Commission had received the application from Deb's daughter for the mountain bike race. At last month's meeting there were concerns raised whether or not it was a staggered start as well as assuring communication with the Public Works, Fire Department and private land owner.

Deb Humiston presented. The race start has been modified so that 10 people will start at a time and then form a single line. This is a standard start pattern and not destructive at all. She still needs to receive permission from the land owner but left a message today and anticipates no problem acquiring that. She has already spoken with Jay at Public Works but still needs to contact the Police Department. Kristen explained that Deb would need to contact the Police Department to explain when the event is happening and how many people are involved. At that point, they will determine whether traffic control is needed.

Kristen has received the insurance certificate but explained that it ultimately needed to go to the Board of Selectmen. The Town of Exeter requires a form to be filled out as well, so it was suggested that the insurance certificate accompany the Town's form. Deb will send an email to Kristen Murphy and Carlos Guindon when everything has been completed.

Deb did mention that the last time she was on the trail she witnessed two loose dogs chasing a deer (black dog with bright red collar and brownish-red long haired setter).

The Commission unanimously approved the event with the condition that Kristen Murphy and Carlos Guindon oversee that last remaining issues.

2. Henderson Swasey Timber Management Plan Implementation.

Kristen Murphy sent out an email announcing that the Henderson Swasey Timber Management Plan was complete and several copies are available for viewing. She brought the Commission's attention to the Timeline Page of the Forest Management Plan. There are two major things that have to happen before the implementation of the actual timber harvest: 1) develop an outreach plan, educate and raise public awareness and 2) address the invasive plants.

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Outreach will focus on educating people to what is involved in a harvest, possibly viewing previously and recently harvested areas, making maps available and really explaining what a fresh cut is and what that looks like. Education and preparation will happen in the summer of 2012 and the harvest will be scheduled for the summer of 2013.

Addressing the invasives will require volunteer efforts as well as additional funds. Professional treatment involves injecting in the spring or the fall with a cost of approximately \$1000 per acre.

Chairman Robert Aldrich stated that the final product is comprehensive and has captured a lot of what the Commission has been talking about. He suggested that the Commission start brainstorming ideas in the next four to six weeks on how to approach educating the community as a whole. Possibilities include brief statements, Letter to the Editor, posting on the Town's website, feature article in the newsletter, etc.

Don Briselden suggested that they each borrow a copy of the Plan and walk the plan. Also to check with Charlie Moreno as to what the color coding is going to be? Some other suggestions for letting the public know about the plan included posting on the kiosk, preparing an outreach sort of public notice for Channel 98, and marking the harvest areas on the ground.

The Commission suggested that Kristen draft up a brief statement/public notice/press release for the Conservation Commission to review.

3. Oaklands Town Forest Management Objectives Questionnaire.

Sarah Demers gave eight questions to Kristen Murphy to submit for the Commission's feedback so that she would have an understanding of what was desired from an updated management plan for the Oaklands.

After a brief discussion, the consensus was that even though an update was needed, it was best to keep the goals basically the same as the existing plan. Robert Aldrich and Kristen Murphy will go over priorities, thoughts and comments with Sarah addressing such issues as extracting resources without doing long term harm, improving the forest, history since the last harvest, coordinating with neighboring townships, and what has significantly changed since the last plan.

4. Mobil/Global Companies Conservation Easement.

When the Mobil Gas Station on Epping Road first went in there was a requirement that 7.9 acres of land be put into a conservation easement as a condition of the wetland permit. It appears that when the easement was sent to legal counsel there were questions about some of the language, and in the interim the land was sold in 2010 from Mobil to Global. The easement was never recorded.

When the easement was sent to the Town, the Mobil Corporation had actually signed the document and sent it with the note that their anticipation was that the Town would sign and record the document. So from Mobil's perspective when they sold the land to the next owner they sent a notice stating that in accordance with the conservation easement we're selling the land to Global and this is their address.

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It was decided that the next step in this process would be to talk with legal counsel as to how to proceed, address the language, and determine who will incur the costs associated with the recording.

5. Snow Hounds Trail Request.

The Town became the owner of the Morgan Ryan Property last year. Part of the requirement is that the Snow Hounds ask NH Fish and Game and the Town to get permission for use of a very small section of trail that meets up with Cubie Road and Old Town Farm Road. The permission request would be until August 2014 so that it would expire at the same time as other Town properties they have permission to use. Peter Richardson motioned that the Commission approve the request. Vote was unanimous.

6. Overview of Upcoming Capital Improvement Projects

Peter Richardson started the presentation by handing out maps outlining Surface Water Quality Status as of September 2008. The Great Bay water shed is now impaired resulting in a loss of shellfish, eel grass, poor water clarity, etc. Impaired means that it doesn't meet the standards set by NH DES and EPA set under the Clean Water Act in 1970, the goal of which was to protect the chemical, physical, and biological properties of the surface waters of the US. Most estuaries are in trouble and the Great Bay is one of them; water supply, waste water, storm water, ground water, surface water, flood, rain, air.

The Town of Exeter has some of the most ancient infrastructure in the coastal area. It needs to get a MS4 permit for a waste water treatment plant. There is quite a bit of piping that is 100 years old compounded by 100 year floods every 4-5 years, hurricanes, snowstorms, etc. There is no Federal money available. 42 NH towns and 10 ME towns – cooperation is challenging. 3 out of 14 people are on septic systems.

The warrant articles are posted on January 17th and Election Day is on March 13th. There is a potential of significant projects to be proposed and the Commission can use this opportunity for public outreach. Chairman Robert Aldrich will speak with Public Works about addressing the Commission at the December meeting.

Follow-Up Items

1. Raynes Farm Management Plan Review

Kristen Murphy made significant changes in the Plan addressing the concerns from last month's meeting. The goal is to review the final revisions at the December meeting.

Robert Aldrich suggested that since the Commission was updating the Management Plan, now might be an opportunity to solidify the Stewardship Committee. After some discussion, it was decided that the Stewardship Committee would consist of a minimum of two Conservation Commission members, one Historical Society member, one Public Works member, one Heritage Commission member, two private citizens, and the tenant farmer. The farmer would not be a voting member.

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Virginia Raub added to the objectives – To actively pursue alliances with organizations and individuals who support the presence of the Raynes property in the Town of Exeter.

Peter Richardson suggested future discussion of private fundraising opportunities, such as creating specific events for fundraising projects, Friends of Raynes, Friends of Farm, etc.

2. FY2012 Budget Update

The Trail Account was cut by \$500 and the Raynes warrant article for 2012 was removed.

Regular Business

1. Treasurers Report

Virginia Raub presented. Report was approved. Vote was unanimous.

2. Approval of Minutes: October 11, 2011

Minutes were approved. Vote was unanimous.

3. Natural Resources Planner's Report

110 Linden went before the Planning Board on October 27, 2011. It was stated that it would be coming before the Conservation Commission in the future. There was talk about moving the driveway north of the existing house.

81 High Street went before the Planning Board on November 7, 2011.

4. Other Business

Frank Ferraro and Don Clement on the Board of Selectman have been working on a new and revised website for the whole Town. They have asked for information from the Commission as to what we want our web presence to look like and what can be posted on the site. Kristen and Sean Lyons had prepared an update in the past so this can be provided to Don and Frank for the Commission's update.

The Town Manager's Office and the Board of Selectmen are having a Holiday Open House for all the members of the Town Boards, Committees, and Commissions as well as all Town employees on Thursday, December 8th from 4:00 to 7:00pm at the Town Hall.

Peter Richardson and Margaret Matick walked Linden Trail a couple of weeks ago. Don Briselden walked it as well. The pins are not in place yet. Kristen Murphy has a list of the ones Peter identified as missing.

5. Next Meeting: Date and Agenda Items

The next Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for December 13, 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 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Delaney
Recording Secretary