

**Exeter Conservation Commission**

**April 10, 2012**

**Call to Order**

Acting Chairman Peter Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Office Building. Members present were Carlos Guidon, Kevin Keaveney, Maggie Matick, Don Briselden, Ginny Raub, Mike Field, Russell Kaphan and Town Natural Resource Planner, Kristen Murphy. (Ms. Murphy reported newly appointed member to the Commission, Alyson Eberhardt, was unable to attend)

Guests: Anne Deely of Neatline Associates, John Merkle, Chairman of the Heritage Commission and Eric Feldberg.

**Action Items**

- Natural Resource Inventory Overview

In December 2010, the ECC entered into a contract with Neatline Associate, a GIS consulting company from Deerfield, NH, to develop a *Natural* Resource Inventory for the Town of Exeter. Following a series of meetings with a subcommittee of the ECC the final presentation was presented to the Commission in December 2011. This evening's presentation was a summary of the project for invited members of Exeter's land-use boards.

In a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Deely reviewed the Project Scope:

- Objective 1: Natural resources review and mapping: Compile, map & describe natural resources of Town
- Objective 2: Identify resource-rich focus areas by conducting co-occurrence analyses of important NR areas
- Objective 3: Identify lands with high developmental potential
- Objective 4: Identify areas where resources are at risk by comparing the resource focal areas to lands with high development potential
- Objective 5. Develop a list of conservation strategies to ensure long term viability of natural resources

In each of the Objectives, the work process was outlined. In Objective 1 a co-occurrence model was developed for each of 6 priority areas: surface water, drinking water, agriculture, forestry, conservation lands and wildlife. A series of the overlay maps were presented to highlight the areas of focus.

In Conclusions and Conservation Recommendations (Objective 5), the report noted the Good News, the Hard Part, Regulatory Controls and the Non-Regulatory Controls and stated Recommendations.

Questions and comments followed the presentation. Members agreed it was a comprehensive study/report that will require additional time to fully comprehend. But Mr. Clement did comment it was a great presentation and came together very well; succinct and to the point. It was suggested the report be presented to the Planning Board and include members from the Exeter Economic Development Commission to provide additional insight into their area of focus of economic development/recruitment.

Mr. Richardson felt the report might be of interest to neighboring communities i.e. Stratham, Kensington as the information may be helpful in their planning.

Ms. Raub made the motion to remit the final payment to Neatline Associates for their work: \$700 from the encumbered funds from the Town budget and \$2100 from the Conservation checking account. Motion seconded by Ms. Mattick and vote carried. After further verification by Ms. Murphy of the invoice with the remaining balance it was determined a total of \$4800 was due. Ms. Raub revised the motion to expend the encumbered \$700 from the Town account and \$4100 from the Conservation fund. Ms. Mattick seconded: motion carried.

- **350.org**

Ms. Sydnee Goddard, Chairman of the Kensington Conservation Commission and an instructor at the Academy invited the ECC to join her and her students in a Connect the Dots activity in collaboration with Climate Impact day on May 5, 2012. (The grass roots movement takes its name from the number 350 - the number scientists say is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide measured in Parts per Million (ppm)- in our atmosphere. The measured level at present is 391.57 ppm). The group will be meeting in front of Town Hall to hold a demonstration about climate change awareness. Then, those that wish will bike to a neighboring town holding its own demonstration; Connect the Dots.

- **Project Blue Picnic**

Ms. Murphy spoke of the Exeter Girl Scout troop working toward their Silver award (similar to Eagle Scout award only girls are younger) requiring them to do a certain number of hours of Community Service. In partnership with ThinkBlue Exeter, the outreach program on storm water and stormwater pollution, they will be hosting an Earth Day picnic at Swasey Park on Sunday, **April 29, 2012** from **10:00am to 2:00pm**.

It is to be an outdoor activity under a tent with exhibits/tables addressing storm water pollution and how residents can make small changes in their everyday activities to reduce potential pollution. Ms. Murphy has been working with the Girl Scouts but it is their project and are handling the logistics. Ms. Murphy did ask for the Commission to consider contributing \$300 towards the expenses for the event.

Dr. Kaphan made the motion for the ECC to contribute \$300 to the funding of this project; seconded by Mr. Guidon. Motion carried.

- **Members Positions**

Having received some individual responses on areas of interest, Mr. Richardson wished to return to the topics to reaffirm and designate individuals as the point person for specific topics including but not limited to water quality, Raynes farm, trails, Town forests, stewardship and boundary marking. With members expressing their willingness to focus on and be the “go to” person for a chosen topic(s), Mr. Richardson felt it was a good start.

## **Regular Business:**

### **1. Treasurer’s Report**

The treasurer circulated a copy of the monthly financial sheet noting the amount of \$9,605.00 is the amount approved in The Town warrant at the March 2012 meeting and this is the amount the ConCom will be working with this year. Mr. Briselden moved to accept the Treasurer’s report; seconded by Ms. Mattick. Motion carried.

## **2. Secretary's report**

Dr. Kaphan moved to approve the draft minutes of the March 6, 2012 meeting as presented: seconded by Mr. Briselden. Motion carried.

## **3. Natural Resource Planners Report**

Ms. Murphy and Mr. Richardson are continuing to work on the Mobil On The Run easement project. The revised deed has been received and the changes discussed at the March meeting are incorporated into the new deed; presently document is with legal counsel for review: The boundary markers are being put into place; the last inspection visit should be this week. All this activity does confirm there is more to just the "acceptance" of an easement.

Items to be included in the 2013 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are to be submitted mid-May. Ms. Murphy will be presenting a draft at May meeting but members are asked for those items they wished to be included. Mr. Clement stated the Selectmen are looking for projects/items 6-10 years out so as to prioritize. Mr. Richardson concurred saying the ConCom should have some long term goals; where does the Commission wish to be in five-ten years.

Other events noted:

Town-wide, volunteers are being sought for roadside cleanup the weekend of April 21-22. Bags are to be donated by DPW and if left by side of road, will be picked up the week of April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Planning Board is hosting the presentation Forging the Link: Linking the Economic Benefits of Low Impact Development and Community Decisions at their April 19, 2012 meeting.

The State-wide Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP) is to start in May. Training for volunteers will be in Concord on May 19. Exeter has been a part of this program for a number of years sampling May through September at various sites along the Exeter River. Although Exeter did not participate in 2011, Ms. Murphy did say she intended to do so this year and is looking for volunteers.

Members were reminded to check the Google intranet site ExeterConCom2 for additional listing of events happening in the area.

Additional discussion continued on the progress of the ThinkBlueExeter stormwater project. The rubber ducky 30 sec. PSA is being aired on Public Access Ch.98 as is a devil ducky PSA on lawn care. It is anticipated the videos will start airing on Channel 22 prior to the start of televised public meetings.

## **4. Other business**

A list of the current members and their present membership status (voting or alternate) was distributed to those in attendance. It was noted there is a need for 7 voting members and 5 alternates for a full Commission. At this time there is the opportunity for two alternate members to move up to a voting member status as current members terms expire. When a case is being heard and a vote for action required there is the need for a quorum of 4 members. If an alternate is present they can become a voting member if necessary. Mr. Briselden stressed the need to contact Ms. Murphy if unable to attend a meeting to

ensure there would be, if needed, the required votes. Mr. Richardson asked the alternates to consider the move and contact Ms. Murphy if willing.

Mr. Richardson stated he is not able to continue as acting Chairman for the Commission and this meeting is to be his last as Chair. He apologized for the short notice but circumstances at this time necessitated the decision. Discussion focused on what the position involved and the supporting role Ms. Murphy will and does play. When the suggestion of the position be on a 3 month rotating basis was offered, Mr. Guidon cited the potential for losing continuity in the organization. It was emphasized the group does have the services of the Natural Resource Planner for guidance and support.

Ms. Raub agreed to assume the Chair position for a 3 month period; May to July. In lieu of a motion confirming the appointment but as a statement on how the ECC will govern, Ms. Raub moved that the position of Chairman be on a 3 month rotating basis for the foreseeable future; seconded by Mr. Briselden. Motion carried. Mr. Richardson was thanked for assuming the Chairmanship for these past months.

With no other business the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Guidon so moved; seconded by Mr. Keaveney. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Raub

Acting Recording Secretary