

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

February 14, 2012

### **Call Meeting to Order**

Acting Chairman Peter Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices. Members present were Carlos Guindon, Margaret Matick, Virginia Raub, Russell Kaphan, and Selectman Don Clement.

### **Action Items**

#### **1. Philips Exeter Academy Footbridge Construction and After-the-face Wetland Application for Causeway Riprap for the X-Country Trail Causeway off Drinkwater Road**

Issue: PEA needed to replace a footbridge that had been washed away and put additional riprap where they had done some previous work. This application for a wetlands permit was issued without any comment from the Commission. The permit was process happened so quickly that the ECC didn't have time to respond. But PEA would be happy to give the members of the Commission a guided tour along the east side of the river.

#### **2. Town Meeting**

Mr. Richardson congratulated the Board of Selectman, the Budget Committee, and the staff for putting together a really good warrant for the Town to vote on. It is his opinion that Articles 2, 3, 4 which are zoning amendments are clarifying language. There has been a lot of discussion and he feels that the details will show very minor changes.

Articles 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 are bond articles requiring 60% vote to pass. These five articles are basically doing things that Mr. Richardson feels should've been done a few years ago to repair up the water and sewer systems. It is his opinion that there is no benefit or money saving option in delaying the vote.

Selectman Don Clement thanked Mr. Richardson for his endorsement. He went on to say that the 5 bond articles are all part of Exeter's water and sewer infrastructure and would be paid for through property taxes. He stressed their importance stating that everyone involved debated long and hard on these issues and tried to bring to the Town a warrant article that was top priority. These 5 articles are all interrelated:

- 1-New ground water treatment plant at Larry Lane
- 2-New and more efficient water meters
- 3-Phase 2 of the Jady Hill project
- 4-Waste stream reduction at the existing water treatment plant on Portsmouth Avenue
- 5-Start of a study that will eventually be a new sewer treatment plant

They all provide better efficiencies with some substantially reducing operating costs in the future. They are large bond issues, from a water treatment plant for \$6.5 million to \$284,000 waste water steam reduction system to be paid for over 10-20 years depending on the different bonds. These projects are long overdue. Everyone will benefit within the Town of Exeter, and the health of the Squamscott River and the Great Bay will be greatly improved. A

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video is being created to help explain these projects that will be shown on Channel 22 in a couple of weeks. The handout from the deliberative session is currently available on line but he will ask administration to make a hard copy available at the Town offices as well.

## **Regular Business**

### **1. Treasurers Report**

Virginia Raub presented. All the information needed for the Treasurers Report was not available. The report was postponed until next month.

### **2. Approval of Minutes: December 13, 2011**

Minutes were approved. Vote was unanimous.

### **3. Natural Resources Planner's Report**

Kristen Murphy, Natural Resource Planner, was unable to attend the meeting. Please see attached written report.

### **4. Other Business**

#### **Arbor Day Tree Planting**

Peter Richardson presented. Peter Walsh is prepared to do the annual tree planting but the cost is a little more this year. \$383 is needed to purchase the Fraser Firs.

Ms. Raub explained that Peter Walsh does a wonderful presentation to the Lincoln Street School 5<sup>th</sup> graders each year. There are 2 sessions and at the end of the talk, he takes the children outside and demonstrates how the trees are planted. Each student is given an instructional seedling packet to take home. On the weekend before the presentation, members of the Commission get together to pack the seedlings in peat moss for the event.

Don Clement commented that this Arbor Day program has been in existence for about 20 years and has been well received and supported by the community.

Ms. Raub made a motion to appropriate \$383 for the purchase of the seedlings to be used for Peter Walsh's Arbor Day presentation. Vote was unanimous.

#### **Conservation Easement Markers**

Carlos Guindon presented. It has been suggested that the boundary markers for conservation land be distinctive from other existing markers. Example: the wetland markers have a turtle symbol. It would cost \$300 to implement this project (approximately \$65 per 100 markers).

There are currently 25 conservation easements. The symbol for these medallions will be determined at a future date. Mr. Guindon made a motion to appropriate \$300 for the purchase of conservation easement markers. Vote was unanimous.

#### **Raynes Farm Well Cover**

Peter Richardson presented. Mattie has reported that the well house structure at Raynes Farm is in disrepair. Arrangements have been made with Jim Klingensmith at SST to take on this project. There are 2 estimates: Red Cedar \$575 and White Cedar \$375. Jim and his crew are ready to go to work along with volunteer labor. The project should be done in a month. Mr. Kaphan motioned to appropriate not more than \$400 for this project. Vote was unanimous.

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### National Resources Inventory

Peter Richardson suggested that sometime between now and May that the ECC make a presentation of the National Resources Inventory to the other land use boards. This presentation has been delayed because the person who is doing the work is out on maternity leave. So what should've been done by the end of the year will take a little more time. Mr. Guindon stated that some members of the Commission have already met and gone over the maps again in hopes of making suggestions to fine tune the project.

### Henderson Swasey Town Forest

Peter Richardson presented. He suggested the need for outreach to Exeter citizens to tell them of the Commission's upcoming activities as they plan for a harvest next winter in the Town forest. This way the town's people will have a clear understanding of the suggestions made in the Forest Plan concerning harvesting and how it will improve the wood lot.

### Think Blue Exeter

Virginia Raub presented. This idea started very innocently at the River Study Committee about doing public education and public service. Now it's turning into a Pilot Town Project for PREP (Piscataqua Region Estuary Project) as public education on storm water with a broad look at all issues for water shed. Jill Farrell is the coordinator and has a tremendous amount of resources. The Committee is also working with Public Works as part of the MSS (Municipal Storm Sewer) permitting process. As part of the permitting process there is a requirement for a certain percentage of public education. They're presently preparing several public outreach messages on public television. This is still in the planning stages but the hope is to have it start the beginning of April.

### Oyster Sponsorship

There is a project in the works that will offer residents the opportunity to sponsor oysters for the summer. Residents over 16 years of age would monitor the oysters until they grew large enough to be put into the Great Bay. More information on this will be coming in a couple of months.

### Volunteers

Peter Richardson asked the Commission to help in enlarging the scope of volunteers by finding ways to engage groups and individuals in a number of the tasks to be undertaken. In the past the mountain bikers and PEA students have helped. He recommended that they get together to discuss this issue and come up with ideas.

### No News

Epping Road easement at Mobile Station – no news

Ryder negotiations – no news

Raynes Farm committee – no news

### 127 Water Street Dock

The ZBA approved the permit against the ECC's recommendation for the 127 Water Street dock. Mr. Richardson strongly suggested that in the future when the Commission makes a recommendation to another board that the ECC be represented at the meeting.

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Margaret Matick requested looking into extending the conservation land off Alumni Drive down to the reservoir. She will talk with Selectman Don Clement about the different options available and report back to the Commission.

**5. Next Meeting: Date and Agenda Items**

The next Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2012 at 7:00pm in the Nowak Room. That also happens to be Voting Day when Exeter holds its annual town elections. The Commission voted unanimously to change the meeting date to Tuesday, March 6, 2012.

Acting Chairman Peter Richardson motioned that the meeting be adjourned so the Commission could go into Work Session. Vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm. The Recording Secretary was dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terry Delaney  
Recording Secretary