

Final Minutes
Approved as Amended Oct. 9, 2012

Exeter Conservation Commission

September 11, 2012

Call to Order

Acting Chairman Carlos Guindon called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Nowak Room in the Exeter Town Office building. Members present were: Jay Gregoire, Ginny Raub, Mike Field, Cynthia Field, Russell Kaphan, Margaret Matick, Peter Richardson and Kristen Murphy, Town Natural Resource Planner.

There was no public comment.

Action Items

1. October National Trails Day Event – Raynes Farm

Ginny Raub clarified that the date for the Trails Day event is October 20th, not October 13th as noted in the August 7, 2012 meeting minutes. October 20th is also the date for the Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival, a family-oriented event at Swasey Parkway.

Kristen Murphy proposed that the Trails Event have an information table downtown letting people know there is a trail walk and a barn tour on-going throughout the day plus guided tours are also available 11am, 1pm, etc. Kristen suggested that the information at the table high-light the Raynes Farm and how the upkeep of the Farm is on-going (trails, etc.). It was noted that the cost of setting up a table is \$50.00. Kristen said there are already signs made for Trails Day with directions to Raynes Farm.

Margaret Matick volunteered to be at the Barn to facilitate the tour at that location and will remain there throughout the day. Jay Gregoire volunteered to be at the table in town.

Carlos Guindon noted that Ginny Raub is the point person for this event and will work on a schedule for the day's events and assignments, and that there will be one more meeting to discuss the event. Carlos volunteered to work with the trail component.

Carlos moved to pay the \$50.00 fee to have a table for the October 20th event. Peter Richardson seconded, motion carried.

Peter suggested that there should be 2 scheduled times for the trail walk and the barn tour, maybe 11am and 2pm. If so, 4 guides will be needed (2 trail, 2 barn).

Regular Business

- 1. Treasurer's Report** – none
- 2. Approval of Minutes, August 7, 2012** – the minutes will be amended as follows: on page 4, correct Trail Day event from October 13th to October 20th and delete the note referencing the September 15th session and boundary work at Beech Hill. Jay moved to approve the minutes as amended, Margaret seconded, motion carried.
- 3. Natural Resources Planner's Reports and Correspondence**
 - On October 21st, the Town team will participate in the 3-mile Making Strides for Breast Cancer event.
 - The Volunteer River Assistant Program (VRAP) is completed for the year. Thanks to Ginny Raub, Pete Richardson, Maggie Matick and Alyson Eberhardt.
 - Peter Richardson and Kristen gave presentations on VRAP to 2 classes at the Seacoast Technical School. There is a meeting tomorrow morning with the classes to do the field sampling portion. Thanks to Peter for his help.

- 2013 budget – looks very similar to last year’s budget as nothing new was allocated. The next step will be meeting with the Budget Recommendations Committee and the CIP process for the \$30K request for Raynes Farms will be addressed. At the next meeting, a draft plan on spending these funds in 2013 needs to be developed so the money is not removed from the budget.

Ginny Raub noted that the Conservation Commission maintains and monitors various properties and that perhaps some of the funds could be allocated for that.

At the last meeting Kristen presented a list of those properties and the expenditures. Kristen said that \$500.00 from the current budget was proposed for surveying the Morrisette and Smith-Page properties which each had boundary issues. If \$1,500.00 was spent for further surveying, there would still be \$1,300.00 left in the budget. Kristen also noted that the Commission has gone as far as it can with boundary issues so surveyors are needed to make final determinations and have properties clearly marked.

Peter Richardson moved to spend up to \$1,500.00 from the current budget for surveying properties. Margaret Matick seconded, motion carried.

- Think Blue Program – The Girl Scout Picnic at Swasey Parkway was a success. Stormwater funds paid for Think Blue radio commercials for several weeks. There were also infomercials on Channel 98 offering education on stormwater and lawn care practices. With help from the Department of Public Works, kids from a Parks and Recreation camp put stickers on storm drains and hung flyers on septic system maintenance. The Town website also has information on Think Blue. The Town website is in transition but Kristen can provide the link to the draft version of the new website if members would like to review the Think Blue information available.
- CIP – on Thursday, there will be a presentation to the Planning Board requesting \$30K for the Raynes Farm roof. Kristen requests supporters attend this meeting. Ginny said the Heritage Committee had given their support for this project.

4. Other Business

A site walk on the trails was performed by Carlos Guindon, Margaret Matick, Bob Kelly and Steve Shope, and found that both trail crossings need repairs. The first site included boards that need to be replaced. The second site is within the forest management area but because all harvesting will avoid trails and wet areas Carlos doesn’t think it will be impacted. Bob and Steve provided an overview of the repairs needed at the site visit.

Kristen reviewed what was project the Commission approved at the last meeting: this included Crossing 1 and Crossing 3 which will be led by Steve Shope and company. Crossing 3 was also approved and the work will be lead by Reeder Fahnestock.

Russell Kaphan mentioned he had seen people from Newfields who were associated with a group called Greater Newfields Area Dirt Services doing trail repairs. Kristen will find out if they are associated with Steve Shope or not.

Kristen Murphy provided the Commission members with a map of the Master Plan of Conservation and Open Spaces in the Town of Exeter. Carlos thanked Kristen for provided this information to the Commission. Kristen reviewed definitions of some of the items listed under the map key. Lands administered by the Conservation Commission are lands the town owns and the Conservation Commission has management authority over them. An example would be Henderson Swasey Town Forest. Easement are properties that are not owned by the town but individuals have granted to the town or the Conservation Commission rights to ensure it’s

protected. An example would be the McDonnell property, the Dolloff property, the two Chamberlin parcels. If they are town owned on the map they have a number. If they are easements they have a number with the letter E. Private open space or private common areas are those lands typically managed by a home owners association. An example of this would be land around Captains Way. It was pointed out that on that copy of maps, not all patterns were visible. Kristen agreed to re-do the map again to correct the problem. Pete mentioned that you can also get to this information from the Town website through *mapsonline.net*.

5. **Next meeting date:** Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at 7 pm.

Peter Richardson moved to close the public session of the Conservation Commission to go into a work session, seconded by Ginny Raub. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Work Session

1. **Management Plan Overview Session: Henderson Swasey Forest Management Plan**

Respectfully submitted,

Chris deZarn-O'Hare
Recording Secretary