

Final Minutes

Exeter Conservation Commission

March 12, 2013

Call to Order

Chairman Russell Kaphan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Nowak Room in the Exeter Town Office building. Members present were: Peter Richardson, Mike Field, Cynthia Field, Virginia Raub, Kristen Murphy, Town Natural Resource Planner, and Jay Gregoire. Carlos Guindon arrived at 7:37 p.m.

There was no public comment.

Action Items

1. Morrissette Property Sewer Line Right of Way Maintenance Project for construction of a crushed stone access road across the Morrissette property for the purpose of driving trucks to the proper sewer lines to clear gravel out of lines.

Mike Jeffers gave a detailed summary of the issue at hand, explaining where over flowage of sewers goes and how it happens. He gave an explanation of Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) and its effects. Mike Jeffers is looking for tech assistance to access the sewer line for maintenance purposes through the Morrissette conservation land. Kristen Murphy said the project was presented to the Conservation Commission in a previous meeting and one condition the Commission had was that the surface remains natural. Mike Jeffers is requesting to place washed gravel near the sewer manholes in order to stabilize the ground for cleaning the sewer line. Mike Jeffers explained that if something lets go and there was a massive overflow, legally the EPA could require that the town make the sewer line accessible. Russell Kaphan asked how often a catastrophic failure could happen within the lines. Mike Jeffers stated it happened two years ago.

Mike Jeffers explained he does not have enough money in his budget to move forward and put the road in; he was simply putting the idea out there. Mike also explained that there are other sewer lines in town in more sensitive areas that he is looking to the Conservation Commission for guidance on how to minimize impacts.

No action was taken that evening and it will be discussed at a later time.

2. Dredge & Fill Application for construction of a 6' x 20' pier and access ramp and associated gangway and float in the Squamscott River at 10 Chestnut Street (Tax Map 64 Lot 51). The intended purpose of this docking structure is for private recreational use by residents of Exeter Mills Apartments for canoes, kayaks, etc.

Zachary Taylor spoke on behalf of 10 Chestnut Street, Exeter Mills LLC. He explained the dimensions, construction, and purpose of said pier. He also explained it was for seasonal use. It was asked if there would be motorized boats accessing the dock. Zachary Taylor explained that boats could access the area at high tides but it is primarily for use by residents and non-motorized boats. Kristen Murphy asked if the application had been reviewed by the Marine Division of NH Fish and Game Department. Zachary Taylor confirmed that the comments submitted by Kim Tuttle included comments from the Marine Division. She also asked how the construction would be managed to minimize trampling of the emergent vegetation. Mr. Taylor stated that they would be using a staging structure and that the pilings would be installed with a crane from the shore or a barge from the river side. She also asked if there will be any treatment to the pressure treated wood to minimize leaching and Zachary Taylor explained how the lumber was made and that they would be using CCA lumber which is designed to be submerged in saltwater. With regard to sensitive plant species, Zachary Taylor said the NH Heritage Bureau will be conducting a survey in May prior to construction. When asked, he also stated that the dock would be inaccessible for about 3 hours on either side of low tide.

A motion was made by Peter Richardson and seconded by Carlos Guindon to support the project provided that the plant survey happens and any mitigation that NH Heritage Bureau recommends for listed plant species is incorporated. Motion carried – all in favor.

3. April 2013 Term Expirations and 2014 Officer Positions

There was a discussion about who will serve as Chair for May's meeting. Ginny Raub agreed to serve as Secretary again. A motion was made by Jay Gregoire and seconded by Carlos Guindon for Ginny Raub to serve as Secretary again. Motion carried – all in favor.

Not all members were present, so Russell Kaphan said take the night as informational so everyone has the opportunity to give their input next month for Chair and Vice Chair.

4. NH Fish and Game Request for Conservation Land Access for Blandings Turtle Survey

Kristen Murphy advised the committee that she received a letter from NH Fish and Game requesting permission to access conservation land for the purpose of setting traps for a period of one week, continuously checking the traps.

A Motion was made by Peter Richardson and seconded by Carlos Guindon to allow traps to be set provided they give the locations the traps are set at and when they are set and NH Fish and Game provides the committee with a report of their findings.

Motion carried – all in favor.

5. Doloff Farms Trail Right of Way Marking

Peter Richardson proposed the idea of putting new trail markings up along the right-of-way and submitted a draft letter to the abutters. A motion was made by Peter Richardson and seconded by Ginny Raub to go ahead with posts provided the natural resource planner prepares a letter for the signature of the Chairman. Motion carried – all in favor.

6. Trails Update

Jay Gregoire talked about an upcoming event called Comcast Cares. This event is a group of up to 50 volunteers who will get together on April 27 to do both trail maintenance and repairs and basic trail clean up. Kristen Murphy mentioned it was also a profitable benefit because based on the percentage of volunteers; money will be donated to the Conservation Commission.

There was a discussion about hiring an intern over the summer for the Trail Committee to do trail maintenance work. There was discussion about what role the intern will play, if it will be a paid internship, if so then how much would they be paid, and who will oversee them. The Commission felt that an intern was a good idea but that they should also be focusing on properly monitoring because that was the highest priority of the Commission. A motion was made by Jay Gregoire and seconded by Cynthia Fields to draft a job description for two interns at a rate of \$1000 flat fee for six weeks, three days a week, six hours a day, for this summer, to do trail work and boundary work under the co-supervision of the Commission and trail subcommittee. Motion carried – all in favor.

Kristen Murphy mentioned that Jody Pellerin has a church group who wants to volunteer to do trail work on some Sunday in June.

7. Outreach Update

Kristen Murphy advised the committee that Kathy Thompson from the Exeter Arts Committee wants to host a Painting and Photography Day at Raynes Farm on April 20, followed by an art show in June to exhibit the work done at Rayne's Farm.

Regular Business

1. Treasurer's Report

Virginia Raub said there was no report to be given and the next one will come out in April.

2. Approval of Minutes: January 8, 2013

Peter Richardson stated he would like some details on where the \$37,000 was being allocated and there were two typos pointed out, one on page two changing "Kirsten" to "Kristen" and one on page one changing "trial" to "trail". A motion was made by Peter Richardson and seconded by Carlos Guindon to accept the minutes of the February 12, 2013 meeting as so amended. Motion carried – all in favor.

3. Natural Resources Planner's Reports and Correspondence

Kristen Murphy said there was no report to be given. She also informed the committee that the deadline for the upcoming Saving Special Places is March 29 so if anyone is interested to contact her.

4. Other Business

No other business.

5. Next Meeting - Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Peter Richardson and seconded by Virginia Raub to adjourn the public meeting and go to a work session at 9:04 p.m. Motion carried – all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole McCormack
Recording Secretary