

Exeter Conservation Commission

May 15, 2013

Call to Order

Peter Richardson, a member of the commission called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Nowak Room in the Exeter Town Office building. Members present were: Kristen Murphy, Town Natural Resource Planner, BOS Representative Don Clement, Don Briselden, Margaret “Maggie” Matick. And Pete Richardson. Vice Chairman Carlos Guindon arrived shortly after and conducted the meeting. Those absent were Chairman Russ Kaphan, Alyson Eberhardt, Kevin Keveaney, Mike (Robert) Field, Cynthia Field, Virginia Raub, and **Jay Gregoire**.

1. **Introduction of Members Present** - Each member announced their name and title.
2. **Public Comment – There was no public comment.**

Action Items:

1. Trails Race – Henderson Swasey/Oaklands June 16 (Sarah Sallade). Ri Fahnestock addressed the board and requested approval for a trail race to be held on June 16, 2013. The rain date would be the following weekend, Sunday June 23, 2013. Mr. Fahnestock reviewed key points as:

- The race is fully insured.
- A sweep is done at the end of the run to make sure all runners are accounted for, clear any litter and remove all trail markings.
- The start, stop and award ceremony is held on private land at 6 Commerce Way.
- The police Chief and Fire Department will be made aware of the event.
- The race entails a 4 mile loop and 10 mile loop.

A motion was made by Peter Richardson and seconded by Don Briselden to approve the request. Motion carried – all in favor. Briselden requested the group provide feedback after the event if they find any hazards, problems or come across anything that may need improvement.

2. Bike Demo Event – Henderson Swasey June 16 (Steve Bakula, Pedal Power Cycle). Mr. Bakula requested the use of the Henderson Swasey trails on June 16, 2013. This event would begin after the Trails Race. He further explained a promotion van will arrive to demonstrate a new 27 ½” wheel. A portable bathroom, snacks and water will be provided to all attendees and his group will manage all clean up. Ms. Murphy will provide contact information to Mr. Bakula to coordinate the trail markings with the Trails Race representatives. If it happens to rain, the event will be cancelled.

Mr. Richardson made a motion to approve the Bike Demo Event, seconded by Maggie Matick. Mr. Briselden requested to amend the motion based on partnering with a bike club with concerns over fostering commercial events on town property. Approval is contingent upon this. Motion carried, all in favor.

3. Felder –Kuehl Trail System Reconfiguration for Industrial Dr. lot at Tax Map 55, Lot 75-1.

Attorney Mike Donahue introduced Bob Felder and presented plans for placing Map 54, Lot 2 into conservation through a conservation easement deeded to the town. It was proposed that this be done by amending the existing conservation easement for Map 55, Lot 75-1 which protects the area surrounding the Meeting Place. Their plans included installing a gravel parking lot along Industrial Drive with trail access that connects through to the Meeting Place trails and includes several bridge crossings over wetlands to avoid wetland impact from trail use.

Attny. Donahue discussed the following points:

- This option would allow them to expand the density of units at the Meeting Place within the existing approved footprint.
- This option would also provide economic value while meeting the objectives of the town voters to protect wetlands
- A variance from the ZBA is required.
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Attny. Donahue also reviewed the Commercial site and discussed the following points:

- They are proposing to remove the proposed trail parking
- The changes could reduce the amount of parking on the property.
- Additional landscaping was mentioned and may affect the building location.
- There is understanding of the importance of public access to the trails but this access can be accommodated with existing parking without impacting wetlands.

Attny. Donahue further explained that he and Mr. Felder are seeking a letter of endorsement from the commission to present to the Planning Board or ZBA to incorporate the Residential land under conservation easement and would like input only on the Commercial parcel.

Don Clement explained that If Mr. Felder deeded the property to the town the town would not collect tax dollars since they would own the property. It was clarified that the property would be conveyed as an easement.

Mr. Felder explained the current building has 32 units consisting of 3 one bedroom units and 29 two bedroom units which has proven unprofitable. He would like to modify the building to meet the 1 bedroom demand..

Mr. Briselden made a motion for the Conservation Commission to positively endorse the plan to the Planning Board and ZBA as presented tonight. The endorsement is subject to the review and approval of the amendment of the conservation easement, seconded by Maggie Matick. Motion carried, all in favor.

Selectman Clement expressed concerns of losing the commercial zone property from the tax role. Mr. Briselden explained this motion only references the proposal as presented tonight and if the Zoning Board or Planning Board chooses to modify the plans it will come back to the Conservation Commission.

After further discussion another motion was made that resulted in 4 Yea's with Don Clement abstaining. Motion passed.

4. Trails Update. Kristen Murphy spoke on behalf of Jay Gregoire and provided the following updates:

- Comcast Cares Day was held in April. Comcast employee volunteers repaired a bridge and provided general trail maintenance.
- A trails committee meeting is pending for the end of the month.
- Consider possible options for a tribute to Steve Shope.
- Bob Kelly led a group of PEA students with NEMBA to Henderson-Swasey and cleaned up portions of the trails.
- This Saturday the YMCA will host a cleanup at Morrissette property from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- National Trails Day will be Saturday June 1, 2013 at the McDonnal Property.
- The Congregational church will do trail maintenance on June 2' 2013 at 10:30 a.m. at the Little River Conservation area.

5. Outreach Update. Raynes Painting and Photography Day had a nice turnout. This summer an exhibition will be held in the art gallery (2nd floor in the town hall) and the paintings will be on display at that time.

Russ Dean was supportive of the Facebook outreach idea. A name has not been finalized. Don Clement suggested Friends of the Exeter Conservation Commission.

6. Boundary Monitoring Update. Mike and Cynthia fields called and said they are close to finishing parcel 15 and parcel 19 along the corridor on Old Town Farm Road.

Regular Business

1. Treasurer's Report – None at this time.

2. Approval of Minutes: April 9, 2013. Vice Chairman Guindon requested Guindon be changed to Guindon. Motion carried – all in favor.

3. Natural Resources Planner's Report and Correspondence. Ms. Murphy discussed two purchase requests. The first was for a trail camera, Moultrie D444 in the amount of \$129.95 with free shipping. A security case is available for \$30.00. A SD card will also be ordered. A motion was made by Peter Richardson to approve the purchase of up to \$200, seconded by Don Briselden. Motion carried - all in favor.

Jim Klingensmith from the Seacoast School of Technology provided an estimate to repair the barn door at Raynes Farm. The cost would be \$670.00 and the funds are available in the budget. A motion was made by Mr. Richardson to approve the purchase, seconded by Chairman Briselden. Motion carried - all in favor.

Ms. Murphy explained an opportunity to prepare a grant proposal for Green infrastructure through RPC to implement LID is available. She requested permission from the commission to work with the chair on preparing a letter of support for this proposal. The proposal is due at the end of the month. The commission concurred.

4. Other Business

Maggie Matick acknowledged a Peter Waltz's efforts on the Spring Tree Program. She, Pete and Peter helped with bagging planting trees for the school kids. Ms. Murphy will arrange for a thank you letter to be sent to Mr. Waltz.

A letter was received from a Dr. Rob Roseen, a representative from Geosyntec advising a grant has been award to the Exeter-Squamscott collaboration in the amount of \$345,000. The purpose of the grant is to integrate a sub-water shed management planto test and review storm water and how to improve the water quality in Exeter, Stratham and Newfields. The project will begin in September 2013.

5. Next Meeting: Date and Agenda Items. The commission agreed the next meeting will be held on June 11, 2013.

A motion was made by Carlos Guidon and seconded by Maggie Matick to adjourn to non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(d) at 8:48 pm.

Public session reconvened at 9:40 p.m. Don Clement made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Maggie Matick. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:40

Respectfully submitted,

Nadine Young, Recording Secretary