

Call to Order:

Acting Chairman Carlos Guindon called the meeting to order at 7: 02 p.m. in the Nowak Room in the Exeter Town Office building. Members present were: Kristen Murphy, Town Natural Resource Planner, Margaret "Maggie" Matick, Selectman Don Clement, Peter Richardson, Virginia Raub, Alyson Eberhardt, Cynthia Field and Mike Field.

1. Introduction of Members Present

Each member stated their name.

2. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Action Items:

1. Orienteering Event – Henderson Swasey/Oakland's Sept 22 (Kristen for Deb Humiston)

Ms. Murphy spoke of an application received from Deb Humiston for an orienteering event in the town forest. It is scheduled for September 22, 2013. Ms. Humiston is estimating 50-75 participants will attend over a 4 hour period. The event will run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with the option of walk in registration.

Ms. Humiston indicated in her request that most participants use the trails; however there are some that leave the trail to navigate through the woods. The map she included was of Henderson Swasey and Oakland. It was stated that Mr. Humiston will be contacting Northeast Lantern for access from that end of the trail. If she cannot obtain permission, she will enter through the railroad bridge end.

There were concerns of the event agreement form which states "if trails are wet the event will be cancelled. " It was explained that the town does not close the town forest even to hikers during poor weather. Ms. Murphy said she understood Ms. Humiston's perspective but felt since it is a required condition, the Commission should review the condition prior to waiving that portion of the agreement.

Ms. Humiston did not sign the portion of the agreement that states "two days prior to the event the course conditions will be inspected, if trails are wet the event will be cancelled or rerouted to avoid wet conditions. The event will be cancelled if rain occurs after the inspection or on the day of the race". The commission agreed the condition mentioned is tailored towards bike events, not orienteering that has dispersed use as people arrive over the 4 hr period. Ms. Humiston said she would make the decision on safety and determine cancellation, if needed.

A motion was made by Ms. Eberhardt and seconded by Maggie Matick to waive the condition due to rain. Mr. Richardson voted no due to it not being an extreme condition. Motion carried – with one nay.

2. Trails Update

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Ms. Murphy received an email from Jay Gregoire and spoke on his behalf. Mr. Gregoire proposed a trail meeting to discuss end of season projects. A tentative date of Tuesday July 30, 2013 is scheduled but will be confirmed.

Ms. Murphy explained the Interns are working with Bob Kelly on trail improvements. It was mentioned that the interns are working on installing a crossing that had been previously discussed as Ri's Fahnestock's proposal. Bob has requested use of the gas line access road to drop off materials needed. The cost of the materials for the crossing is slightly under \$500.00 but will involve re-routing the trail slightly so that it is out of the very wet area. This price is for materials. Ms. Murphy agrees that is a good idea to get the trail out of the wet area and she doesn't believe it is a route that would cause conflict.

A motion was made for the expenditure up to \$500.00 for materials of the crossing structure. Selectman Clement made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Raub. Motion carried -all in favor.

Ms. Raub explained she continues to investigate ADA compatible trail designs. She also discussed Western Front trail that is accessed via Commercial Way as an option. The McDonald trail was also suggested since modification of this trail would be easier.

Mr. Richardson suggested for Ms. Raub to look into Appalachian Trail Conservancy and explained it could have useful information that would help her.

Selectman Clement asked what defines an ADA accessible trail and Ms. Raub confirmed ADA was wheelchair accessible with a flat, solid surface. The McDonald trail could be coming in from Court Street. Per Mr. Richardson, there would be some obstacles but it is possible to make this trail ASA accessible.

Ms. Eberhardt mentioned possibly contacting Crotchet Mountain in Greenfield, NH. They have a residential facility for folk of disabilities that has trails and may be a useful resource.

The Commission discussed other possibilities for ADA trails and Gilman Park and Beaver Pond were mentioned.

3. Outreach Update

Ms. Eberhardt discussed two meetings to take place.

1. New Hampshire Climate and Adaptation Workshop – July 23, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. -8:30 p.m. Dinner will be served.
2. New Hampshire Rivers Council (River Runners) – to be held at the Library August 8, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. -8:15 p.m.

Pre-registration is needed for each.

Ms. Raub discussed the Facebook page which has been going by the name "Friends of the Exeter Conservation Commission." Ms. Raub will be the website administrator. The Facebook page can be linked from the town website. Adding an event is an option on the Facebook page and will allow attendance counts. The Facebook name and link is pending approval by the Board of Selectman.

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Ms. Eberhardt volunteered to run Twitter if the town chooses to go in that direction. She has been using Twitter professionally and has found it to be incredibly useful.

Ms. Murphy spoke of a conversation she had with Kathy Lewis-Thompson who produced note cards of her painting of the Raynes Barn. Ms. Thompson asked if the town would be interested in offering them for donations at a cost of 2 for \$5.00 or 5 for \$10.00. The funds would go towards the Raynes Farm account. Ms. Raub suggested using these note cards as thank you notes and/or acknowledgements.

Mr. Murphy explained the Conservation Commission submitted a Letter of Support for a grant application by Cooperative Extension to model a stewardship network. The Cooperative Extension was awarded the grant (a hub which links volunteers with volunteer projects) and will allow them to implement a sub-group on the seacoast area.

4. Boundary Monitoring Update

Ms. Murphy provided an intern update:

- The completion of the boundary documentation for Beech Hill which includes photo logs and a description of each of the pins.
- They recently found one pin on Parker.
- Work has begun in the Fresh River Beech Hill area.
- Attempted Chapman Woods documentation.
- The completion of a property near Colcord Pond.
- Selectman Clement was approached by the owner of the Jones Easement near Pickpocket Dam. The owner inquired who was doing the monitoring for the stewardship of the conservation area. Ms. Murphy will plan a time to go there with the interns.

Regular Business:

1. Approval of Minutes: June 11th, 2013

Ms. Fields requested one change on page 2, second paragraph: "A new trail was added off Jolly Rand Road, named Pennell Path."

Mr. Eberhardt made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Field. Chairman Guindon and Selectman Clement abstained since they were not in attendance at the last meeting.

Ms. Eberhardt requested to have her name corrected in the non-public session of the minutes.

Mr. Peterson made a motion to approve the non-public session minutes with the correction, seconded by Ms. Matick. Motion carried – all in favor.

2. Natural Resources Planner's Report and Correspondence

Ms. Murphy sent a list of dates to the Conservation Commission and others that expressed interest in joining her for the water quality monitoring. There is a link in the email that allows sign up.

The Raynes Drainage Project received an estimate from a contractor to assist in the installation for the drainage of Raynes Farm. The Grant was \$40,000.00. The estimate from the contractor was significantly

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over the amount available. In order for the project to move forward the contractor would need to work within the dollar amount available.

Ms. Murphy and Selectman Clement are conducting an interview to be filmed on July 10, 2013 at 9: 00 a.m.. This footage will be added to the footage for the Fish Ladder Tour. They will be talking about Great Bay and Exeter River. The interview will appear on public access television on channel 22 and channel 98.

3. Other Business

Ms. Raub asked of the status of the Dam Feasibility Assessment. The full report is available and Selectmen Clement said there are hard copies of the Executive Summary report in Mr. Dean's office, the library and possibly the Town Offices. The summary condenses the hundreds of pages to approximately 12. The final report will be printed in mid-September after weeks of reviewing comments, reviewing what needs to be changed in the report and after the Board of Selectman review it.

4. Next Meeting: Date and Agenda Items

The next meeting will be August, 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Non-Public Session

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson to adjourn to non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, II (d) at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Ms. Matick. Motion carried.

Public session reconvened at 8:47 pm.

Pete Richardson made a motion that the Chair be authorized to sign an amended Letter of Understanding between the Conservation Commission and the Southeast Land Trust. Alyson Eberhardt seconded. Motion carried.

Pete Richardson made a motion to approve the expense of \$3,750 for to fund survey research and for Phase 1 investigation for the parcel discussed in the non-public session.

Respectfully yours,

Nadine Young, Recording Secretary