

**Exeter Conservation Commission**

**August 10, 2013**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Russ Kaphan called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm in the Nowak Room of the Town Office Building. Additional members present included Kevin Keveaney, Peter Richardson, Carlos Guindon, Alyson Eberhardt, Don Briselden, Maggie Matick, Board of Selectmen's Representative Don Clement, and the Town's Natural Resource Planner Kristen Murphy.

**Action Items**

1. **LCHIP Application:** Kristen Murphy provided the Commission with an update on the acquisition of the Elliot Property. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetlands Reserve Program grant was awarded. In addition to financial support of \$54,000, it will also fund survey of the property and the clean-up associated with the debris left from the previous property's use as a pig farm. Ms. Murphy explained that Duane Hyde has drafted up an application for Land Conservation Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grant for review. It is hoped the committee will recommend this be forwarded to the Town Manager for signature.

Mr. Richardson made the motion that the application be forwarded to the Town Manager for signature, seconded by Mr. Guindon. Mr. Briselden abstained. Motion passed.

2. **Residential Composting:** Mr. Keveaney presented the board with information on Mr. Fox Composting which is a residential composting company. This company, formerly Zero Waste, was also present during the Project Blue Picnic in the Park where we hosted a stormwater education event. Mr. Keveaney described the ease of use of this company and the benefits of decreasing the amount of trash going into the landfill. After several questions, the board thanked him for the information.
3. **Coal-tar Driveway Sealant Alternative:** Mr. Keveaney described a situation at his neighborhood regarding driveway sealing as an example of the challenges of changing behavior and to share the information he gathered on the dangers of coal-tar sealants. The Homeowners Association had arranged to have a company available to seal driveways of interested homeowners in the neighborhood. After reviewing the data produced by the UNH Stormwater Center on the dangers of coal-tar sealant, Mr. Keveaney shared this information with fellow homeowners. Though one home agreed, the published information was primarily met with disbelief. Mr. Keveaney explained that as with most companies, the selected company has the alternative "asphalt sealant" available for a slightly higher price but with far fewer environmental and health concerns. Still the remaining homeowners had their driveways sealed with coal-tar. Ms. Eberhardt expressed her appreciation of his experience and hoped that it did not deter him. She said that research has shown that people are more likely to change habits if they see their neighbors doing it rather than being provided with information directly. The group recommended that the information on coal-tar sealant be placed on the facebook page and town website.
4. **Trail Supply Funds:** Mr. Kaphan requested on behalf of Jay Gregoire that the remaining trail funds be utilized to purchase trail supplies so that materials are on hand prior to projects being implemented. It was explained that this material would not be used on private lands.

Mr. Richardson motioned that an amount not to exceed \$590 be utilized to purchase trail materials. It was clarified by Mr. Guindon that the material be stored out of the elements and protected in some way that it not be accidentally taken for other projects. Motion was seconded by Mr. Briselden. Motion carried.

## *Draft Minutes*

Dr. Kaphan asked if there were any provision to address possible injuries to the runners. Mr. Fahnestock acknowledged there were two aid stations along the course as well as a number of people/observers along the course; cited the runner's credo of stopping to help an injured runner. At the end of the race, there is a sweeper who determines everyone is off the course as well as removing any litter. There are also a number of individuals along the course, although not paramedics but have training in wilderness aid.

Dr. Kaphan responded it appeared the possibility was addressed and the provisions were thorough but felt he should ask.

Mr. Briselden made the motion to accept the Trail Race application; seconded by Mr. Richardson. Motion carried.

5. **Committee Reports:** Ms. Murphy explained that there had been another case of vandalism at the McDonnell Conservation Area. The interpretive sign was installed by Ms. Raub and her husband on Sunday and on Monday Ms. Murphy received a message from the landowner Ms. Dianne Arnheim saying the sign had been pulled out and was in the river. She also noted that the 2<sup>nd</sup> bench from the trailhead had been pushed toward the river. Mr. Guindon, Mr. Richardson and Ms. Murphy agreed to meet onsite at 8:00 am Wednesday to retrieve the sign.

### Regular Business

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Ms. Matick. Mr. Guindon and Ms. Eberhardt abstained as they were not present. Motion passed.
2. **Natural Resource Planners Report:** Ms. Murphy said they had received a copy of a letter requesting addition information on the Waldron project from the Alteration of Terrain Bureau. If anyone would like to see the correspondence, contact Ms. Murphy. She also updated the commission on the Marshall Farms Green Infrastructure project and the attempt to install the wildlife camera for monitoring wildlife crossing under rte 101.
3. **Other Business:** Mr. Clement distributed information on Household Hazardous Waste Day which is scheduled for Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 – 10:30 for Exeter.

Mr. Clement also mentioned the Board of Selectmen have tentatively scheduled an "all board meeting" for September 24<sup>st</sup> at 6:00. Ms. Murphy explained that Ms. Raub had suggested we put together a hand out explaining the Conservation Commissions responsibilities and recent publications. She would be willing to meet with a subset of the Commission once the agenda is sent out. Ms. Eberhardt said she felt this was a great idea (perhaps even a good idea for all boards) and that she was willing to help.

4. **Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items:** The next meeting is scheduled for **October 8<sup>th</sup>**. Mr. Briselden suggested that a portion of the meeting be dedicated to a Work Session to discuss re-activation of the Open Space Committee and asked Ms. Murphy to add that to the agenda.

With no further business Mr. Briselden motioned to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Matick. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Murphy

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